

Prayer

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I. Introduction.

- A. Faith and love are the primary marks of the spiritual life. (Colossians 1:4; 1 Timothy 6:11; 1 Thessalonians 3:5; 1 Peter 4:8)
- B. Faith and love come from Christ. (Colossians 2:6-7; 1 Timothy 1:14)
- C. Prayer is the greatest resource we have.

II. The problem of prayer is not that we don't know how. We do not do it and are not getting recharged. (Psalm 34:5; Acts 4:13)

III. Prayer is the forming of words.

IV. There is a tremendous teaching ministry in prayer. (John 17)

- A. Jesus taught God's glory. (Matthew 28:19-20)
- B. Jesus taught that eternal life is a gift and that it is in him.
- C. Jesus taught his pre-existence.
- D. Jesus taught that we are a gift from God. (1 Timothy 1:18; Hebrews 7:25)
- E. Jesus prayed for laborers so that they might reach the world. (Romans 14; Hebrews 4:15)
- F. Jesus involved those in his ministry whom he would send out.

V. Jesus prayed for our oneness. (John 17:11, 22, 23)

- A. Oneness in personality. (Ephesians 4:13)
- B. Oneness in Christ. (1 John 3:17; Philippians 1:21; Galatians 2:20)
- C. Oneness with each other.

VI. Reasons to pray.

- A. Obedience. (Luke 18:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Luke 5:16)
- B. What it does for us. (Luke 9:29)
- C. Spiritual warfare. (Ephesians 6:12, 18)
- D. The glory of God.
- E. A lack of prayer is sin.

VII. Hindrances to prayer.

- A. Men.
- B. A lack of heart.
- C. A lack of preparation. (Psalm 139:34; Ezra 7:10)
- D. A lack of discipline. (Hebrews 10:19-20)

VIII. Prayers are not answered...

- A. Because of sin. (Isaiah 59:1-2; Psalm 66:18)
- B. Because they are not specific enough.

IX. Pray for people if you want them to grow. Pray through the prayers of Paul.

X. Conclusion.

Application questions:

1. What do you need to do to strengthen your commitment to prayer?

2. How does prayer teach?

3. How can you help others pray?
