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
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.