

Basic Christianity Series: A Powerful Prayer Life

Lesson by Perry Parks

Study Notes

6/9/2011

1. The all-powerful God that Listens.

- a. Ps. 8:3-5
 - i. God designed & sustains a terrifyingly powerful & complex universe with his Word
 - ii. We are small, delicate and easily harmed...yet God wants to interact with us
 - iii. **A mighty and gentle God wants to connect with us in prayer**

2. The Reward

- a. Ecclesiastes 3:11; Genesis 15:1
 - i. God created us with a hole in our hearts...and eternity only he can fill...he is the reward we seek
 - ii. We try to fill this hole with people and purposes that are not able to fill it...and disappoint ourselves
- b. Philippians 4:6
 - i. A strong prayer life eliminates anxiety, replacing it with a sense of peace that others can't understand
 - ii. Others run around anxious, chasing and protecting the things that fill them up.
 - iii. What will fills you up can never be moved or shaken, so you can be still and peaceful.
- c. **The Reward: A Powerful Prayer Life can completely fill you up....and totally anchor you down.**

3. The Requirements

These are not arbitrary rules, but the natural path to the reward of a powerful prayer life

Apple Trees require: Soil, Water & Sunlight. Any one of these missing = no apples

Requires: Belief, Submission & Humility. Any of them missing means no fill up; no anchor down.

- a. Belief
 - i. Hebrews 11:1 - He says it...you believe it. You must be sure.
 - ii. Hebrews 11:6 – The reward is impossible without pleasing him, and you must believe to please.
 - iii. James 1:6; Matt 14:31 – Doubt causes us to be tossed by the storm. We lose our anchor in doubt
 - iv. We doubt because we don't understand HOW God may fulfill his promises.
 - v. Hebrews 11:17-19 – Abraham did not know how God would fulfill his promise, but believed he would
 - vi. **Do not rely on the understanding of how things work to believe, but on confidence in God.**
- b. Submission
 - i. James 2:19 – Belief without submission is rebellion...like that of the demons
 - ii. Hebrews 5:7-9 – God shows no favoritism. Required total submission even from His Son. He would not hear him without it.
 - iii. Psalm 66:18; Romans 8:7 – Treasuring sin keeps our hearts hostile to Him; he won't listen to that.
 - iv. **We cannot hold onto our sin and expect the fruit of a Powerful Prayer Life. We must submit.**
- c. Humility
 - i. Luke 18: 9-14 – Pharisee believed God & submitted to his Law...but lacked Humility
 - ii. It takes courage and sacrifice to believe & submit, but **it takes humility to be merciful.**
 - iii. Praying without humility is praying in vain.
 - iv. Matthew 9:10-13 – Jesus came to save everyone... lack of humility blinded them to their need and savior.
 - v. **We cannot be born in or stay in the Kingdom without humility.**

4. The Plan to Get What's Missing

- Matt 25:1-13 – They were missing what was required, tried to buy/borrow, too late...excluded from God's presence.
- Requirements are not free. You must buy with **TIME, EFFORT & FOCUS**, to obtain what you lack.
- Time, effort & Focus are always in use...so you must re-allocate and give something up.
- Once you have chosen what to reallocate...where that focus goes Depends on your weakness
 - a. Belief
 - i. Reallocate to Bible daily Bible Study. You must know what God says in order to believe it
 - ii. **KEY: DON'T JUST READ...ALLOCATE TIME TO MEDITIATE** on what you've read...this is where the belief comes from.
 - iii. Think of how you might on reasoning like Abraham in Heb11:17-19.

Basic Christianity Series: A Powerful Prayer Life

Lesson by Perry Parks

Study Notes

6/9/2011

iv. Pray on God might fulfill a promise you struggle to believe by focusing on HIS capabilities, not yours.

b. Submission

- i. Meditate to have an eternal perspective (2 Corinthians 4:17)
- ii. Count the cost, but include God's rewards and punishments in the equation (Luke 12:4-5)
- iii. Fear of God can help overcome fear of the world.

c. Humility

- i. 1 Corinthians 15:9-10 – Paul meditated on weaknesses to remember God's grace and stay humble.
- ii. Allow yourself to be sobered by the punishment you SHOULD receive...even for things done today.
- iii. Hold to the parable of Pharisee & Tax collector (Luke 18:9-14)...and remember what pleased God.

5. The Summary

- a. The Fruit of a powerful pray life fills the hole in us (Eccl 3:11/ Gen15:1)
- b. Anchors us in all situations (Phil 4:6-8)
- c. But it doesn't come by wishing...not Free
- d. It Requires.... Belief, Submission & Humility
 - i. Belief like we see in Heb 11:19 from Abraham
 - ii. Submission we see in (Heb 5:7) from Jesus
 - iii. Humility we see in (Luke 18:9-14) from the Tax collector
- e. We invest Time, Focus & Effort to obtain what we lack.
- f. As we Meditate and imitate these examples and invest, our fulfillment and serenity will grow!
- g. Jeremiah will speak be speaking of us when he says in Jeremiah 17:7-8

But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him.

⁸ He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream.

It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."