

MINISTRY

Serving Others with Our Lives

The Necessity of Prayer

OBJECTIVE: Help students understand that God can use their prayers to change the lives of others

INTRODUCTION: How many of you would like to use your life to make a difference in somebody else's life?

How many of you would like to see those around you have a heart to live for God?

How many of you can change somebody else's heart? (None of us can, only God can. At best, we can influence someone else.)

So before we begin ministering to others, we need to pray!!

I. Personal Assessment

A. Are you a "person who prays":

- 1) When in trouble?
- 2) Only during your quiet time and meals?
- 3) When you go to bed?

B. Are you a "praying person":

- 1) Praising God throughout the day?
- 2) Knowing that without God, you can't do anything of lasting value?
- 3) Confident in God's ability to change things?

II. Examining three aspects of Jeremiah 33:3

A. "Call to Me": Why don't we call on God in prayer for others?

- 1) Anticipation: We have no sense of how awesome God is. How do you view God? Do you believe He can do more than you could ever ask or imagine? (Eph. 3:20)

The prayer of Joshua: (Joshua 10:12-13). He prayed that God would keep the sun from going down so He could finish the battle he was fighting.

Dawson Trotman, "Why pray for peanuts, when God wants to give us continents."

Jenny & Sally met weekly to pray that their entire high school would hear the gospel by the end of the year. They weren't sure how God was going to answer, but they prayed all year. Right before the end of the year, they had a professional football player for an assembly. During the assembly, he shared his testimony.

2) Desperation: We are desperate enough to realize that, unless God does it, it won't happen. I think often times for this to happen, we need to put ourselves in uncomfortable situations and trust God to give us the strength to do it: i.e. missions trip.

3) Ambition: We aren't committed to Jesus Christ and His cause. We're just playing games. We don't want to get too serious---that would make us uncomfortable.

4) Conviction: We say, "I know God can do it, but will He?"

B. The Promise: "I Will Answer You"

(What do we have to do for God to fulfill His promises to us? John 15:1-8)

1) The connection: (vs 1) Just like a branch that is connected to the vine, we must be connected to Christ through submitting our wills to His leadership. This connection happens when we become a believer.

2) The condition: (vs 7)

(a) If you abide in Me, and if My Word abides in you. The "abiding" happens as we spend time with God daily. Then we can ask anything, and it will be given to us. Why? Because what God wants will be what we want. (1 John 5:14-15)

(b) The idea of spending time in God's Word is not only meditating on it, but also obeying it. We must never think that we just pray and God does it all. We must also be faithful to obeying all God's commands for this is His will.

3) The conclusion (vs 8)

The results of abiding in Christ and meeting God's condition is that we will bear much fruit. We will pray and begin to see God answer our prayers.

During Scott's junior year in high school, he started praying with two other

friends at school. They met in a classroom and on the bleachers before school. They had been praying for their friends to accept Christ. That spring, Tom attended a Fellowship of Christian Athletes meeting and accepted Christ. He had been struggling with his parents' divorce and sister's problems, and finally, out of despair, cried out to God. That's when he attended Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Robert, Scott's friend, began asking Scott about spiritual things. He asked Scott, "Do you ever pray for me?" Scott told him he did every day. Robert responded with misty eyes, "Keep it up. I need it."

- C. The Potential: "I will tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."
- 1) The potential in praying for others is unlimited. However, "we cannot expect great answers to prayer unless we offer great prayer for God to answer."
 - 2) Prayer has no limits as to where it can go. As far as God can go, either geographically, culturally, physically, or spiritually, prayer can go there.
 - 3) Prayer moves God, who can change people's hearts.

III. Making It Personal: Practical ways to begin to pray

- A. Prayer partners: Find two other students who would be willing to meet with you weekly to pray
- B. Commit to praying for 30 minutes
- C. Begin praying for your family, church, and unsaved friends
- D. Write down specific requests and answers to prayer