

## In the Habit of Prayer?

### Introduction:

The Heroes of faith in Bible strongly believed in prayer! Consider the prayers of Abraham; Jacob; Moses; David; Daniel; Job; and Jesus. Prayer was taken up by the early converts to Christianity. See Acts 2:42. Prayer was an activity that characterized these Christians. We must ask: *Is prayer a central part of my life? Am I in the habit of prayer? Do I pray on a regular basis? Am I satisfied with my prayer life presently?* Developing prayer habits is mandatory behavior for those who wish to grow mature in Christ!

### I. We must set aside time to pray!

- A. if we to learn to pray well – must find ourselves in habit of prayer!
  - 1. We do the things that are important to us!
  - 2. Where does prayer fit into the equation?
- B. Note how busy Jesus was w/His ministry & yet we see Him making time to pray:
  - 1. Mk. 1:35 – early AM
  - 2. Mt. 14:23 – evening – after sending away crowds.
  - 3. Lk. 9:18, 29 – during the day
  - 4. Mt. 26:36, 39 – in middle of the night.
- C. When one's heart continually directed toward God – there is always time to pray!

### II. Men Ought Always to Pray.

- A. Lk. 18:1 – think about word *ought*.
  - 1. We have a moral & spiritual obligation to pray – not an optional matter!
- B. 18:2-8 – what's the lesson taught in this verse?
  - 1. We must persist in prayer & not be discouraged.
  - 2. Persevere in prayer – even when the answer is not immediately granted.
- C. Paul also had much to say about prayer!
  - 1. Eph. 6:18 – Pray at all times. Should be constant in nature.
  - 2. Context: Christian life is spent at war w/devil. (6:11-17)
    - a) EVERY incident in life can be dealt with in prayer!
- D. See also Rom. 12:10-13; Col. 4:2
  - 1. Prayer/patience can be the richest source of consolation & support.
  - 2. 12:12 – prayer can be one way to express our hope/gratitude to God.
- E. Note the prayer habit of Paul:
  - 1. Col. 1:3 – always; 1 Thess. 3:10 – night/day.
  - 2. 1 Cor. 1:4; Eph. 1:15-16; Phil. 1:3-5; Col. 1:3,9 – unceasing prayers
  - 3. 1 Thess. 5:17 – pray w/o ceasing.

### III. Here, There, & Everywhere!

- A. Prayer the main source of strength for Bible heroes.
- B. Prayer in the events of Jesus life:
  - 1. Lk. 3:21- b/f baptism; Lk. 6:12 – before the call of the 12
  - 2. Mk. 1:35; 6:41; 7:34 – in connection w/miracles.
  - 3. Jhn. 17:6-19; 20-26; Lk. 22:32; 23-34 – for other people.
- C. Prayer in the events of Paul's life:
  - 1. Acts 20:36; 21:5 – before parting company w/fellow Christians
  - 2. Acts 22:17 – when in the temple; Acts 13:1-3 – b/f going on missionary journey; Acts 27:33-38 – gave thanks for food....

### Conclusion:

- A. Not a Christian? It is my prayer that you give your life to God through your obedience to the gospel!