



PRAYER

A Study in Discipleship
by Doug Farmer

PRAYER

Prayer is the greatest untapped spiritual resource in the life of a child of God and within the Christian church! Time will not permit a THOROUGH study of Prayer, but we will look at several key concepts in this study:

One author* lists four descriptions of Prayer:

1. It is CONVERSATION with God.
2. It is a means of FELLOWSHIPING with God.
3. It is a means of AFFECTING THE LIVES of others.
4. It is a means of GIVING THANKS AND PRAISE!

I. NINE DIRECT RESULTS OF PRAYER:

- a. Changes the person who prays. OUR attitudes, goals and PRAYERS change as God's Spirit leads us to pray.**
- b. Changes the person being prayed for! (Whether they realize it or not.)
- c. Changes our attitude toward others. "It is absolutely impossible to feel hatred or dislike for a person for whom you SINCERELY pray daily"
- d. Changes our attitude toward our circumstances and allows God to work through them for good.
- e. It changes our circumstances! 2 Chron. 7:14, Jonah 4.
- f. We grow spiritually as we pray! Grow in the grace and knowledge... Thy will be done, etc...
- g. We worship God for who He is and thank Him for His blessings!
- h. Keeps us in communion with God.
- i. Keeps us in the center of His will!

(1)

II. TWENTY GUIDES TO PRAYER: (Who and what to pray for)

1. For ourselves: 2 Cor. 12:8
2. For each other: James 5:16
3. Ministers, missionaries, etc... Eph. 6:19-20
4. New Converts: 1 Thes. 3:9-13
5. For the sick: James 5:14
6. A Brother in sin: 1 John 5:16
7. Our government and its leaders: 1 Tim. 2:2-3
8. Our children: 1 Chr. 29:19
9. Our home and home town, neighborhood: Jer. 29:7
10. Our enemies: Luke 6:28
11. Praise and honor to God's Name:
12. The coming of God's kingdom: #11-15 from the
13. Daily Bread, physical and spiritual: "Model Prayer" in Matthew 6.
14. Guidance: Psalm 27:11
15. Victory over temptation: 1 Cor. 10:13
16. Forgiveness of sin. 1 John 1:9
17. Spiritual Revival! Hab. 3:2
18. Laborers in the Lord's work: Matt. 9:38
19. Boldness to witness: Acts 4:29-30
20. Our unsaved family members and acquaintances: Matt. 6:10

Now, let's take a few minutes and do some work on this list: select out, first of all, those things that you feel that you MUST ABSOLUTELY pray for every day; list them here:

*Hanks Spiritual Notebook. **The primary purpose of prayer is NOT to give YOU what you want, but to turn you into the person that God wants you to be.

(2)

QUESTION:

Can our prayers be hindered:

(3)

ANSWER:

Yes, the Bible lists several things that could hinder our prayer:

1. Sin in my life: Psalm 66:18
2. Failure to ABIDE in Christ. (Trusting and obeying.)
John 15:7
3. An unforgiving spirit: Mark 11:23-26
4. Selfishness: James 4:3
5. Bad relations with the family: 1 Peter 3:7
6. Stopping up our ears to the needs of
OTHERS!
Proverbs 21:13
7. A FRUITLESS life: John 15:16