

HINTS ABOUT PRAYING

Luke 11:1-4 Matthew 6:25-26; 32-34

Introduction: Ever dread to see someone coming that once they get started talking, they never shut up, they go on and on and on? We say, "uh, oh, here comes.....so and so...." or what about when that "certain" person calls and we just can't get a word in "edge-wise?" They will keep us on the phone forever talking about all their ailments and such. Well, we can understand how sometimes our "praying" doesn't please or bless God very much, if any, for we are sometimes like those we can't stand to see coming or who call us and we just can't ever get them to hang up. Why do we pray? Well some do out of a sense of obligation, then there are those of us who pray only when tragedy strikes or there is a crisis. However, there are some who do talk to God out of their love and faithfulness to Him. When is a prayer finished?

I. WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT PRAYER IS NOT JUST FOR US

1. Prayer is supposed to be a "conversation" and that involves at least two, who talk to one another.
 - God likes to get in on our prayers too.
2. When it comes to our prayers, most of us are self-centered and downright selfish.
 - We go to the Lord only to UNLOAD on Him.
 - We seldom if ever ask the Lord if there's anything He might want us to do for Him.
3. The main reason for our praying should be to just want to have fellowship with the Lord.
 - God wants us to focus our thoughts on having fellowship with Him.
 - God already knows what we want and need, and wants to enjoy fellowship with us.
 - Is what God wants too time consuming? Don't we have enough time to share with Him?
4. How many go to God simply wanting to enjoy His company?
 - We are quick and eager to want to be with friends and family, is that boring or hard to do?
 - Jesus says that His relationship with us is that of a family and friends.
 - As we spend time together with our friends and family, God wants the same thing with us.
5. God is waiting for us with every resource we will ever need for anything, yet He is the very last one we turn to. We visit and call everyone in the phone book before we do Him.
 - What do you think that does to God's heart?

II. GOD IS VERY INTERESTED IN OUR NEEDS AND IS ANXIOUS FOR US TO COME TO HIM

1. Hannah was barren, childless, and sharing her husband with another woman who could have children.
 - Daily Hannah went to God with her heartache and disappointment of being barren.
 - Hannah took her inward feelings to God and talked to Him about how she felt.
2. Why are we hesitant to take our true heart feelings to God? He already knows how we feel.
3. Nehemiah was a slave and a personal aide to a king and received word one day that the city of his heritage was destroyed and never rebuilt. He was filled with sorrow and sadness.
 - The king saw Nehemiah's sadness and was moved with feelings so that he sent Nehemiah to his homeland to try to get things straightened out.
 - If a pagan king showed such kindness to one of God's children, how much more will God show to one of His children.

III. CHANGES IN OUR PRAYER ATTITUDE CAN BRING MARVELOUS RESULTS

1. Instead of rushing through our list of what we want God to do, saying "Amen" and then moving on to other "important" things, maybe hanging around God for awhile might enable us to have a wonderful, exciting experience with God.
2. Our "prayer" is not really over, even after saying "Amen" until God has given us a peace and rest in our hearts about what we've been talking to God about.
3. All of us have "prayed our hearts out" and then nothing happened. Everything stayed just the same. What went wrong?
4. How can we keep the joy, peace and complete rest we had while we were praying?
 - WE MUST LISTEN!
 - Most of us don't want to listen, we want to do the talking.
 - Anybody who was ever used of God learned to be quiet and just listen.
"...and the Word of the Lord came unto me saying...."
 - With God, you can't talk and listen at the same time.
 - WE MUST TRUST GOD'S WORD!
 - Every time we finally listen to God, we will always find ourselves listening to the Scriptures, God's Word, the Bible.
 - IF you want to hear God, then you must be still and SILENT!

CONCLUSION:

1. One way fellowship is not the kind of fellowship that pleases God. We are a part of His Family and He is our Heavenly FATHER.
2. We need to learn how to stop worrying about what goes on down here for God is faithful to meet all our needs, let's work on two way fellowship with God.
3. What God wants during our prayer time is fellowship that includes two way conversation, with plenty of time for both of us to talk and to do so every day.
4. Remember, answered prayer comes when we learn how to LISTEN, WAIT, and TRUST God to do what He wants to do.
5. Make those changes, begin to enjoy and look forward to fellowship with God.