

The Gift of Prayer

Prayer is simply opening our lives to God, acknowledging our total dependence on Him. Prayer is not limited to a segment of our lives or to a scheduled event in our days. It is an attitude of receptiveness and openness which permeates our lives and to which God responds eagerly. It is living in the presence of God, always in the process of being reshaped and re-created by Him.... The primary goal of prayer is not to tell God what is on our minds, but to listen to what is on His. The main purpose of prayer is to understand the heart of God and cooperate with the purposes of God. From the Praying Life by Jennifer Kennedy Dean

Privilege of Prayer

1. God Speaks to Us
 - o Jeremiah 33:2-3
 - o Isaiah 50:4-5
 - o Proverbs 1:23
2. God Hears Us
 - o Psalm 5:3
 - o Psalm 40:1
 - o Psalm 65:2
 - o Proverbs 15:29
 - o Isaiah 65:24
3. God Answers Us
 - o John 15:7
 - o 1 John 5:14-15
 - o Romans 8:26-27

Call to Prayer

1. All the Time
 - o Colossians 4:2
 - o 1 Thessalonians 5:17
 - o Psalm 62:8
 - o Ephesians 6:18
 - o James 5:13-15
2. A Specific Time
 - o Matthew 6:6
 - o Psalm 5:3, Psalm 119:47, Psalm 143:8

Power of Prayer

God's will is like a train and our prayers like a railroad track. A train has all the power necessary to travel from one location to another, but it can only travel to places where tracks have been laid. Our prayers fulfill God's conditions for the release of His will. God has the power to do whatever He wants, but He has chosen to condition the demonstration of His power on our prayers. From Let Us Pray by Watchmen Nee

1. James 5:16
2. 2 Chronicles 7:14-15
3. Example of Elijah
 - o James 5:17-18
 - o 1 Kings 17:1

- 1 Kings 18:1
- 1 Kings 18:41-46
- 4. Evidence of Powerful Prayer
 - Israel in Exodus 32 versus Judah in Ezekiel 22

	<u>Israel</u>	<u>Judah</u>
a. Breaks covenant with God	vs. 1-4	vs. 23-29
b. Deserves judgment	vs. 8	vs. 31
c. God desires mercy	Genesis 49:10	vs. 30
d. God looks for intercessor	vs. 7-10	vs. 30
e. Who does God find?	vs. 11- Moses	vs. 30- no one
f. What is the result?	vs. 14- mercy	vs. 31- judgment
 - Psalm 106:32

Prayer & God's Word

1. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
 - Our spiritual weapons:
 - i. are not of this world
 - ii. have divine power
 - iii. are associated with the knowledge of God
 - iv. have the purpose of taking our thoughts captive to the obedience of Christ
2. Ephesians 6:17-18
 - Take the sword of Spirit and pray in the Spirit...
 - Two sticks of dynamite

Lord, teach us to pray! Luke 11:1