

# Faithfulness in Prayer

By David Phillips

## Introduction

1. Prayer is an aspect of Christian life that is often taken for granted.
  - a. It is misused and misunderstood by many.
  - b. It is often not used by those who should use it.
2. Nevertheless, prayer is something that has been characteristic of God's faithful people since the beginning.
3. Through the many examples we have in the Scriptures, we can come to better understand prayer and make it an important aspect of our lives.

## Discussion

### I. A Faithful Relationship is a Prayerful Relationship

#### A. What Is Faithfulness?

1. "1. a firm conviction...full acknowledgement of God's revealed truth; 2. personal surrender to Him; 3. a conduct inspired by such surrender" (Vine's).
2. Christian life is not simply motions or actions – Christians are not robots who simply march to services every Sunday.
3. Christian life is one of conviction, surrender, and devotion to God.
4. Such faithfulness is what makes prayer so great.
  - a. Prayer is not just to make us feel better.
  - b. It is not simply a tool to help us think thing through—it is much more.
5. Prayer is the result of our conviction and surrender to God as we learn upon Him for strength and guidance.
6. Faithfulness results in prayer, prayer increases faithfulness.
7. Our ability to go to God in prayer is one of the greatest blessings we have in this life. Why?
8. Prayer is our communication with our heavenly Father.

#### B. True Christian life is about drawing near to God as our Father.

1. Rom. 8:15: "...*but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.'*" (See also Gal. 4:6)
  - a. Consider the meaning of Abba.
  - b. Paul mentions it here because it has great significance in our life before God.
2. John 3:1: "*Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God.*"
3. James 4:8: "*Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.*"
4. Humble obedience and heartfelt prayer are the means through which we draw near to our Father.

### II. God's Faithful Have Always Been Devoted to Prayer

#### A. Abraham was called "*the friend of God*" (James 2:23).

1. His communication with God was frequent and personal.
  2. Gen. 12:1ff; 18:22.
- B. David was referred to as a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22).
1. From the time of his youth he wrote psalms, many of which were prayers to God.
  2. He is noted for his constant devotion to God in times of peace and prosperity, turmoil, and in repentance (Ps. 51).
  3. The same faith by which he conquered Goliath is that with which He constantly offered prayers to God.
- C. Jesus, the Son of God—who is God.
1. While in heaven He had constant communication with the Father (Phil. 2:6).
  2. It was not different when He was on the earth, for He continually prayed to the Father.
  3. He is our example: Luke 6:12; 5:16; 1 John 2:6.
  4. He was the first to call the Father “Abba” (Mark 14:36).
  5. Through Him we too can draw near as children; through prayer we draw near with our hearts.
- D. Paul was acquainted with great turmoil, but filled with the peace of God because of His constant prayers: Phil. 4:6-7; 2 Tim. 1:3.

### **III. Are You One of God's Faithful**

- A. The example of God's faithful is set for us to follow:
1. Thess. 5:16-18: Pray without ceasing
  2. Phil. 4:6-7: In everything by prayer and supplication
  3. Rom. 12:12: Continue steadfastly in prayer
  4. Eph. 6:18: Praying always
  5. Col. 4:2: Continue earnestly in prayer
  6. 1 Pet. 4:7: Watchful in your prayers.
- B. Such prayers were characteristic of the New Testament church: Acts 1:14; 2:24; 4:23-30; 12:5.
- C. Where does prayer fit into your life?

### **Conclusion**

1. This lesson is not for teaching us how to pray, but to put in us the DESIRE to pray.
2. Effective fervent prayers require faith and conviction.
3. We are God's children. It takes time to learn how to talk to Him, but as our Father He will listen if we will learn.

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