

Prayer's Delight 2018-08-12

Colossians 4:2

Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving;
(NASB)

We have learned many things about prayer:

- Sonship is the foundation and sovereign God who reigns in heaven is the power behind our prayer. Psalm 135:6, 1 Timothy 6:15b-16, Matthew 6:9-10
- Glory of God is underlying goal of ALL our prayers.
- Prayer is a way we co-labor with the Lord to accomplish His will.
 - Set God's will before your own. Matthew 6:31-34a
 - Our prayer requests change when we seek God's kingdom first.
- Lord always answers with His ultimate glory and our best in mind

Essence of prayer is expressing our dependence on God through requests, but it's much more than just asking.

- It's two-way fellowship/communication that develops intimacy with God.
 - Involves talk/listen (Word & Holy Spirit). Jeremiah 33:3, John 10:27, Psalm 46:10

Prayer should include ingredients of excellent interpersonal communication:

- Express enjoyment of what they are like....worship.
- Apologize when hurt/offend them....confess our sins.
- Express appreciation for things they do....gratefulness.
- Inform of needs....ask Him for help/direction.

Christian life without prayer = marriage without communication: have bond but lack intimacy. 1 Peter 1:8, John 14:21b, 1 John 4:19, Colossians 4:2

- Like marriage, Christian life is devoted to communication/intimacy....prayer.

Regular place/time to pray: prayer lists/books.

- Develop patterns that give guidance.....Change if "dry"
 - Day of week, concentric circle, Psalm/Proverbs of the day, ACTS,
 - Not pray for everything every time: Heart/Holy Spirit dictate burden.
- Only structured ...probably become mechanical and hollow
 - Aim: whole day constant conversation with God...
 - Music/podcasts off, prayer triggers, set alarms, not wait!!
- Challenge: pray publicly & corporately, not just privately.
 - Difficult....Self-conscious, feel less spiritual/judged
 - In corporate learn how to pray and more thanksgiving with answer.
 - SG, pre-service & Resonate!!!

Prayer not 1st & foremost co-laboring with God or formula to get through but sweet, intimate fellowship with the Lord. Luke 10:41-42, Psalm 16:11a, Psalm 37:4

- Don't be so "busy" in prayer that not abide with Jesus, sit at His feet.

- Not an either/or situation; it's matter of balance.
- Like in marriage, Jesus desires more than just communication with Him... deep relationship where we delight in Him.
 - Prayer is an opportunity to enjoy the pleasure of Jesus' company.
 - "He/she really wants to be with Me. I'm first in their heart.
 - Honoring and treasuring Jesus should be primary desire and goal in all areas of our Christian life and that includes prayer.