

Our Attitude in Prayer

Introduction:

One cannot pray acceptably w/o an awareness of the divine laws that govern prayer & make it acceptable to God. We must pray with a proper understanding of the characteristics, conditions, & the contents of prayer. We cannot pray acceptably w/o an awareness of God's divine laws that govern prayer. Obviously, we should live so close to God, be so filled w/admiration for Him, that our spirit is always one of thankfulness. Attitude is everything in prayer!

I. Humility is a Necessity!

- A. This is a quality of life that **MUST** characterize our every thought/activity!
 - 1. Pride is a cause of spiritual failure.
 - a) 16:18 – leads to destruction
 - b) 29:23 – brings one low
 - c) 13:10 – leads to contention
 - d) 11:2 – brings about dishonor.
- B. Js. 4:1-10 – James links humility to prayer!
 - 1. 4:2b-3 – note **some praying w/wrong motives!**
 - 2. 4:6 – God gives grace to the humble – from Prov. 3:34
 - 3. 4:10 – God will exalt the humble
 - 4. 4:7-8 – The Humble person will submit to God & draw near to Him!
- C. Look to Jesus' teaching on this matter – Lk. 18:9-14
 - 1. Pharisee – self glorification
 - 2. Tax Collector – shame of sin committed against God.

II. Love is an Essential Quality.

- A. Love not easily defined. Best understood in what it does.
- B. Mt. 6:12 – God's love must echo in us
 - 1. 6:14-15 – mercy given only to those who show mercy to others.
- C. Mt. 18:21-35 – question here: is there a limit to forgiveness?
- D. What's the lesson here?
 - 1. To pray for forgiveness & yet be unforgiving makes our request to God futile.

III. We Must Pray With Expectancy!

- A. We must expect God to look favorably upon our requests!
 - 1. Mt. 17:14-20 – disciples unable to cast out demons in boy. Why? See 19-20.
- B. Mk. 11:22-24 – Jesus uses same illustration in conversation w/Peter.
 - 1. 23b-24 – Jesus emphasizes the need for genuine faith in prayer.
 - 2. If we question whether God will in fact grant our needs – we have made it impossible for God to grant them! See also Js. 1:6-7

IV. Must Pray with Watchfulness.

- A. Mt. 26:38-41 – Contrast here: sleep vs. watchfulness.
 - 1. Watching is often connected w/prayer. Lk. 21:36; Eph. 6:18; Col. 4:2
- B. Watch for: the Lord's return – Mk. 13:33; guard against temptation – Mt. 26:41
- C. When we fail to watch in prayer – our mental/spiritual awareness is impaired.

Conclusion:

- A. Not a Christian? It is my prayer that you will see the need to get your life right w/God.