

Prayer

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I. Introduction.

II. The condition: my words abide in you. (Matthew 6-7)

A. Contents of prayer.

1. The act of prayer is not very important by itself. (Matthew 6:5-6)

a. Hypocrites love praying, but they do it in order to be considered religious by others.

b. Others pray and rely on their many words instead of God. (Matthew 6:7-8)

2. In prayer...

a. We are to worship.

b. We are to ask for our physical needs.

c. We are to ask for our spiritual needs.

d. We are to ask for forgiveness and victory.

e. We are to worship again.

B. Convictions of prayer.

1. Ask God and you shall receive.

2. Sometimes, we have to wait a long time in order to see fruit.

C. Confidence of prayer.

1. God is generous.

2. He gives us good things if we ask Him.

3. We must ask.... (I Kings 22)

a. In faith.

b. According to God's will. (I John 5:14)

c. For legitimate needs. (II Kings 6:17, Acts 12)

III. The consequence.

Application questions:

1. How is the Lord's Prayer a healthy model for what to pray?

2. What are some different ways that unanswered prayer might be explained?

3. What is the condition of your prayer life? What can you do to energize and commit more frequently to prayer? Explain.
