

## HOW TO DEVELOP A STRONG PRAYER LIFE.

Sunday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011

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Part 2

### I. Why does God want us to pray?

- He wants us to connect with His heart in deep partnership.
- Therefore, asking God for everything is a foundational principle of the kingdom.
- We must specifically ask, and not just think about our need with frustration and desperation.

*(Phil. 4:6) 6In everything by prayer...let your requests be made known to God...*

*(Jas. 4:2) 2Yet you do not have because you do not ask.*

J. There are blessings that God has chosen to give, but He withholds them until we ask Him.

- In this way, He protects His relationship with us by not answering until we connect with Him by asking.

*(Isa. 30:18-19) 18The Lord will wait, that He may be gracious to you...19He will be very gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you.*

## II. PRACTICAL ISSUES IN DEVELOPING A CONSISTENT PRAYER LIFE

A. Two ways to strengthen our prayer life are to:

- set a schedule for regular prayer times,
- make a prayer list, and have a right view of God.
- A schedule establishes "when" we will pray.
- A prayer list gives us focus on "what" to pray.
- A right view of God causes us to "want" to pray.

b. Most people will pray ten times more with the simplicity of

developing a schedule and prayer lists.

- Many who love God never develop a consistent prayer life because they lack these practices.
- Many People refuse to do these two things because they consider them to be legalistic, though they confess with pain their inability to sustain their prayer life.

D. Once our prayer time has been scheduled:

- We must consider some of that time as "sacred time," treating it as a real appointment with the King.
- We need to commit to the Lord and to treat certain scheduled prayer times as sacred appointments that you would not miss except in an emergency.

E. Using a prayer list is an essential tool that helps me focus as I pray.

- We can take the liberty to deviate from our prayer list or omit parts of it as the "winds of inspiration" touch you.

Notes: