

PRAYER BASICS

INTRO:

Psa 65:2 "O you who hear prayer, to you all men will come."

Jer 33:3 "'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.'"

1. GOD ANSWERS PRAYER

** Prayer is the natural response to the PRESENCE of God in our lives. (We need to cultivate an awareness of his presence.)

++ Like breathing is our response to our need of oxygen and the availability of our atmosphere.

** Without prayer our spiritual life will die.

2. WHY DON'T WE PRAY?

- * Natural sluggishness
- * Satan opposes prayer
- * Too busy
- * Lack of discipline
- * Lack of quiet mind
- * Unconfessed sin
- * Pride ("Do it myself!")
- * Bad theology: "I don't need to BOTHER God."

3. HINDRANCES TO PRAYER

WRONG MOTIVES

James 4:3 "When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures."

UNCONFESSED SIN

Psa 66:18 "If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;"

DOUBT

James 1:5-7 "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord;"

UNFORGIVING SPIRIT

Mark 11:25 "And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.""

FAMILY PROBLEMS

1 Pet 3:7 "Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers."

LACK OF COMPASSION

Prov 21:13 "If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered."

IDOLS IN OUR LIVES

Ezek 14:3 ""Son of man, these men have set up idols in their hearts and put wicked stumbling blocks before their faces. Should I let them inquire of me at all?"

3. KINDS OF PRAYER

PRAYING THE SCRIPTURE

- * Personal
- * Situational
- * Intercessory
- *(Use Amplified Bible, other...increases prayer vocabulary. lines us up with God's will)

PRAYER OF SILENCE

- * Embracing (beyond words)
- * Awareness of God's presence
- * Passive purification
- * Spirit encounter (ultimate union)
- *(Richard Foster "Celebration of Discipline"..stillness exercises; not grasping; letting go)

PRAYER OF PERSPECTIVE

Psa 62:8 "Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge. Selah"

Prayer gives to us eternal bearings in a temporary world.