

Prayer

Final Questions about Prayer

A.C.T.S

- Adoration: Rendering to God the honor, respect, glory, and love due His holy majesty in light of how worthy he is
- Confession: Affirming and Agreeing with God's perspective and revelation
- Thanksgiving: Response of gratitude for God's person and His works, as we observe/consider/remember how God has intersected with and ruled over our lives and the lives of others.
- Supplication: Making requests of God, that align themselves to His nature, character, word, and will, in recognition of His ability to meet what we require.

Tips For Successful Prayer

- God's Sovereignty and Prayer
- Prayer and Fasting
- Gathering to Pray

Why Pray if God is Sovereign?

- ◉ Does God require us to pray in order for His will to be done?
- ◉ Are we required to pray? Why?
 - ◉ Prayer ≠ the vehicle used by God to establish His plan
 - ◉ Prayer = an exercise in submission to God's sovereignty
 - ◉ Glorifies God
 - ◉ Humbles, strengthens, and encourages man
 - ◉ Allows man behind the veil to see God at work. Thus our petitions are turned into praise when we see what God has done

Who Should Pray in the Gathering?

- Prayer Gatherings in Acts
 - Gathered prayer for guidance (1:14)
 - Devotion to prayer (2:42; 6:4)
 - Special gatherings for special reasons (12:5; 16:13, 16)
- Certain Criteria
 - Women are to submit, not refrain from prayer (1 Cor. 11:2-16)
 - Women prohibited from prophesying/making disruption, not from prayer (1 Cor. 14:26-40)

- ◉ Women are nowhere prohibited from praying aloud
- ◉ The Gospel does not alter God's authoritative structure
- ◉ The Gospel does not bar Christians from worship
- ◉ The prayers of the saints bless the saints
- ◉ Any and every gathering should be well ordered

Prayer & Fasting

- What is fasting?
 - Completely abstaining from food and drink for a religious motive
 - Partial fasts \neq fasting
- Why fast?
 - Complete devotion to a particular task (mourning, repentance, prayer)
 - There is not time for meals. Prayer becomes the only priority

- Should Christians fast? YES (Matt. 6:16-18)
- How to fast
 - Not to be noticed by men (Matt. 6:16)
 - In devotion to God (Matt. 6:17-18)
- When to fast
 - In prayer before major decisions (Acts 13:2-3; 14:23)
 - In prayer before/during trials (Matt. 4:1-4; Acts 27:33)
 - In prayer seeking God's will/favor/direction (Acts 9:9)
 - In habitual dedication and worship (Lk. 2:36-37)
 - There will be no fasting in the Kingdom (Matt. 9:14-17; Rev. 22)

Conclusion

- Prayer is an exercise in submission
- Prayer is for the whole body
- Prayer is a task we must devote ourselves to

Psalm 119:169-179

A Final Prayer for Faithfulness

- ◉ Where to Begin? (vv. 169-170)
 - ◉ We must think as God thinks (v. 169)
 - ◉ We must submit to God's promise (v. 170)
- ◉ What is our Rationale? (vv. 171-173)
 - ◉ Because of our Teacher (v. 171)
 - ◉ Because of the teaching (v. 172)
 - ◉ Because of who we are (v. 173)
- ◉ How should we Proceed? (vv. 174-176)
 - ◉ Delight in obedience/submission (v. 174)
 - ◉ Desire to praise (v. 175)
 - ◉ Dependence to persevere (v. 176)