

“The Privilege of Prayer”

1 John 5:14-15

Introduction

- I. One of the greatest resources that a Christian has, is the privilege of prayer.
- II. This is not something that the world gets to enjoy (Prov. 15:29; 1 Pet. 3:12).
- III. There is great power in prayer (James 5:16).
- IV. What is prayer, what prayer is not, and what are the benefits of prayer?

Discussion

- I. What is prayer?
 - A. Prayer is a Christian's way of communicating with God.
 - B. We are to address the Father in prayer (Matt. 6:9; John 17:1).
 1. Christians can utilize prayer at any time (Psm. 119:62).
 2. We can go to the Father with confidence when we have a need (James 4:8; Psm. 24:1; 34:17; 50:10-15; Phil. 4:6; Heb. 4:14-16).
 3. Prayer should be utilized regularly (1 Thess. 5:17).
- II. What prayer is not.
 - A. Prayer is not a way to educate God, for God already knows (Psm. 147:5; 1 John 3:20; Heb. 4:13).
 - B. Prayer is not just empty and vain repetitions (Matt. 6:7-8).
 - C. Prayer is not a time to preach to the assembly.
 1. Matters between brethren are to be handled appropriately (Matt. 18:15-18).
 2. We must remember that we are communicating with God and not each other.
 - D. Prayer is not a time to be “showy” or “pretentious” (Matt. 23:14, 5).
- III. What are the benefits of prayer?
 - A. Being closer to God (James 4:8; Heb. 10:22-23).
 - B. Renewed hope (Psm. 146:5-9).
 - C. Strength and comfort (James 5:16).
 - D. Forgiveness (1 John 1:9; Psm. 51:1-2).
 - E. Blessings (Heb. 4:16).

Conclusion

- I. Prayer is something that every Christian should employ.
- II. We can better ourselves and those around us through prayer.