

Prayer Is Partnered

Text: Luke 11:1-13

INTRODUCTION:

1. Prayer is not merely an exercise for the faithful Christian.
2. There is a God who hears and responds to prayer!
3. In fact, the Bible teaches that the Godhead is involved in the prayers of the saint.
4. God Himself becomes man's partner in prayer...

I. THE ROLE OF THE FATHER IN PRAYER (LUKE 11:11-13)

- A. As a Father, God promises to hear the prayers of His children.
- B. He will answer prayer with what is best for the one who asks.

II. THE ROLE OF THE SON IN PRAYER (1 TIMOTHY 2:1-6)

- A. Prayer is offered in the name of Jesus – by His authority (John 16:23-28).
- B. Jesus is the one Mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5).
 1. A mediator is “one who acts between two parties and belongs to both; one who intervenes between two, in order to make or restore peace.”
 2. In this way, Jesus serves as High Priest (Hebrews 2:16-18; 4:14-16; 5:6-9).
- C. Jesus is an Intercessor between God and man.
 1. An intercessor is “one who entreats or consults with one on behalf of another.”
 2. In this way, Jesus serves as Advocate (Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 2:1; Romans 8:34).

III. THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN PRAYER (ROMANS 8:15-28)

- A. The Holy Spirit is a person – a member of the Godhead.
- B. Every non-miraculous work attributed to the Holy Spirit is also said to be done by the Scripture, save one – prayer.
- C. The Holy Spirit is an Intercessor in man's prayers (Romans 8:15-28).
 1. Vs. 15-17 – *We are children of God.*
 2. Vs. 18-23 – *Yet we live in a world of suffering.*
 3. Vs. 24-25 – *We are saved by hope.*
 4. Vs. 26-27 – *The Holy Spirit helps in our prayers.*
 - a. He bears our burdens before God's throne.
 - b. God knows the “mind of the Spirit.”
 - c. Thus, our prayers are heard and our struggles are known.
 5. Vs. 28 – *All things work together for good.*
- D. The Christian has two Intercessors with the Father – ensuring our prayers are heard and in harmony with His will (cf. Revelation 5:8; 8:3-5).

CONCLUSION: Psalm 37:4-5

1. Does the fact that God is involved intimately in my prayers affect my motivation to pray or the way that I pray?
2. The love and care that God has for us is amazing to contemplate and difficult to comprehend.

Exercises

Prayer Is Providential Part I

1. What is the definition or meaning of the word 'providence'? What is your understanding of the providence of God? How does this understanding affect your prayers? {Note Acts 24:2-3; Romans 13:14}
2. Read Genesis 50:19-20. What did Joseph mean in this statement? What does this teach about the providence of God?
3. Read Esther 4:13-14. How does Mordecai's question relate to the providence of God?
4. Read Galatians 4:4 and Ephesians 1:10. What do these verses teach about God's working in the world through His providence?
5. Read James 5:16-18 and 1 Kings 18:41-46. Was Elijah's prayer answered by a miracle or by providence?
6. Read Philippians 2:25-27. How did God have mercy upon Epaphroditus? Was his healing miraculous or providential?