

Prayer

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I. Introduction.

- A. The gifts listed in the Scriptures are illustrative - others can be added.
- B. Prayer is a universal gift.
- C. "Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees."

II. Four (of the five) aspects of prayer:

Prayer Hand



Maintaining a Balanced Prayer Life

A. Worship and adoration

1. Worship and adoration is the occupation of heart with God Himself.
2. Worship is giving unto the Lord the glory due His name and worship Him. (Psalm 104:1, Revelation 4:11)
 - a. The more we get acquainted with the Lord, the more this becomes the most important thing. (Psalm 29:1-3)
 - b. Giving glory to God is talking to Him about His Person and work. (Psalm 145)
 - c. We rehearse God's greatness in His presence.
 - d. Worship is rehearsing how we feel about God in His presence. (Psalm 40:5)

B. Praise.

1. Praise is the occupation of the heart with blessings.

2. We are to thank and praise Him. (Psalm 100:4)
3. There are more commands for praising than for prayer. God is more concerned that one talks about the things He has done than ask Him about the things He will do.
4. The example of “Praying Hyde,” who was adamant about praying for people to come to Christ. When he failed to worship God, his prayers were not answered.
5. God provides the victory when we praise. This is important because it allows us to put God into proper perspective. (2 Chronicles 20)
6. We are to honor God with the magnitude of our requests.

C. Petition.

1. Petition is occupation of the heart with needs.
2. God has limited Himself to our prayers.
3. God has purposed and therefore He has promised certain things to His people. Prayer is not the office to change God’s plans or purposes. Prayer is the office by which we lay hold of God in harmony with His promises.
 - a. The deliverance of the Israelites was dependent upon prayer. (Genesis 15:13, Exodus 12:40, Deuteronomy 20:6-7)
4. We do not need a lot of words to ask appropriately. Petition is like a trigger that only takes a small touch for a big reaction.(Matthew 6:7, Malachi 3:10)
5. One should have a prayer list primarily focused on people.

D. Intercession.

1. Intercession is the occupation of the heart with the battle.
2. In intercessory prayer we counteract Satan for the one we are praying for often at the moment they need it the most.
3. The enemy is constantly constructing road blocks to one’s salvation, but the believer can pray away any objections they have to Christ with the exception of their own sovereign will.
4. Sometimes God calls us to prayer and to stick with it until the battle is won. (Esther)
5. This is distinct from petition because of duration. There is nothing that we can do without God. God has determined that through human effort a man will not do anything that has eternal significance. (John 15:5)

III. Conclusion.

- A. Prayer is the universal gift for us all.
- B. The purpose of a preacher is to continually remind us of the things that we continually forget - prayer being the case here.
- C. We have a responsibility to pray on behalf of others.

Application questions.

1. Summarize the four areas of prayer. Choose which one you find to be most important and explain.

2. What does intercession look like? Why is it so important?

3. What is the nature of God's interaction in the world through prayer? How should this properly affect your own prayer life?
