

Praying for Others

Lesson for Sunday, September 22, 2024

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ We are deep into our work of organizing our personal prayer lives. Ask: *Does anyone have a testimony about what they are learning in this series? It is helping?*
- ⇒ Briefly discuss: You are probably getting the sense that if we are to pray like Jesus prayed, it is going to require some time.
 - *What are some things we might have to do if we get really serious about our prayer lives?*
- ⇒ Today, we focus on praying for others. The text is simple and clear, but it leaves a lot of work to for us to do because there are so many things we ought to pray about.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. A Simple Command
 - a. Read James 5:16 and emphasize the command, “pray one for another.”
 - b. Point out that this a command.
 - i. We have a Biblical responsibility to pray for others.
 - ii. To neglect to pray for others is to neglect the command of Scripture.
 - iii. We call that sin.
 - c. We see the same principle exhibited in the Old Testament.
 - i. Read 1 Samuel 12:23.
 - ii. In this verse, Samuel says directly what James emphasized in his book.
 - iii. We cannot escape the fact that have been commanded by God to pray for others.
 - d. We often do a good job picking the “big” sins (lust, blasphemy, etc.) and distancing ourselves from them. This can provide a false sense of how we are actually doing in our sanctification.
 - e. Have you ever considered that your failure to pray for others is a sin that needs to be confessed?
 - i. This happens every week in the halls of every Baptist church!
 - ii. How many times have you told someone, “I will be praying for you,” and you never actually did?
2. A Selfless Challenge
 - a. It seems obvious that we are to pray for one another, but if we were to measure the prayer lives of most people we would probably discover that most of our time is spent on our personal requests to the neglect of what others might need.
 - b. There is something about praying for others that will change the one who prays over time. Prayer often works in mysterious ways we fail to notice:
 - c. First, prayer will do for others what you cannot do yourself.
 - i. ILL: There was a boy who knew that his teammate could not afford shoes for the upcoming season. The boy – not having any money of his own – did all that he knew he could do. He went to his father and shared with

him the need. The next day the father and son went to the store and bought a pair of shoes for the teammate, and the boy took them to him at the next practice.

- ii. The boy could not buy his friends shoes. He didn't have a job and he didn't have any money. But his father could!
- iii. Often, there are things we wish we could do for others that we cannot do. But our Heavenly Father can do anything! Prayer introduces another element to the circumstances that is greater than we can imagine.
- d. Second, you are blessed when you see God answer prayers.
 - i. Back to our illustration...
 - ii. How do you think the son felt when he delivered the new shoes? He was as blessed as the one who the shoes were for.
 - iii. When we pray for others, it gives God an opportunity to use us in blessing others in ways we could not do it on our own.
- e. Praying for others is good for your own spiritual health!

APPLICATION:

See the next page for your work on this part of our prayer lives. You will need to put some thought into this since this section can really get long.

Remember that we are trying to pray the Scriptures!

- ⇒ Suggestion: Create a handout with extra verses they can look up during the week.
- ⇒ You can choose one or two verses from each category as an illustration to get them started.
- ⇒ Remember: We want them to work on this IN THE CLASS! Do not dominate the entire class by teaching and reading the verses.

Praying for Others

FAMILY:

- ⇒ Spouse – Ephesians 5; 1 Peter 3; and pray for their specific needs
- ⇒ Children:
 - Maturity – Luke 2:52
 - Salvation: Conviction – John 16:8; Repentance – Acts 3:19; Calling – Romans 10:13
 - Spiritual Growth – 2 Peter 3:18; Spirit-Filled – Ephesians 5:18; Spiritually Fruitful – Galatians 5:22-23
 - Moral Purity – 2 Timothy 2:22; Direction and Guidance – Psalm 32:8; Good Friends – 1 Corinthians 15:37; Respect for Authority – Ephesians 6:1-3
 - Pray for their specific needs
- ⇒ Other Family Considerations:
 - God's Spiritual Armor – Ephesians 6:10-18; God's Protection – Psalm 91:10; Financial Blessing – Malachi 3:10; God's Presence in our Home – Psalm 16:11; Good Health – 3 John 2; Harmony and Unity – Psalm 133:1

CHURCH:

- ⇒ Acts 9:31 – That we would enjoy peace, being built up and going on in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit and continue to increase.
- ⇒ Matthew 21:13; Isaiah 56:7 – House of Prayer
- ⇒ Acts 4:31 – Spirit-filled Worship
- ⇒ Matthew 4:19 – That every member would follow Jesus
- ⇒ 1 Corinthians 12:25 – That every member would use their spiritual gift
- ⇒ Matthew 9:37-38 – That God would raise up laborers
- ⇒ Malachi 3:10 – Tithes and Offerings
- ⇒ 2 Peter 3:18 – Grow in Christlikeness
- ⇒ Psalm 133:1 – Walk in harmony
- ⇒ Pray for revival – 2 Chronicles 7:14
- ⇒ Pray for the pastor, staff and leadership; Pray for missionaries; Pray for upcoming church events
- ⇒ Pray for your Sunday School class – Colossians 1:9-11

PRAYER FOR THE LOST:

- ⇒ Pray for conviction – John 16:8
- ⇒ Pray for their conversion – Acts 3:19
- ⇒ Pray that you will have contact with them – Romans 10:14
- ⇒ Pray they will call on the Lord – Romans 10:13
- ⇒ Pray for lost people you know by name...

PRAY FOR OTHERS THAT YOU KNOW ABOUT:

- ⇒ Key: keep a list and pray specifically.
- ⇒ When God answers prayers, highlight the request so you can reflect and thank God.
- ⇒ Verses to consider: 1 Timothy 2:1; James 5:13, 16; Ephesians 6:18.