

A Study of Prayer

Lesson 4: Conditions of Acceptable Prayer- Part II

- I. Introduction
 - A. We continue our discussion from last week on conditions of acceptable prayer
 - B. Christ gave prayer great importance in his sermon on the mount (18 of 111 verses in Mt. 5-7 deal directly with prayer while many more deal indirectly)
- II. Our prayers must be in harmony with God's will
 - A. Ask according to His will—I Jn. 5:14, 15
 - B. Recognizing and doing God's will—Mt. 6:10; 7:21; 26:39, 42, 44; Jn. 4:34
- III. Our prayers must be in Faith
 - A. Believing you shall receive—Mt. 21:22; Jas. 1:5-8; Heb. 11:6;
 - B. Even with greatness of God, He still knows our needs – Mt. 10:29-31
 - C. Great High Priest who can advocate for us—Heb. 4:14-16
 - D. Belief that God answers our prayers—Eph. 3:20
- IV. Our prayers are to be prayed humbly
 - A. Prayer of Pharisee and Publican—Lk. 18:9-14
 - B. Note elements of both prayers
- V. We must abide in Christ as we pray
 - A. "Abide" means to remain/continue (Young); continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain (Strong)—Jn. 15:4-10
 - B. "Branch cannot bear fruit except it abide in the vine, no more can we except we abide in Christ"—vs.4
 - C. If we abide in Christ then our prayers are heard and answered—vs. 7
 - D. Abide in Christ by keeping His commandments – vs. 10
- VI. We must practice righteousness as we pray – "His ears attend (open) unto the prayers of the righteous" I Peter 3:12
 - A. Who is a righteous man?—I Jn. 3:7, 10; Ps. 119:172
- VII. We must be keeping His commandments as we pray—I Jn. 3:22-24
- VIII. We must pray fervently and earnestly—Jas. 5:16

Questions for thought:

1. How do we know that God gives attention to the very smallest details of our life?
2. Compare the attitude of the Pharisee versus the Publican?
3. What does praying humbly mean?
4. What does it mean to abide in Christ?
5. What can the righteous man know about his prayers?
6. What is an effectual, fervent prayer?