

“The Blessing of Prayer”

James 5:16

Introduction

- I. How many blessings do we take for granted (Eph. 1:3)?
- II. It is sad that some Christians do not utilize the blessing of prayer (1 Thess. 5:17; Jesus prayed [John 17; Luke 6:12]).
 - A. Prayer should be precise.
 - B. Prayer should be personal.
 - C. Prayer should be positive.
 - D. Prayer should be powerful.

Discussion

- I. Prayer should be precise.
 - A. We should not be afraid to take anything of this life to the Father in prayer (1 John 5:14-16; James 5:16; Mark 11:24).
 - B. We should not allow our prayers to become empty (Matt. 6:7).
 - C. Our prayers should address the daily issues of life (Luke 11:2-4).
 - D. We should not leave one concern or request from being mentioned in prayer (Phil. 4:6).
- II. Prayer should be personal.
 - A. We should never be afraid to pray for ourselves (Matthew 6:5-7; remember Hannah [1 Sam. 1:8-12]; 1 Chr. 4:9-10).
 - B. Jesus did (Matt. 26:39).
- III. Prayer should be positive.
 - A. We need to trust that our prayers are heard (Jer. 29:12; 2 Chr. 7:14; Psm. 141:2; 4:1; 145:18; Prov. 15:29; 1 Tim. 2:8).
 - B. We should trust that our prayers are answered (Luke 18:1; James 1:5-8; 4:2-3; Heb. 4:16)
- IV. Prayer should be powerful.
 - A. When we ask according to God's will, our prayers can make a difference (Gen. 18:16-33).
 - B. Nothing is too much for God and His strength (James 5:16-17; 1 Kings 17:1; 18:1).
 - C. Providential aid is available, but so many never seek it at certain times.

Conclusion

- I. We should be grateful to have the blessing of prayer.
- II. Prayer should be precise, personal, positive and powerful.