
DESPERATE PRAYERS

THE KIND OF PRAYER We're All Pretty Good At

- We all know how to pray in a crisis.

THE KIND OF PRAYER We Could All Use A Little Help With

Ephesians 6:10-18/ Colossians 4:2-4

- Few of us know how to pray as a spiritual warrior.

BEYOND CRISIS PRAYERS: Four Things To Work On . . .

- 1 Praying when we don't feel like it.
Colossians 4:2 & 4:12-13/ Exodus 17:8-16/ Hebrews 10:24-25/ Luke 11:1-10 & 18:1-8
 - ✓ Prayer is hard work.
 - ✓ Most of us need a plan and a partner.
 - ✓ It pays to be persistent.
- 2 Praying before the crisis hits.
Colossians 4:2/ Ephesians 6:18
 - ✓ We often wait too long to ask for prayer.
 - ✓ We often wait too long to start to pray.
- 3 Remaining thankful.
Colossians 4:2/ Exodus 14:29-31 & 16:1-3/ 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18
 - ✓ It's easy to be thankful in the short run.
 - ✓ God doesn't need it, we do!
- 4 Praying for God's agenda as well as our agenda.
Colossians 4:3-4/ Romans 8:18 & Psalm 55:22/ Matthew 6:9-10
 - ✓ God wants us to pray for the little stuff.
 - ✓ He also wants us to pray for the eternal stuff.

Food for Thought

For the week of March 30, 2008

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

To study prayer and not spend time putting what we've learned into practice seems a bit silly. So below you'll find a prayer guide based on the agenda items that Jesus gave us in the Lord's Prayer (see Matthew 6:9-12). You'll have the best success using this guide if you find a place where you won't be distracted for 10 to 20 minutes. Read the passage and then use the comments that follow to guide you as you pray. Feel free to write down your prayers, pray them out loud, walk and pray or even use a computer to jot down your thoughts. Do whatever works best for you.

Read Matthew 6:9 and pray – Thank God for who He is and for His character qualities – love, grace, forgiveness, power, etc. (You can use Psalm 33 & 34 as references here.)

Read Matthew 6:10 and pray – Ask God that His will be done in your life and in the lives of others. Ask Him to reveal any specific agendas, motives or actions you may need to change with your family, at work, with your friends, personal goals, etc.

Read Matthew 6:11 and pray – Ask God for any specific needs you have at this time (physical, relational, financial, etc.).

Read Matthew 6:12 and pray – Is there anything you need to confess and ask forgiveness for? Is there anyone you need to forgive? Thank God for His forgiveness in your life.

Read Matthew 6:13 and pray – Ask God to help you avoid temptation and to flee from it when it comes. Ask Him to protect you from the attacks of the Enemy.

This week we saw "Four Things to Work On" in our prayer life. Which one is most important for you to remember and why? What might be some specific steps you can take to help develop this in your life?

