



AN INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER



WHAT IS PRAYER ALL ABOUT

- Prayer is the means by which we can ___know___ God and His ___will___ for our lives.
- Prayer is our means of ___communication___ with God.
- Prayer is the way we have ___spiritual___ power.
- Prayer is the vehicle that takes you into the privilege of experiencing ___fellowship___ with God.

Effective prayer occurs when you talk to God and listen to what God is saying to you.

KEY Scripture: The Believer's Prayer Matthew 6:5-13

TALKING PRINCIPLES

I. Confession

1 John 1:9

- A. To "confess" our sins in the truest sense involves ___despising___ the sin, being grieved by it, and ___judging___ it.

II. Praise

Psalms 150:6

- A. Praise is expressing your love and ___adoration___ for who God is.
B. The focus of praise is not on the ___hand___ of God but rather on the ___face___ of God.

III. Thanksgiving

Psalms 100:4

- A. Thanksgiving is expressing to God our ___gratefulness___ for all of the things He has done for us.

IV. Petition

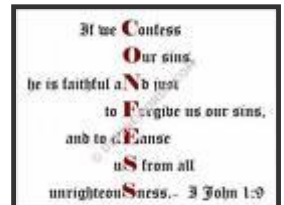
Philippians 4:6-7

- A. This is the opportunity to offer to God your personal ___requests___.

V. Intercession

Colossians 1:3, 9-12

- A. Intercession is to stand in the ___gap___ between God and another individual that you are praying for to solicit God's intervention.



LISTENING PRINCIPLES

I. Be Still & Quiet Before God

- A. ___Discipline___ is the only way we can learn to be still and quiet before the Lord.
- B. At times it might be good to have a change of ___scenery___ when trying to listen to God.

II. Don't Hurry Your Time With God



- A. God wants us to learn to ___wait___ before Him.
- B. You will not experience meaningful times with God if you are trying to ___rush___ Him into your schedule.



III. Spend Various Seasons of Your Life With God

- A. God is ___attracted___ to someone who will set aside everything else just to be with Him.
- B. You determine the ___length___ of your "season."

When you listen to God as well as talk to Him, you gain a whole new ___perspective___ on God as well as yourself.

Which is more important -- what you say to God or what God says to you???



FOUR REASONS CHRISTIANS DON'T PRAY

I. Pride

Proverbs 29:23, Proverbs 11:2, 1 John 1:8,10

PRIDE

- A. God walks with ___humble___ people, not proud people.
- B. Pride is dangerous, because it ___masks___ a multitude of sins.
- C. Pride keeps us from praying, because it ___overestimates___ the power of self.

II. Unbelief

Hebrews 11:6, Mark 9:14-24

- A. Rather than choosing to pray, we often choose to ___trust___ in ourselves.
- B. Unbelief underestimates the ___power___ of God.
- C. Without faith, prayer will not occur.



III. Ignorance

Hosea 4:6

- A. Ignorance overestimates the difficulty of ___talking___ to God.
- B. Ignorance is when you do not know any better. ___Stupidity___ is when you know better but choose not to do it.



IV. Time

Isaiah 50:4, 1 Timothy 2:1



- A. Time underestimates the value of ___being___ with God.
- B. Whenever you do not take time to pray, you have a problem with your ___values___.
- C. Rushing your time with God is not advantageous to your ___spiritual___ health.