

I Will Call Upon God And He Shall Hear Me

-- Why Pray? --

(Wednesday, June 3, 2009)

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Psalms 5:2 and 3:

Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray.

My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct *my prayer* unto thee, and will look up.

Greetings ... Rev. Steve Michels ... thank the God to Whom I serve ... turn to Psalm 5, please...

When all seems quite well, it's time to pray. When all seems to be amiss, it's time to pray. When dealing with almost unbearable pressure, it's time to pray. When you're absolutely ecstatic, it's time to pray.

When it seems all the world is heading for hell in a hand-basket, oh yes, it's time to pray.

The importance of prayer is addressed throughout the Scripture. In a nutshell, God wants our fellowship in prayer. His ears are open to our prayers. Prayer is a contact point with God the Father. Prayer is a necessary ingredient for living triumphantly in the Christian life.

Prayer is expression of heart directed at God. The posture one assumes when speaking makes no difference. Neither the number of words spoken nor the way in which they are articulated is of great importance. What is genuinely important is the heart in which we express ourselves.

I plan to cover quite a number of scriptures with this presentation of the Word. This I trust will serve as a reference for those who desire to study more deeply the aspects and profit of prayer.

If you have pen and paper you can simply write down the scriptures for reference later. You may also check back later on www.faithfulword.org to listen to the digital recording.

Direct Your Prayer To God ... Look Up

Psalms 5:2 and 3:

Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray.

My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct *my prayer* unto thee, and will look up.

What a way to start the day -- in the morning. Doing so, the first thing we will think about is the Lord our God. Not the morning news, not the business of the day or the list of things we

have to deal with. We will look up! We look down far too often – an unfruitful activity. Let's turn to the 55th Psalm ... Psalm 55, please...

Looking up, putting God first will set the tempo for the day! **“Unto thee will I pray ... my voice shalt thou hear ... in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee ... I will look up.”**

Psalms 55:16 and 17:

As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me.

Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.

The Lord shall “save me” -- defend, deliver, help, preserve, rescue me.

AEvening, and morning, and at noon@ is simply another way of saying Aall day long.@

“I will call upon the Lord ... my defender, my deliverer, my helper, He who rescues me ... to Him will I pray, to Him will I cry aloud ... he shall hear my voice!”

“My voice shalt thou hear in the morning ... and he shall hear my voice.” Our God is listening!

God is faithful – He doesn't always answer our prayers when we want Him to, but He always answers when we need Him to!

You and I must arrive at the place where we are absolutely convinced of how precious we are to our God and Father. He's always there, always watching, always listening because we are His.

Isaiah 49:14-16 (read only)

:14 But Zion said, The LORD hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me.

:15 Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.

:16 Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms **of my hands**; thy walls *are* continually before me.

He never forsakes or forgets about His own. He's listening always! Remember, **He is your defender, your deliverer, your helper -- He who rescues you**

Some of Jesus' Teaching on Prayer

Jesus tells us we should believe when we pray, not doubting, and we will have whatsoever we desire.

Mark 11:24 (read only)

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, **believe that ye receive them**, and ye shall have *them*.

Jesus tells us that we should pray and not faint (give up).

Luke 18:1 (read only)

And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought **always to pray**, and not to faint;

Jesus also tells us prayer is personal and intimate, not for show.

Matthew 6:6 (read only)

But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is **in secret**; and thy Father which seeth **in secret** shall reward thee openly.

Prayer was a life-style for Jesus Christ.

At his baptism and opening of his public ministry you find him praying.

Luke 3:21-22

:21 Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,

:22 And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

On the mount of transfiguration you find him praying.

Luke 9:28-31

:28 And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray.

:29 And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment *was white and glistering*.

:30 And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias:

:31 Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.

Knowing the time of his death and offering for mankind was drawing near you find him praying.

John 12:23 And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.

John 12:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

John 12:25 He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

John 12:26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will *my* Father honour.

John 12:27 Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.

John 12:28 Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, *saying*, I have both glorified *it*, and will glorify *it* again.

To start his day you find him praying.

Mark 1:35 (read only)

And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

He often withdrew himself into a solitary place to pray.

Luke 5:15-16 (read only)

:15 But so much the more went there a fame abroad of him: and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities.

:16 And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.

Before choosing the 12 Apostles he spent all night praying.

Luke 6:12-13 (read only)

:12 And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

:13 And when it was day, he called *unto him* his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;

Luke 9:18 - praying C alone

Luke 9:18 (read only)

And it came to pass, as he was alone praying, his disciples were with him: and he asked them, saying, Whom say the people that I am?

