

Some thoughts on prayer

Timothy Club

3/10/09

1. Prayer is borne out of faith. Hebrews 11:6; James 5:15.
 - a. Faith gives birth to prayer.
 - b. Prayerlessness is the fruit of unbelief.
 - c. The greatest work of faith is prayer. "Faith without works is dead."
 - d. Faith believes God. If I believe God, I will believe that He answers prayer, and thus I will gladly and habitually pray.
2. Prayer is our spiritual life support. Psalm 3:1-5.
 - a. Prayer is like our umbilical cord – the living connection between us and our Life-giver.
 - b. "From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I." (Psalm 62:2)
 - c. Our right response to crises is impulsive and instinctive prayer.
3. Prayer is not the activity of a moment, but the habit of a lifetime. 2 Timothy 1:3; 1 Thessalonians 5:17.
 - a. "Many Christians have a prayer time; few Christians have a prayer life."
 - b. We ought to pray always about everything. Philippians 4:6, 7.
 - c. There is nothing about which we cannot and must not pray!
 - d. I must find every spare moment I can to lift up my voice to God in praise, prayer, and petition.
4. Prayer is our greatest spiritual weapon. Ephesians 6:18.
 - a. "The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayer-less studies, prayer-less work, prayer-less religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray." — Samuel Chadwick
 - b. Prayer brings down the power of God upon the life of the believer, and against this Satan has no answer.
5. Prayer is meant to be a delight, not a duty. Psalm 42:1, 2.
 - a. If I love God, I will love to spend time with Him in prayer.
 - b. A weak and cool prayer habit is the sign of a cold and hard heart towards God. It is anathema to one's spiritual life and vigour!
 - c. The result of personal revival is to delight in prayer and worship.
 - d. Remember: God hates empty religious rituals!