

INTRODUCTION

- * We are in the fifth week of a mini-series on the importance of Prayer in the life of a believer, and the assembly.
- * Prayer is communication with God - in worship - that is based upon our relationship with Him.
- * Such an incredible privilege is revealed in the priority that we place upon prayer both as a private act of personal worship and as a public act of collective worship.
- * Over the past two weeks, we considered "The Pattern of Prayer" using the acronym P.R.A.Y. as a teaching tool. (P.R.A.Y. stands for Praise - Repent - Ask - Yield) Last week we examined the Biblical classifications of prayer requests (intercession and supplication) and two conditions that are attached to our asking ... asking in faith and obedience.
- * The final facet of praying (Yielding) is probably the most important and is fittingly juxtaposed to our next major topic of consideration: The Persistence of Prayer.
- * Today, we will seek to examine each and find a balance.

INSTRUCTION**I. THE PATTERN OF PRAYER**

A. Praise ... B. Repent ... C. Ask

D. Yield (cf. 1 John 5:14-15; John 14:13-14; 15:7; 15:16; 16:23-24; Psalm 37:3-7) ... Praying in A _____

II. THE PERSISTENCE OF PRAYER

A. It is E _____ in P _____ (cf. Psalm 27:4; Psalm 63:1-6; Psalm 1:1-2; Jeremiah 29:11-13)

B. It is E _____ in P _____

1. EXHORTATIONS TO PERSEVERANCE (1 Thess 5:17; Col 4:2; Rom 12:12; Eph 6:10-20; Luke 18:1-8; Luke 11:2-13)

2. EXAMPLES OF PERSEVERANCE

a. The Example of the Early Church (cf. Acts 1:14; 2:42,46; 6:4)

b. The Example of Paul

i. FOR THE THESSALONIANS (1 Thessalonians 1:2-4; 2:13; 3:9-13)

ii. FOR THE ROMANS (cf. Romans 1:8-12)

iii. FOR THE EPHESIANS (cf. Ephesians 1:15-21; 3:14-21)

iv. FOR THE COLOSSIANS (cf. Colossians 1:3-12)

c. The Example of Epaphras (cf. Colossians 4:12)

INTROSPECTION

- * WHAT DOES YOUR PRAYER LIFE REVEAL ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?
- * HOW CONSISTENT ARE YOU IN SPENDING TIME WITH YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER?

WHAT DOES THAT INDICATE ABOUT YOUR PASSION FOR HIM AND HIS KINGDOM?
- * HOW CONSISTENT ARE YOU IN PRAYING FOR OTHERS IN THE CHURCH?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ... AND THEREFORE ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * Read 1 Thessalonians 1:2-4; 2:13; 3:9-13. What is the primary character of the prayers of Paul, Silas and Timothy for the church of Thessalonika? How does that affect our prayer for others? How then, should that affect our relationship with others?
- * Read Ephesians 1:15-21; 3:14-21. How was the passion of Paul expressed in his praying for the church of Ephesus? How does our "perspective" in life influence the list of requests that we have for others?