

Devoted to Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING: Romans 8:14-17

INTRODUCTION.

- A. How often do you and I devote time to prayer?
 - 1. Praying to God must be a regular part of our daily lives.
 - 2. However, it must be our own individual decision and determination.
- B. We do pray when we come together.
 - 1. However, this is a collective prayer. One person leads the pray and we all pray along so we can say, “Amen” at the end of the prayer. (cf. 1 Corinthians 14:16)
 - 2. Generally, these public prayers are very focused on the work of the local church, the prayer requests of the members, etc.
- C. Aside from the four hours a week we come together, prayer needs to be a daily part of our lives.
- D. In this lesson, we are going to show the importance of being devoted to prayer.

I. BE DEVOTED TO PRAYER.

- A. God’s people have always purposefully prayed to Him. Consider a few examples:
 - 1. Abraham prayed. (Genesis 20:17)
 - 2. Moses prayed. (Numbers 11:2; 21:7; Deuteronomy 9:20,26)
 - 3. Hannah prayed for a child. (1 Samuel 1:10-11; 2:1-10)
 - 4. The prayers of David.
 - 5. The prayers of Daniel.
 - 6. The Jews prayed three times a day.
 - a. We learn from Daniel 6:10, that Daniel prayed three times a day. It is likely that Daniel prayed to God at the third hour, the ninth hour, and possibly at sunset or nightfall.

- b. We see something similar in Psalms 55:17 when David wrote,
"Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice."
 - c. These times of prayer may have been directly connected to the daily sacrifices seen in Numbers 28:1-8.
 - 1) The first sacrifice, around the third hour, or 9:00 AM.
 - 2) The second sacrifice, around the ninth hour, or 3:00 PM.
 - 3) During the first century, the Jewish people in Jerusalem would go to the temple to pray at the third hour and the ninth hour. (cf. Acts 3:1)
 - 4) Cornelius of Caesarea prayed at the ninth hour. (Acts 10:30)
 - 7. Jesus prayed to the Father on several occasions.
 - a. At His baptism. (Luke 3:21-22)
 - b. In the upper room, the night before His death. (John 17)
 - c. Later that night in the garden. (Matthew 26:36-46)
 - 8. God's people understood the importance of petitioning the Lord through prayer. They would express their thanks, their fears, their desires, their joy, their sorrow, etc. through prayer.
- B. Through prayer, we talk to our Father in Heaven.
- 1. We can "cry out, 'Abba, Father.'" (Romans 8:14-17)
 - a. Jesus taught His disciples to pray, *"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."* (Matthew 6:9)
 - b. When Jesus prayed, He said, *"Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You."* (John 17:1)
 - c. God sent Jesus to be the mediator between God and His people.
 - 1) God sent His "only begotten Son." (John 3:16)
 - 2) God sent Jesus to become *"the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him."* (Hebrews 5:5-11)

- 3) He is the “*Mediator of a better covenant.*” (Hebrews 8:6-7; 9:13-15)
- 4) He is the Mediator between God and man. (1 Timothy 2:5-6)
- d. We can walk in fellowship with God the Father, praying always to Him, crying out “Father, Father.”
2. Through prayer, we thank our Father in Heaven for all He has done. (Ephesians 5:20)
3. Through prayer, we seek the needs of others. (1 Timothy 2:1-4)
4. Through prayer, we seek our own needs. (Philippians 4:6-7)
5. Through prayer, we ask God to forgive us of our sins.
 - a. Jesus taught His disciples to ask for the forgiveness of sins. (Matthew 6:12)
 - b. We are to confess our sins to God. (1 John 1:9; cf. Psalms 32:5)
6. Be urgent and steadfast in praying to our Father in heaven.
 - a. We are to continue steadfastly in prayer. (Romans 12:12)
 - b. Pray without ceasing. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
 - c. Continue earnestly in prayer. (Colossians 4:2)
 - d. Pray always with prayer and supplications. (Ephesians 6:18)
 - e. We must be purposefully devoted to prayer.
7. Seek God’s will above our own. (1 John 5:14, 15)
8. Pray from a humble heart. (Luke 18:9-14; cf. 17:10)

CONCLUSION.

- A. Praying to God must be purposeful.
 1. God is our heavenly Father.
 2. God loved us enough to send Jesus to be the mediator so we can approach Him in prayer.
- B. All though God’s knows our needs (cf. Matthew 6:8), the Bible teaches us the importance of being devoted to purposeful prayer in our lives.

Devoted to Prayer

by John M. Duvall – March 1, 2026 – File #: 455, Prayer

Preached at the Seminole Pointe church of Christ in Edmond, Oklahoma