

Bathe It All In Prayer

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV) Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

REFLECTION

I was at Bible Study. We met weekly. We usually spent an hour or more in prayer. Tonight we were praying for Paul. He had been overwhelmingly burdened with life. One of the gals prayed, "Lord, lift the burden off his shoulders." Paul worked second shift. I was sleeping when he got home. The next morning he asked, "Were you gals praying for me last night?" "Yes, why". "I was driving homes and all of a sudden I felt this burden just lift from my shoulders." He moved his hands up from his shoulders to demonstrate what he had felt. Amazing. What he had felt was exactly what Sue had prayed for him.

BIBLICAL EVIDENCE

God's Word gives us instruction to pray.

Romans 12:11-12 gives us good instructions for life. The end of verse 12 tells us to be _____ in prayer. NLT says, Keep on praying.

1Peter 4:7 tells us to be alert and sober minded so we can _____.

Colossians 4:2 says we should _____ ourselves to prayer.

In 1 Timothy 2:8 we are instructed that _____ man (person) is to pray.

The thing we are to do for problems in James 5:13-14 is _____. If we are happy we should _____.

God assures us in His Word that He hears our prayers.

In Psalm 6:9 God _____ and _____ David's prayer.

Psalm 65:2 tells us God _____ prayers.

Let's look at the prophet Elijah. James 5:17 says he was a _____ just like you and me. God heard his pray and stopped the rain for 3and1/2years. You can read that story in 1King chapters 17-18.

1Peter 3:12 tells us God is _____ to our prayers.

1John 5:14-15 tells us we can be confident of two things. 1. That God _____ us and 2 He _____ us what we ask.

As always, Jesus is the example we should follow. Look up the following verses: Luke 6:12, Luke 22:44, Matthew 26:36, Mark 6:46. They all show us that Jesus _____. If Jesus needed to pray, I know I need to!

Jesus taught us how to pray. Look at Matthew 6:5-13. In verses 9-13 He gives us The Our Father. Breaking down this prayer is a study in itself. We won't do that in depth now but we will look at several things Jesus tells us about prayer. First, in verse 5 He tells us not to be a _____. Vines describes a hypocrite as a stage actor. Instead we are to pray to The Father in _____. We should not _____ because God already knows what we need. The King James Version calls babbling vain repetition.

Luke 18: 1-8 is the story of the bad judge. Verses 6-8 tells us God will answer us _____. He does not need constant badgering to do what is right.

Look again at 1 John 5:14-15. The second point is that God _____ us what we ask of Him.

Jesus tells us in John 16:23-24 that The Father will give us _____ we ask for in _____ name.

Philippians 4:6 tells us that we should pray in _____ situation.

Ephesians 6:18 tells us to pray on _____ occasions.

Sparrows are very small and yet Mathew 10:29-31 assures us that God cares about them. Verse 31 tells us we are _____ than them to God.

We read in Psalm 37:23 (NLT) that God cares for _____ detail of our lives.

EVERY situation and ALL occasions leaves nothing out! There is no situation or problem too small to bother God with. And we know there is no problem too big for Him. In the reflection this week notice that Paul's problems were overwhelming to him but in the scheme of the world you could consider them menial. However, God heard the exact words that were prayed for him and did just what was requested.

In Ephesians 6:18 and Jude 20-21 we are instructed to pray _____.

Romans 8:26-27 gives reasons why we should pray in the Spirit. Verse 26 tells us the Spirit _____ in our weakness. He _____ for us when we don't know what to pray. Verse 27 says He intercede according to _____.

Paul gives us some very specific prayers in his Epistles. Look up each one of these. They are great prayers to pray for our self and our loved ones. Ephesians 1:15-23, Ephesians 3:14-19, Colossians 1:9-14 and Philippians 1:9-11.

KEY THOUGHT

Ask once in Jesus' name, then give thanks for answered prayer in all circumstances.

APPLICATION

What is a concerning situation in your life right now? _____

Have you taken it to God in prayer? _____

If not, why not? _____

If you have talked to God about it, have you left it with Him or have you taken it back?

Repent of that. _____

Take it to God in prayer. _____

Now write a thank-you to God for answering your pray _____

Remember to thank Him for His answer each time this comes up even if you have not yet seen the answer. Believe you have received!

Make a prayer list. Remember, NOTHING is too small for God.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____
- 7) _____

Feel free to add more as you need to. God never says, "oh, that's enough". Again, remember to thank Him often for answering your prayer.

We talked about praying in the Spirit in the chapter, Dwell Daily with God. Are you praying in the Spirit on a regular basis? _____ What is keeping you from doing this?

Now would be a good time to get in the habit of praying in tongues daily. Start with 15 minutes of speaking in tongues. At first it may feel foolish. (Remember, Satan is telling you how "foolish" this is and oh what a waste of time!) Make up your mind to do it anyway. Eventually you will be comfortable with and confident in this way of praying.

We also looked at some specific things God wants us to pray about; Israel, workers for God's kingdom, other Christians. Choose one and add this concern to your prayer list. Which one do you choose? _____

+emorize. Which one do you choose? _____ Personalize it by putting your name or the name of the person you are praying for in every time Paul says you.

