

CBC BIBLE STUDY

OCTOBER 4th 2023

PRAYER

THEME: "TWELVE ACTION STEPS TO PRAYER"

" Let me give you a single formula to make sense of life's problems. If you have a big God you have only little problems. But if you have a little God you have big problems. You should pray with confidence that God is a big God who can handle any situation."

(Rev. Dr. H. B. Charles Jr.)

" God has given us an answer for our anxiety. He has shown us how to win over our worries. Here it is: Pray your worries away! Don't worry. Pray. Turn your worries into prayers. Take everything off of your worry list and put it on your prayer list."

(Rev. Dr. H. B. Charles Jr.)

"Pray in order to spend time in personal, deliberate, and intimate communion with God - not just to get God to do something for you.

(Rev. Dr. H. B. Charles Jr.)

"TWELVE ACTION STEPS TO PRAYER" (DR. MYLES MUNROE)

7. SECURE THE PROMISES

Secure your promises. "For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

(2 Corinthians 1:20)

Hold onto God's promises as you take His Word before Him, applying it to the particular request you are making. God answers specific requests based on His promises.

" You and I have the faithful promises of almighty God to appeal to as we cry out to Him for help. "His Divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them we may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire" (2 Peter 1:3-4). Praise God! We can take God at His word. We can trust the Lord to do what He says. We can stand on the promises of Christ our King.

(Rev. Dr. H. B. Charles Jr.)

"Let God's promises remind you of God's love for you." "What is the price of five sparrows? A couple of pennies? Yet God does not forget a single one of them. And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to him than a whole flock of sparrows." (Luke 12: 6-7)

(Dr. Douglas J. Rumford)

"Let God's promises enlarge your vision of what God can do." "Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or are hungry or cold or in danger or threatened with death? (Even the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed like sheep.") No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us." (Romans 8:35-37)

(Dr. Douglas J. Rumford)

" Let God's promises overcome the power of discouragement and pessimism." "Now glory be to God! By his mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope." (Ephesians 3:20)

(Dr. Douglas J. Rumford)

" Let God's promises show you new ways to respond in faith. " For I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need." (Philippians 4:13) "Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand! All your enemies will fall beneath the blows of your weapons." (Leviticus 26:8)

(Dr. Douglas J. Rumford)

8. PLEAD THE CASE

Pleading your case does not mean begging and moaning and becoming emotional. God isn't impressed with any of that. When you yell and scream, all you get is tired. You don't get answers.

God wants you to come to prayer with an attitude that says, "You're the only one who can help me." Often, we pray for God's help, but we have a backup plan, just in case. God says, "You can pray all you want. I'm not going to answer until you have no other place to turn. Then you will know that I am your provider.

(Read Luke 18 The Message Bible)

As God's elect, you have direct access to God. This widow didn't have real access to the judge. Even though he was the judge over her jurisdiction, she had no reason to believe that he would listen to a nobody like her. Unless you could do something to benefit him, this judge didn't have time for you. But that is not the Christian's predicament. Prayer is not a scheduled appointment with a busy executive. It is quality time with a loving Father. You and I have complete access to God through faith in Jesus Christ. "We can come boldly and with confidence to the throne of grace to receive mercy when we need it."(Hebrews 4:16) (Rev. Dr. H. B. Charles Jr.)

As you read through this passage, the question of the parable seems to be whether the Lord will show up when His elect need Him. But now this parable is telling us the real question is not whether the Lord will show up. The real question is, Will you show up when he shows up? Are you like this persistent widow? Will you persist in prayer? Or will you lose heart? Will you give up and throw in the towel before the Lord brings justice to you speedily? When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth? (Rev. Dr. H. B. Charles Jr.)

"being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:6) God is going to do His part. But you must do your part. The fact is we are so weak, limited, and sinful that we need God to help us do our part as well. And He has made provision to help us. He has given us the wonderful privilege of prayer. Will your love grow cold? Or will you

endure to the end? You can endure to the end if you always pray and do not lose heart. (Rev. Dr. H. B. Charles Jr.)

9. BELIEVE

This is a difficult one for many of us: Believe. As in the parable of the unjust judge we just looked at, God says that after we plead, we are to believe. Asking, in itself, doesn't cause you to receive.

"So Jesus answered and said to them, Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them." (Mark 11:22-24)

Do you believe that what you prayed last night is going to happen? You might not be a believer all the way. Maybe you tend to doubt. When you start doubting, be honest, like the father of the demon-possessed boy, and say, "Lord I believe; help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24).

The issue is not God's ability to move in the situation. The issue is whether you really believe that God is "able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that you ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20). Are you willing to step out on faith? Jeremiah 33:3 says, "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know". Matthew 7:7 says, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." And 1 John 5:14 says, "this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us." God is able to answer your prayers. Pray reverently. Pray honestly. Pray expectantly. Then step back and watch God work! (Rev. Dr. H. B. Charles Jr.)

10. GIVE THANKS

After you have believed, offer thanksgiving again. Let's compare the two thanksgivings. There is a progression in prayer. The first thanksgiving expresses your appreciation for God's forgiveness and mercy. The second thanksgiving is the highest form of faith.

You thank God for what you don't yet see because you believe it is already done. That takes faith. If you truly believe that when you prayed, you received what you asked for, then you will start thanking Him. We are not to wait until we see the manifestation of our answers before expressing our gratitude. Don't block your prayers. Start giving thanks, and thank God until the answer manifests itself.

11. LIVE IN EXPECTATION

Continue in a spirit of thanksgiving by living in expectation of the answer to your prayer. Don't forget what you have prayed.

(Example) If you are praying for a job. I say, "How many applications have you filled out? "Well, I'm waiting for the Lord to lead me to something." Of course, we need to follow God's leading, but too often we're lazy and don't believe. We need to knock. If you believe that God will give you a job, then fill out every application you can, because God is going to bring one of them to you. If the employer doesn't know you're there, how can he call you for an interview?

Expect God to do something. If you don't expect, that means you don't believe.

**"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us."
(Ephesians 3:20)**

12. PRACTICE ACTIVE BELIEF

The last step is to practice active belief, which shows you are living in expectation. Practice active belief and continue to live before God in holiness and truth. No door or barrier can stop what God has for you.

You can always tell whether or not a man believes when he prays by looking at his attitude and actions after prayer.

(Example) Two farmers who went to God asking for rain so that their crops could prosper. After the prayer, while one went home to idly wait for the rain to fall in answer to his prayer, the other took his tools and began preparing the ground to plant. Now as simple as the story is,

it is clear pointer to what faith in prayers means. Faith without works is dead, the bible says. When you believe that God hears your request and answers them, you need to take action that align you with His answers to see them come to pass. (Christ Family Ministries)

PUTTING PRAYER INTO PRACTICE

Ask yourself:

- . Do I take the time to quiet myself before the Lord prior to prayer, or do I usually pray hurriedly, just to get through one more task in my day?**
- . Do I pray sporadically and haphazardly, or do I pray purposefully according to God's Word?**
- . Is there any sin in my life that I am trying to justify?**

Action Steps:

- . This week, gradually begin incorporating the twelve action steps into your prayers.**
- . If you have been justifying wrongdoing in your life, agree with God that it is sin and truly repent by turning from and asking God to cleanse you from all unrighteousness. (See 1 John 1:9)**
- . Take one thing you are praying for, start living in expectation of it, and practice active belief. Anticipate that what you pray for according to God's Word will happen, and make arrangements for the answer.**

