

Prayer

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I. Introduction. Faith, prayer and the promises of God are intertwined.

II. Dealing with the area of needs. (Daniel 2:17)

A. Daniel and his friends prayed in the face of great need.

B. God allows needs in our lives so that we might develop some convictions about prayer.

1. The truth is that we are needy people, and we need to acknowledge it.

2. We learn more about God from our failures than our successes. (Philippians 4)

3. We need each other in the body of Christ. (II Corinthians 13:4)

C. Sometimes God gives an immediate answer to prayer. (Daniel 6)

D. Sometimes God delays His answers. (Daniel 10:12-13)

III. God's promises.

A. God makes promises and keeps them in order to glorify Himself. (II Corinthians 1:21)

B. Tests.

1. The test of Scripture. God will never give you a promise that contradicts Scripture. (Acts 13:47, Isaiah 42)

a. Every verse in Scripture has one true interpretation.

b. A verse may have more than one application.

2. The test of time. (Joshua 1; 3:7, Habakkuk 2:3)

3. The test of godly counsel. (Proverbs 13:20)

4. The test of prayer and obedience. (Exodus 17)

5. The test of honesty. Focus on the need.

IV. Areas of promise.

A. Personal life. (Galatians 5:22-23)

B. Family life. (Romans 15:13, Isaiah 49:25, 54:13, 32:2)

C. Ministry. (Ephesians 4:11-12, Deuteronomy 1:21, Isaiah 60:11, 58:10-12, I Samuel 26)

Application questions:

1. Why is it important to be open with our needs in prayer?

2. Which tip for claiming God's promises did you find most helpful? Explain.

3. How can you better claim the promises of personal life, family life and ministry? Explain.
