

In Jesus Name

Who Am I - Week 15 (7-10-24)

Jeremiah 29:12-13

I. Understanding Prayer

A. Prayer is simply communication/connection with God.

1. Psalm 154:18 - "The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call upon him in truth."
 - a) We pray to invite God into our lives. Our thoughts, emotions, struggles, fears,
 - b) By praying we are acknowledging His presence and He can therefore manifest Himself to us.
 - c) Prayer is how we access God.
 - d) Prayer binds us to God.

B. We must know that God is there and listening.

1. Psalm 27:7-8
2. Revelation 3:20 - "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."
3. Psalm 139:1-5
 - a) Searched = Explore, search out, penetrate, examine, find out, seek
 - (1) God is pursuing us!
 - (2) 1 John 4:19 - "We love him, because he first loved us."
 - b) Why should we pray if God already knows our hearts?
 - (1) Matt. 6:5-8
 - (a) God is desiring a sincere response to his pursuit. He wants us to pursue Him back.
 - (b) He doesn't want to be used and manipulated in order for us to get what we want. He wants a genuine relationship.
 - (c) Prayer is not man's attempt to change the will of God or conquering His reluctance to answer. It is our avenue to a place where we deeply trust in His desire to be with us and to take care of us.
 - i) His will is always for good! - Romans 8:28

C. Prayer is Worship

1. Matt. 6:9 - Prayer = Pray, supplicate, worship

D. Prayer is Evaluating and Judging

1. 1 Samuel 12:19-25
 - a) Pray = Hitpallel and Pallel - Pronounce judgement, be the arbitrator, intercessor, advocate, judge.
 - (1) Psalm 106:29-31 - Judgement = Pallel
2. We need to evaluate and judge our own hearts and lives.
 - a) "For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged." 1 Corin. 11:31

II. The Prayer of Faith - James 5:13-18

A. Prayer may not change God, but it does change things!

1. Primarily, prayer changes US.
2. Prayer fulfills our need to be connected to the vine so that we can bear fruit.
 - a) We develop a strong relationship with God. Deeper trust, stronger faith, confidence in God's Character and faithfulness.
 - b) We learn to hear Him and know His will which breeds faith.
 - (1) We CAN know the will of God! And we must in order to pray faith-filled prayers.
 - (2) "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is."
- Eph. 5:17

B. We can pray confidently and boldly when we know the heart of the Father.

1. 1 John 5:14-15 (AMP)

"When asked, 'what is more important: praying or reading the Bible?' I ask, 'What is more important: breathing in or breathing out?'" - Charles Spurgeon

"No man is greater than his prayer life. The pastor who is not praying is playing; the people who are not praying are straying. We have many organizers, but few agonizers; many players and payers, few pray-ers; many singers, few clingers; lots of pastors, few wrestlers; many fears, few tears; much fashion, little passion; many interferers, few intercessors; many writers, but few fighters. Failing here, we fail everywhere." - Leonard Ravenhill