

b) We Must Be Constant in the Attitude of Prayer

"Pray without ceasing," exhorts the apostle (1 Thes. 5:17)

"pray without ceasing" (1 Thes. 5:17)

"...men always ought to pray and not to faint" (Luke 18:1)

3. Expectancy in Prayer

"Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?...how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!" (Matthew 7:9-11)

a) The Fatherliness of God

"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!" (Matthew 7:11)

"...as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:12-13)

"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:26)

b) The Faithfulness of God

"...what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent?" (Matthew 7:9-10)

"...How much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask Him!" (Matthew 7:11)

Conclusion

May God enable us, through this teaching, to cultivate intensity in prayer, fidelity in prayer, and expectancy in prayer. Let us ask great things of a great God, for

"...everyone who asks receives...(Matthew 7:8)

Today's Sermon - Outline - October 31, 2021

the key to the Life of Righteousness in the World

THE KEY TO A LIFE OF
PRAYERFULNESS



Fair Havens Community Church

This little insert is designed to help you listen carefully to the message this morning. Fill in the blanks and interpret what you are hearing by writing in the space provided. In this way you will begin to develop a good systematic habit of recording what God is saying Sunday by Sunday. Through focusing on what God is saying, you create a record for future reflection and spiritual mapping. We encourage you to journal your spiritual walk with God.

The Keys to the Life of Righteousness in the World

The Key to a Life of Prayerfulness

Matthew 7:7-11

David Sparrow

October 31, 2021

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7)

Introduction

In the opening verses of this chapter Jesus has shown the danger of destructive judgment. In no uncertain terms He has exposed the peril of harbouring bitterness and hatred in our hearts. Such teaching is plainly designed to drive any sensitive or thoughtful person to God's throne of grace where he "...may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).

The passage before us is one of the most comforting treatments of the subject of prayer in all of Scripture. Three aspects of the life of prayerfulness call for our attention:

1. Intensity in Prayer

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7)

a) The Art of Requesting in Prayer

"Ask, and it will be given to you..." (Matthew 7:7)

"If you ask anything in My name, I will do it" (John 14:14)

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you" (John 15:7)

b) The Art of Researching in Prayer

"...seek, and You will find..." (Matthew 7:7)

"...the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts

knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God." (Romans 8:26-27)

c) The Art of Resisting in Prayer

"...knock, and it will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7)

i) Selfish Resistance

"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation..." (Matthew 26:41)

"You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures" (James 4:3)

ii) Sinful Resistance

"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear" (Psalm 66:18)

"...your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you" (Isaiah 59:2)

iii) Satanic Resistance

"...we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Ephes. 6:12)

"...the accuser of our brethren..." (Rev. 12:10)

"...always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints" (Ephes. 6:18)

2. Believability in Prayer

"...everyone who asks receives..." (Matthew 7:8)

"...men always ought to pray and not lose heart" (Luke 18:1)

"...when the Son of Man comes, will He...find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8)

a) We Must Be Constant in the Activity of Prayer

"...continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42)