Luke 11:1-4 – praying and teaching the disciples to pray

Luke 11:1 And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

Luke 11:2 And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

Luke 11:3 Give us day by day our daily bread.

Luke 11:4 And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

Luke 22:39-45 – praying C seeking to do the will of God

Luke 22:39 And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him.

Luke 22:40 And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation.

Luke 22:41 And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,

Luke 22:42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

Luke 22:43 And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

Luke 22:44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Luke 22:45 And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow,

Luke 23:33-46 - to the last C trusting God C doing the will of God

Luke 23:33 And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.

Luke 23:34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

Luke 23:35 And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided *him*, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God.

Luke 23:36 And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar,

Luke 23:37 And saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself.

Luke 23:38 And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Luke 23:39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.

Luke 23:40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?

Luke 23:41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.

Luke 23:42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

Luke 23:43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

Luke 23:44 And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour.

Luke 23:45 And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst.

Luke 23:46 And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

He prayed daily and throughout the day.

He sought to find a place of solitude.

He took the necessary time needed in each situation.

* One Key to becoming Christ-like is to pray like Christ prayed.

Paul speaks of prayer abundantly in the Church Epistles

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (read only)

Pray without ceasing.

Philippians 4:6 (read only)

Be careful **for nothing**; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

1 Corinthians 14:15 (read only)

What is it then? I will **pray with the spirit**, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

Peter too speaks of prayer.

1 Peter 3:12 (read only)

For the eyes of the Lord *are* over the righteous, and his **ears are open** unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord *is* against them that do evil.

James too speaks of prayer.

James 5:16b (read only)

...The effectual **fervent prayer** of a righteous man availeth much.

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God:

1 John 5:14-15 (read only)

:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

:15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

Corporate prayer was common in the 1st Century Church.

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Acts 4:29 And now, Lord, **behold their threatenings:** and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

Acts 4:30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

We Need God's Help!

Our God is a God of mercy, of answered prayer. He is not so much interested in perfection as in heart.

As in so many times throughout history for God's people, today we also need God=s help. We need divine intervention to keep the affairs of the world from sliding into the abyss B and we are very close. Once a series of events begins, it is like a domino-effect. It is more difficult to deal with it when they are falling than to seek God=s help to stop what is about to happen.

I Timothy 2:1:

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men;

Here we see the various aspects of prayer B our prayers will generally fall into one of these categories.

ASupplications@ are prayer requests on a personal level, things we would ask for personally.

APrayers@ are simply prayers of devotion to God, such as praise.

AIntercessions@ are prayers on behalf of others.

AGiving of thanks@ are just that.

I Timothy 2:2:

For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

Those who have influence in our societies should be prayed for. The purpose for such prayer is that we may live a quiet and peaceable life.

So prayer has a priority.

II Chronicles 7:14:

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

He listed four things:

1. Humility is that state of emptying one=s self.
2. Prayer – talk to Him
3. Seeking God=s face
4. Turning from wicked ways.

Result = “then will I hear from heaven ... and will forgive their sin ... and will heal their land.”

God needs prayer warriors!

A man or woman today can stand in the gap for God=s people and pray for His help.

Ezekiel 22:30:

And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

Prayer is Effective

"If any of you should ask me for an epitome of the Christian religion, I should say that it is in one word - prayer. Live and die without prayer, and you will pray long enough when you get to hell." Charles Spurgeon

"...a man who kneels before God will stand before men." Leonard Ravenhill

"If weak in prayer, we are weak everywhere." — Leonard Ravenhill

"He who runs from God in the morning will scarcely find Him the rest of the day." John Bunyan

"I live in the spirit of prayer; I pray as I walk, when I lie down and when I rise, and the answers are always coming." George Mueller

"Prayer is not so much an act as it is an attitude—an attitude of dependency, dependency upon God." Arthur W. Pink

"Notice, we never pray for folks we gossip about, and we never gossip about the folk for whom we pray! For prayer is a great deterrent." Leonard Ravenhill

"We have to pray with our eyes on God, not on the difficulties." Oswald Chambers

"Prayer is the spiritual gymnasium in which we exercise and practice Godliness." VL Crawford

"In souls filled with love, the desire to please God is continual prayer." John Wesley

"The more helpless you are, the better you are fitted to pray, and the more answers to prayer you will experience." O. Hallesby

"True prayer is measured by weight, not by length. A single groan before God may have more fullness of prayer in it than a fine oration of great length." C. H. Spurgeon

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