

Prayer

- ⇒ We are commanded to be **constant in prayer** (Rom. 12:12) and to **pray without ceasing** (I. Thess. 5:17), which means we should have a running conversation with our Father throughout the day.
- ⇒ Jesus said that our Father knows what we need before we ask Him for anything, but He still wants us to ask Him (Matt. 6:8). We are told to **seek** God. The LORD, through Jeremiah, said, “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will **seek** me and find me. When you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you” (Jer. 29:11-14).
- ⇒ We shouldn't feel we are burdening our Father too much with our daily requests. As Jesus said, “**Ask**, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find, **knock**, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened” (Matt. 7:7-8).
- ⇒ Even though we are under the grace of Christ, we still need to pray for forgiveness and to turn around from our sins. God says, “If my people who are called by my name **humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways**, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin” Chron. 7:14).
- ⇒ Jesus said we should **pray for our enemies**, including those who have abused us (Luke 6:27-28). This doesn't mean we should stay in an abusive relationship or one that takes us away from God, but it means we should pray for those who have abused us.
- ⇒ James, who was the half-brother of Jesus, has some very good advice about prayer (James 5:13-18). James says to **pray when we're suffering**. We also told to **praise God when we're cheerful**. Songs of praise can become prayers of thanksgiving. We're told to **pray for the sick**, whether they're physically or spiritually sick. We're told to **confess our sins to one another and to pray for one another**. We must be able to trust each other that when we reveal our sins, they won't be repeated.
- ⇒ In II. Corinthians, it says that the **prayers of many** can help us. It says, “You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many” (II. Cor. 1:11).

Prayer is powerful! Let's pray together and for one another!
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