

Confirmation Lesson

#23

Prayer

Pastor's Lessons

There are three main things that people need to live. They are FOOD, WATER, and SHELTER. However there is something else that people live for, long for, and is a MAJOR need in the lives of people. That need is RELATIONSHIPS. People have a need to talk, learn and grow with other humans in relationships. God created us to be in relationships. From the moment we are born one of the most sacred relationships is with our mom and dad. They hold us, feed us, comfort us, and keep us safe. Even as we get to be four or five years old, the comfort of our parents voice when we fall, provides a feeling of loving relationship. As we get older, we have special "friends" that give us joy as we are in relationship with them. They make us laugh; they become our trusted friend, they like doing the same things as us, and more. Even as adults, God may or may not bless us with people that we will call our husband or wife. When relationships are going good, we are usually on top of the world. When relationships go bad, it can really make us feel terrible. Relationships are a major part of our everyday life.

God didn't just bless us with relationships here on this world, God created us to have a relationship with Him. God asks us to worship, take the Sacraments, dwell on His word, love and serve others, and to PRAY to Him!

1.) What is prayer?

- *Prayer is a heart-to-heart talk with God. Prayer is more wonderful than telephone, cell phone, email, or satellite communications.
- *Prayer is a way of seeking God's will in our lives.
- *Prayer is to the SOUL what breath is to the body.
- *Martin Luther says "Prayer is a very precious medicine, one that helps and never fails."

2.) Why Should We Pray?

- *God Commands it.
- *God Promises to hear us.
- *Because of our own needs and the needs of others.
- * Out of gratitude for blessings already received.

3.) Who should we pray to?

*Not to Idols, saints, or self.

-The Bible has several instances where people prayed to “false idols or saints” and in the end their prayer was not heard or it angered God. Can you think of any examples?

+God’s people worshipping to the Golden Calf (while Moses was speaking to God)

+The rich man tormented in hell called upon Abraham. This was a “prayer” of a lost soul, and it produced nothing.

+Revelation 19:10 “At this I fell on my feet to worship him (an Angel). But he said to me, “Do not do it, I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God!”

*We SHOULD pray to the Triune God! We should pray in the NAME OF JESUS!

4.) What should we pray for or who should we pray for?

*For spiritual and bodily blessing. (If it be Your will should be added for bodily blessings)

*Pray for God’s Will

*Pray for world issues, church issues, other people, thanks for blessings, for all other (including our enemies).

*Our request is inappropriate when we petition for something God has not promised to give or when we EXPECT our prayer to be fulfilled by reason of our own merit or simply because we pray. Prayer should not be “selfish” thus we add “If it be Your will.”

5.) When and where should we pray?

*The freedom of the Gospel does not bind us to any place or hour of prayer, unlike the Muslim belief that they should pray “five times a day.”

*We should pray at all times, but naturally some times are better than others including morning, evening, before and after meals. The Bible commands us to “Pray without ceasing.” There is no wrong time to pray to God.

*We should pray at all places, but naturally some places are better than others, as in church, in the company of family, alone, or various other places. There is no wrong place to pray to God.

6.) What should be our Posture in Praying?

*Traditional Way—Fold hand to remind us of the cross of Christ, Close eyes (keep from distractions), bow your head, Kneel, Always think of what your are saying.

*Non-Traditional---but still ACCEPTABLE----You can pray in the car while driving asking for God's presence and to give you safety, you can pray with a beggar on the street standing up, you can lay your hand on someone and ask for God's blessings in their life, you can pray before a test, and many other ways.

7.) Which Prayers Should I use?

*Traditional Prayers of the church called "collects" and "prayers of the day."

*The Lord's Prayer

*Free Prayers or prayers from the heart. Just talk to God as your Savior, Friend, and Confidant.

Pray Luther's Evening Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray You would keep me this day also from sin and ever evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.