

"The Sin of Prayerlessness"

4-6-97 PM

Text: I Samuel 12:19-25

Intro:

*Samuel, the prophet in speaking to the children of Israel, in verse 23, tells them that it would be a sin against God if he cease to pray for them.

*This evening I want to speak about the "sin of prayerlessness"

*The Word of God, commands the Christian to pray.

*Luke 18:1 - "...that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;"

*I Thess. 5:17, Paul the Apostle writes to, "Pray without ceasing".

*One of the least practiced duties of the Christian is prayer.

*Such prayerlessness is a threefold sin.

I. IT IS A SIN AGAINST GOD - 1 Samuel 12:22-23.

A. It robs God of the pleasure of communion
See 1 John 1:7-9.

-Prayer is how we have fellowship with God.

-Prayer is how we communicate with God & God communicates with us.

-Prayer is how we have continuous fellowship with God, ~~continue~~ *continue* to walk in the light.

-Prayer is how we restore fellowship or communion with God after it is broken by sin, by confession of sin in prayer. (vs. 8-9).

B. It robs God of the intimacy of the heart cry.

Romans 8:15, tells us as Christians that we have

"received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba Father."

-We are to cry out to God in a time of need.

-We are to cry out to God in a time of trouble and crisis.

-See Psalm 34:17-18.

-Hebrews 4:16, tells us ~~where~~ *where we* are to go to obtain mercy and find grace to help in the time of need. - Ready

C. It robs God of the Glory of revealing His power.

-See Jeremiah 33:3

-We are to turn to God for solutions to our problems.

-We are to turn to God to solve and to do the impossible, so He will be glorified.

-The Bible tells us, Mark 10:27, "With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible."

-John 11, Lazarus raised from the dead, so glory of God's power could be revealed.

-See Jesus prayer vs. 41-42

II. IT IS A SIN AGAINST OTHERS.

A. Prayer is used to bring sinners to Christ.

- Romans 10:1
- Paul praying for Jews to be saved.
- Sin not to pray for those who are lost.
- Family, acquaintances, neighbors, leaders, etc.

B. Prayer is used to add soul winners to the spiritual harvest.

- Matthew 9:37-38. *read*
- Applies to foreign missions fields as well as at home.

C. Prayer is used to edify, build other Christians.

- Read* Philippians 1:9-11 - Paul praying that the believers at Philippi would "abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment:"
- To be built up in the spiritual things.
- Why?, For discernment - see vs. 10

-Colossians 1:9-12 - Paul praying for the believers at Colosse.

- vs. 9, "filled with the knowledge ^{of} his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding"
- vs. 10, "walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing"
- vs. 11, "Strengthened with all might"

D. Prayer is used to spread the gospel.

- Ephesians 6:18-20, - Paul asking for prayers for witnessing opportunities and boldness in witnessing.
- vs. 19, "utterance may be given unto me"
- vs. 19, "open my mouth boldly"
- vs. 20, "I may speak boldly"

-Colossians 4:2-3, Again Paul asking for prayers for witnessing opportunities.

- vs. 3, "God would open unto us a door of utterance"

-2 Thessalonians 3:1-2 - Paul asking for prayers that "the word of the Lord may have free course"

III. IT IS A SIN AGAINST OURSELVES

A. It shuts out the consciousness of God's presence.

- Psalm 16:11. - Read.
- By not praying we are denying the presence of God.
- Psalm 16:11, we are promised that God will show us the path of life, the way to go, how live our lives.
- If we don't pray, then he can't guide & direct.
- Psalm 16:11, tells us in the presence of God we are to have joy and pleasures.
- But can't have joy and pleasures if don't pray.
- Because we don't pray we deny God's presence.

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if

B. It shuts out God's peace.

-Philippians 4:6-7

-By not praying we allow worry to over takes us,
-As a result, we lose the peace of God which passeth
all understanding that is promised if only we will
pray.

C. It shuts out God's power.

-Jeremiah 33:3 - read.

-By not praying we lose access^{to} the power of God that is
available to each believer.

-Jesus said - John 14:13-14

-John the Apostle wrote - I John 5:14-15.

Conclusion:

-Prayer that makes contact with God meets so many needs, enriches
the life of the supplicant and brings God's power into contact
with the situation.

• We have seen:

-To not pray^{to} is a sin against ourselves, others, and God.