

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

(The building of a strong prayer life using 2x4's)

- I. With the first '2x4' we will nail down some specific questions.
 - A. Who can pray?
 1. Only those who are God's children can expect their prayers to be heard.
 2. This requires our fellowship with God through His Son (Job 27:8, 9; Jn 9:31; 1 Peter 3:12).
 3. From the wisdom literature section of our Bibles we glean; From David; Ps 18:41. From Solomon; Prov 1:28, 29; Prov 28:9.
 4. The sinner/unbeliever cannot expect God to honor a request made in desperation rather than obedience.
 - B. Where do we pray?
 1. Hopefully, anywhere and everywhere.
 2. Don't let your surroundings rob you of the blessing of prayer.
 3. Jonah 2:1; in whale's belly.
 4. Acts 16:25; Paul in prison.
 - C. Why do we pray?
 1. It is God's will for His children to communicate with Him, 1 Tm 2:8.
 2. When we are troubled, Acts 21:5.
 3. When we have a desperate and urgent need for God in our lives.
 4. Because people, families and churches need prayer, Acts 12:5, 6.
 - D. When do we pray?
 1. Upon arising, mealtimes, bedtimes. Yes, anytime is a good time.
 2. Ps 55:17
 3. 1 Thess 5:17
 4. Prayer should be part of our character.
- II. With another '2x4' we shall hammer home some specifics elements of prayer.
 - A. Prayers of thanksgiving.
 1. When we realize God's goodness we will give thanks.
 2. Our lives should be "an attitude of gratitude," 1 Tim 2:1.
 3. Jesus prayed before feeding the multitudes.
 4. A heart of thanksgiving, Phil 4:6.
 - B. Prayers of supplication.
 1. We petition God for our needs so we can be better Christians.
 2. We ask for our daily needs, Luke 11:1-4
 3. We ask in accordance with His will, Matt 26:38-42.
 4. We ask because the church needs prayers.

C. Prayers of intercession.

1. We pray for others and expect them to pray for us, e.g., sick, needy, negligent in service, etc.
2. Jesus prayed at the rising of Lazarus, John 11:32-45
3. Jesus prayed for the little children, Matt 19:13-15.
4. 2 Thess 3:1

D. Prayers of confession.

1. We should ask for forgiveness in all the areas we know we need them; failures, omissions, shortcomings, etc.
2. Ps 66:18
3. Prov 28:13
4. 1 John 1:9

After construction there is always trim work to do:

Be smarter in our prayers. Think before speaking.

Pray more.

Pray with more zeal.

Pray with more humility.

Touch up:

Persistence.

Combine prayer and action. "Pray for a good harvest, but keep on plowing!"

Let's nail down our prayer lives!