



THE PRIVILEGE AND POWER OF PRAYER

Scriptures for further study

2 Corinthians 3:9; John 14:13; Psalm 18:6; Acts 12

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

“Prayer alone can touch the heart and move the hands of God.”

1. Why pray? What can prayer do?
2. According to Exodus 32:7-10, why is it a privilege to pray? God gave Moses the opportunity to do three things: (1) to know intimately Who He is, (2) to know what He is about and (3) to be part of the work He is doing in the world. How did Moses partner with God and ask things of Him? In what ways do we partner with God? How do we ask things of Him?
3. In Exodus 32:11-13, Moses prays to God in the context of relationships. He pleads with God on the basis of His power, person and promises. Why does Moses go through all this trouble?
4. In verse 12, Moses reflects his concern for God's glory. If God abandoned Israel now, the Egyptians would have a good laugh and God would be dishonored. So, Moses boldly asks God to “relent,” to change His mind. A basic lesson in prayer is that our focus always should be, “Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to Your name give glory” (Ps. 115:1). How does Moses demonstrate that very lesson?
5. To move God in prayer, we must desire to see God's person exalted. Jesus taught us to pray, “Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name” (Matt. 6:9). “Hallowed” means to be regarded as holy. Our purpose in praying should be that God be exalted above all else. Because of the prayer of Moses, the sovereign God of the universe changes His mind and His direction. How is this possible in the context of Malachi 3:6 and James 1:17? According to Dr. Corts, in what ways is God unchanging?
6. James 4:3 says, “You ask and do not receive, because you ask with the wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.” When God sees a heart that genuinely seeks His glory, He is often moved to answer that person's prayers. Have you experienced this in your own prayer life? In what way?
7. How can we pray in such a way to touch the heart of God and move the hands of God? How do we partner with God in His work? What are the needs that only He can meet? What are your needs? What are your pressures? What are your problems and concerns?