

Ch 11: The Privilege of Prayer

Steps to Christ

Part 1: p. 94-98

In order for our spiritual lives to grow, we need to open our hearts to God through prayer. When we pray, we are to speak to God as we would to a friend. Just like we cannot exist without air in our lungs, our spiritual lives need prayer to survive.

Discussion Questions

1. Prayer is the opening of our hearts to God as to a friend. How does God (our greatest friend) respond to our:
 - a. Hurts?
 - b. Needs?
 - c. Wants?
 - d. Random chatter throughout the day?
2. Which of these things do we miss out on if we don't pray?
 - a. Peace
 - b. Wisdom
 - c. Answers to prayer
 - d. Other?
3. What are some examples of having faith in our prayers:
 - a. Trusting that God loves us and has a plan for us even though we may not receive an immediate answer to our prayers
 - b. Claiming the promises of the Bible as true
 - c. Believing that God is happy to hear our prayers and doesn't need convincing
 - d. Other?

Activity

Tell someone about one of your favorite hobbies/pastimes. What do you like about it? After sharing, tell God about that same exact activity in a prayer.

Part 2: Rest of Chapter

Prayer does not bring God down to us but rather brings us up to God. When we pray, we are to believe that God wants to hear from us, receives our petitions with a smile, and answers our prayers because He loves us. Praying in the name of Jesus means that we believe His promises, rely on His grace, and want to live a life like His.

Discussion Questions

1. (True/False) We have to convince God to accept our prayers. Why?
2. What are some of the benefits of praying with other people?
 - a. Encouraging one another
 - b. Caring more for others
 - c. Getting excited about answered prayers
 - d. Other?

3. Read 2 Thessalonians 5:17. Praying without ceasing means that we keep a prayerful mindset throughout the day, remembering to include God in our daily lives. Which of these are ways to include God in your daily activities?
 - a. Listening to Christian music in the car (and maybe singing along)
 - b. Silently praying about a frustration at school/work
 - c. Reading the Bible on your break
 - d. Other?

Activity

Write down five things that you are grateful for in life. Next, say a prayer to God where you only thank God for those five things (include no requests in your prayer).

Chapter 11: Notable Quotes Activity

Locate and underline the quotes below in your copy of *Steps to Christ*. Read them at least 2x. Which of them do you think is the most:

a. Reassuring b. Amazing c. Exciting d. Thought-provoking?

Are there others that caught your eye?

Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. Not that it is necessary in order to make known to God what we are, but in order to enable us to receive Him. Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him. (pg. 93)

God is ready and willing to hear the sincere prayer of the humblest of His children, and yet there is much manifest reluctance on our part to make known our wants to God (pg. 94)

Why should the sons and daughters of God be reluctant to pray, when prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence? (pg. 94)

When we do not receive the very things we asked for, at the time we ask, we are still to believe that the Lord hears and that He will answer our prayers. We are so erring and short-sighted that we sometimes ask for things that would not be a blessing to us, and our heavenly Father in love answers our prayers by giving us that which will be for our highest good—that which we ourselves would desire if with vision divinely enlightened we could see all things as they really are. (pg. 96)

We may have no remarkable evidence at the time that the face of our Redeemer is bending over us in compassion and love, but this is even so. We may not feel His visible touch, but His hand is upon us in love and pitying tenderness (pg. 96)

It is impossible for the soul to flourish while prayer is neglected. Family or public prayer alone is not sufficient. (pg. 98)

Keep your wants, your joys, your sorrows, your cares, and your fears before God. You cannot burden Him; you cannot weary Him. He who numbers the hairs of your head is not indifferent to the wants of His children . . . Nothing is too great for Him to bear, for He holds up worlds, He rules over all the affairs of the universe. (pg. 100)

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