
HOW TO HAVE A PRAYERFUL LIFE

I Peter 3:12

INTRODUCTION

“Just as fathers and mothers desire to meet the needs of their children as an expression of their love for them, so also our Heavenly Father delights in answering our prayers. However, prayer is much more than our coming to God and making requests of Him. Prayer is a precious experience of communion and worship—getting to know our Father and ourselves better. Prayer is one of the highest privileges we have in the Christian life, and God delights in answering prayer.”

--Warren Wiersbe

I. WHAT DOES THE WORD “PRAYERFUL” MEAN?

- A. “Inclined or given to _____ frequently; devout.”
--American Heritage Dictionary
- B. Many of God’s choice _____ have _____ the spiritual discipline of prayer as follows:
1. “What is prayer? Simplified, is it not the desire, opportunity, and privilege of _____ with God?” – Herbert Lockyer
 2. “Prayer is the slender _____ that moveth the muscles of omnipotence.”
--Charles Spurgeon
 3. “Prayer is more than a _____ kit for our broken-down situations.” – Leonard Ravenhill
 4. “Prayer is the sovereign _____.” – Robert Hull
 5. “Prayer is simply _____ with God, or, as someone has said, ‘Prayer is a dialogue between two people who _____ each other – God and man.’ We love Him because He _____ loved us.”
--Bill Bright
- C. Biblically, a prayerful life is _____ way to:
4. To _____ with Him – Psalm 55:17; 65:2; Proverbs 15:8, 29
 5. To receive _____ from Him – Luke 18:13; Romans 10:13
 6. To _____ His help – Matthew 7:7,8; Hebrews 4:16

II. WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT A PRAYERFUL LIFE?

- A. A prayerful life is an _____ life, because prayer is a _____ – Luke 18:1
1. It is a _____ duty!
 2. It is a _____ need!
 3. It is a _____ necessity!
- B. A prayerful life is God's way to _____ – Ephesians 6:10-18
- C. A prayerful life is a _____ life – John 17:1-26; Hebrews 5:7; Matthew 26:39-44
1. We are to _____ His example – I Peter 2:21; I John 2:6
 2. We are to _____ upon Christ through prayer as He depended upon His father – John 5:19,30; 15:1-5
 - a. His ministry _____ with prayer – Luke 3:21
 - b. His ministry _____ with prayer – Mark 1:35
 - c. His ministry _____ on prayer – Luke 5:15,16
 - d. His men were _____ in prayer – Luke 6:12,13
 - e. His ministry (on earth) _____ in prayer – Luke 23:34
 - f. His ministry (in Heaven) _____ in prayer – Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25
- D. A prayerful life is a _____ and _____ life – John 16:24; Philippians 4:6,7
- E. A prayerful life _____ God – John 14:13

III. WHAT STEPS CAN WE TAKE TO PURSUE AND PRACTICE A PRAYERFUL LIFE?

- A. Focus on and believe in the _____ and _____ of prayer – Jeremiah 33:3
- B. Use the acrostic P-R-A-Y to _____ your conversation with God!
- P – _____ God for who He is and what He has done – Psalm 50:23
 - R– _____ of your sins – Psalm 32:1-5; 51:1-13; I John 1:9
 - A – _____ for yourself (petition) and others (intercession) – Matthew 7:7-9; Hebrews 4:16; James 4:2,3; I Peter 5:7
 - Y – _____ to God's will for your day and your life – Psalm 143:10; Romans 12:1,2; 14:8

"We can do more than pray after we have prayed; But until we have prayed, there is no more we can do than pray!"
--George Mueller