

FOUNDATION OF FAITH

“PRAYER”

I. What Is Prayer?

- Prayer is the sincere desire of the heart expressed in words unto God (Rom 10:1; Matt. 14:30; Luke 18:13)
- The elements of prayer are (a.) praise Matt 6:9, (b.) thanksgiving Eph 5:20; 1 Tim 4:3-5, (c.) confession James 5:16; 1 John 1:9; Luke 18:13, (d.) petition, supplication and intercession Matt 7:7-11; 1 Tim 2:1-3

I. What Prayer Is Not

- Not a means of informing God and scolding man (Luke 18: 9-14)
- Not for selfishness (James 4: 1-4)
- Not for using as **911** (Prov 1:24-33)
- Not for circumventing God's will (Matt 7:21)
- Not an ultimatum issued to God
- Not a memorized speech

II When Should One Pray?

- Daniel prayed at least 3 times a day, we should pray as often as our wants dictate, give thanks as often as our blessings. (Ps 55:17)
- Pray without ceasing (1 Thess 5:17; Col 4:2)
- Suggestions for prayer: when you arise, before every meal, at set times, at odd times, with family, before sleeping, when you're sad, when you're happy, when you are suffering
- Pray until prayer becomes a spiritual habit

III. PRAYER IN THE N.T. CHURCH

- “Continued with one accord in prayer and supplication”...(Acts 1:14-24)
- “Continued steadfastly”... (Acts 2:24)
- Apostles gave themselves “continually to prayer”... (Acts 6:4,6)
- Peter prayed...Cornelius sent for him (Acts 10:9)
- Pray without ceasing....(Acts 12:5)
- On many occasions (Acts 14:23;16:13,25)

IV. WILL GOD ANSWER OUR PRAYERS?

- Have confidence in God- 1 John 5:14-15)
- His eyes are over the righteous-1 Pet 3:12
- Effectual fervent prayer- James 5:16-18
- 1 Tim 2:8-"Pray without wrath & doubt"
- Spiritual laws must be obeyed for God to answer
- The element of time must be considered

V. SEVEN LAWS OF PRAYER

- 1.) **ASK!!!** (Matt 7:7-11; James 1:17)
- 2.) **ASK** as A Righteous Person (1 Pet 3:12) God hates some prayers (Prov 28:9; 15:29 and John 9:31) Seek to obey God (1 Jn 1:8-10) We receive because we keep His commandments (1 Jn 3:22)
- 3.) **ASK** According to His Will (1 Jn 5:14-15) Jesus said “Thy will be done” Mt 26:39

V. SEVEN LAWS OF PRAYER

- 4.) **ASK** In the Name of Christ (Jn 14:13-14; 15:16)
- 5.) **ASK** In Faith (James 1:6-7) unwavering faith (Rom 10:17) perseverance (Eph 6:18)
- 6.) **ASK** For Definite Things (Lk 11:11-12) Elijah (James 5:18) God will help us-Rom 8:26-28
- 7.) **ASK** With Thanks (1 Thess 5:17,18; Phil 4:6,7) Paul and Silas (Acts 16:25)