

# **Privileges in Prayer**

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

## Introduction:

- A. Psalm 55:16-17 - The context of Psalm 55
  - 1. David relates his troubles, 1-14
  - 2. He spells out the doom of the wicked - 15.
  - 3. After feeling defeated, David remembered the privilege of prayer, 16-17
- B. We enjoy the privileges of prayer when in difficulty like David, but how often do we take advantage of the privilege of prayer apart from those times?

## **I. PRAYER ALLOWS ACCESS TO GOD**

- A. Psalm 55:17 - When we pray, we address the Creator
  - 1. Psalm 115:1-9; Eph. 3:20; Isa. 40:12; Col. 1:16-17.
- B. Prayer brings us into his presence - Heb. 4:16
- C. Our access is by Divine invitation
  - 1. Ancient kings were unapproachable (Esther 4)
  - 2. God invites us to come before Him - Psalm 50:15

## **II. PRAYER IS AVAILABLE TO ALL BELIEVERS**

- A. John 15:7; 1John 5:14-15 - Prayer is not just the activity of the spiritually powerful. Prayer is open to all saints, without exception
- B. Many great prayers were offered by ordinary believers
  - 1. Hannah - 1Sam. 1:9-12, 17
  - 2. The publican - Luke 18:13
  - 3. The dying thief - Luke 23:42
- C. Never feel that you have no right to pray.
  - 1. God calls on you to pray, your family needs you to pray, your country needs you to pray, this church needs you to pray

## **III. PRAYER ANTICIPATES GOD'S ANSWER**

- A. Jer. 33:3; Isa. 65:24 - Prayer is a privilege because God has promised He will hear and answer
- B. This gives us confidence when we pray - John 14:13-14; 16:23-24
- C. It appears that God wants to answer our prayers even more than we want them answered - Luke 12:32
  - 1. If there is a breakdown between our prayers and God's will to answer, it lies in our prayers - James 4:2-3; 1John 5:14

## **IV. PRAYER ACHIEVES THE IMPOSSIBLE**

- A. Matt. 17:20 - Prayer has the power to summon the Providentially supernatural in this natural world
  - 1. Elijah on Mt. Carmel - 1Kings 18:36-38
  - 2. Abraham for Sodom - Gen. 18:23-25, 32
  - 3. Moses for Israel - Ex. 32:11-14
  - 4. How many here are living different and better lives because of the power of prayer?

- B. Never say God cannot do it; prayer is a privilege because it can achieve the impossible - James 5:15

## **V. PRAYER ADVANCES THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

- A. 2Thes. 3:1
- B. Our prayers can influence events in places where we cannot go and in times where we will not live.
  - 1. Overseas works, family in distant places, policy in government, the sick and shut-ins -- the concept of prayer warriors
  - 2. Matt. 6:5-6 - The power of prayer lies not in the preacher or the church building. The power is those who pray in faith, anywhere at any time
- C. Prayer opens doors, hinders evil, heals the sick, and convicts the sinner.
  - 1. Rom. 1:9; 15:30

## **VI. PRAYER ADVOCATES GOD'S GREATNESS**

- A. 1Kings 18:36-39 - The connection between prayers of men, the power of God, and the faith it produces
  - 1. Prayer declares His grace - He allows sinners access.
  - 2. Prayer declares His goodness - He is willing to hear and answer.
  - 3. Prayer declares His greatness - it unleashes the power of God in this world
  - 4. Prayer declares His glory - it shows Him to be the only true and living God

### **Conclusion:**

- A. After salvation, prayer is the greatest privilege we enjoy.
- B. Go often to the throne of God in prayer.