

QUESTIONS ABOUT PRAYER

SCRIPTURE - (Mat 6:5-15) "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. {6} "But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. {7} "And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. {8} "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. {9} "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. {10} Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. {11} Give us this day our daily bread. {12} And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. {13} And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. {14} "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. {15} "But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

INTRODUCTION

- A. The disciples asked Jesus, how to pray. Luke 11:1 Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."
- B. Many times new Christians don't understand how to pray, what to pray for, when to pray etc.
- C. We will be looking at some questions someone might ask about prayer and some things we should ask about prayer.

I. DO YOU ASK?

- A. James 4:2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.
- B. ASK - Matthew 7:7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

II. ARE YOUR PRAYERS TO THE FATHER?

- A. Matthew 6:9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.
- B. To ask of the Father you must be his child. - 1 John 3:1a Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!
- C. We are born into God's family. - John 3:3-5 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.
- D. Our new life (born again) comes in baptism. - Romans 6:3-4 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

III. ARE YOU PRAYING TO BE SEEN OF MEN? - Matthew 6:5-7 "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

IV. ARE YOU ASKING IN THE NAME OF JESUS?

- A. (John 14:13-14) "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. {14} "If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.
- B. He is our mediator (go-between). - 1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

V. IS YOUR PRAYER RATIONAL?

- A. If I prayed for my salary to be increased to a million dollars next year, that would not be rational
- B. James 4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

VI. HAVE YOU DONE ALL YOU CAN TO ANSWER YOUR PRAYER? -

- A. James 2:14-17) What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? {15} If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, {16} and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? {17} Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.
- B. (Mat 7:7-8) "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. {8} "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

VII. ARE YOU ASKING ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF GOD? - (1 John 5:14-15) Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. {15} And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

VIII. DO YOU BELIEVE GOD HAS THE POWER TO ANSWER YOUR PRAYER? - (James 1:5-8) If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. {6} But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. {7} For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; {8} he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

CONCLUSION

- A. Are you a child of God so you can pray to God as your heavenly Father?
- B. Have you kept your prayer connection regular with God?
- C. Has sin in your life interfered with your prayers being answered?