

Bible Study: Prayer & Faith

Purpose: To show the group that prayer shouldn't be a last resort. It should be the first thing we do whenever faced with a difficulty. Also, we should pray without ceasing. Prayer is not an occasion it is a lifestyle.

Introduction: I read a few parts of an article on prayer by Billy Graham.

- He said often times we hear people say, "Well all we can do now is pray." He said this is a foolish way to go through life, turning to prayer only when everything else fails.
- He said, "When we come to the end of ourselves, we come to the beginning of God."
- He talks about how it shouldn't be embarrassing to be needy, and we should readily admit our neediness.
- Even a sigh of "Help me Lord," can be a prayer, according to the Bible.
- Prayer is more than a laundry list of requests. At best, it's a two-way conversation. It's as important to listen, as it is to talk to God.
- It's not "Use in case of emergency." It is "emergency results without use."

MATTHEW 6:5-14 & MARK 11:25

Q: Where are we to pray?

Q: How are we to pray?

Q: What must we do as we pray?

CONTRASTS BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND JESUS:

- When we are in public, we pray a lot (church).
- When in small groups, we tend to pray less (before meals).
- When we are alone, do we pray at all?

Jesus was the opposite.

- In public, he prayed often (Sermon on the Mount).
- Amongst small groups, he prayed even more (with disciples).
- By himself, he prayed without ceasing (in the garden).

JOHN 17:1-5 & JOHN 17:18-25

Q: Why should we seek to be glorified?

Q: Why does Jesus ask for his glory as in the beginning?

Q: Whom is He praying for here?

Q: Why does He want to glorify them?

Q: Jesus is God, and Jesus is in us. Should we be afraid?

MATTHEW 26:38-43

Q: Is it okay to pray things for yourself?

Q: What is important to remember when praying for yourself?

Q: Will your will be done above God's?

Q: Are we ever asleep when Jesus asks us to pray?