

WHY PRAY IF GOD KNOWS ALL? (Luke 18:1-8)

- I. Prayer is a God-ordained way to fight Satan (Ephesians 6:12-13, 18).**
 - A. As Peter plainly put, Satan is looking to devour us (1 Peter 5:8).
 - B. You and I have an enemy and we need to be able to fight him.
 - C. James says that when we resist him, he runs (James 4:7).
 - D. One of the great ways to be able to fight Satan is to turn to God in prayer.
 - 1. When we are focused on God in prayer, we won't be able to give in to temptation.
 - 2. When our thoughts are focused on being closer to God Satan does not have a way into our minds.
 - E. We fight Satan personally in prayer, but we also fight him in order to help other Christians.
 - 1. Notice the end of Ephesians 6:18.
 - 2. We are looking out for other saints when we pray for them and are helping them in their battles with Satan.
 - F. When you and I pray for the way of escape that God has promised us, we are showing we are focused on fighting Satan (1 Corinthians 10:13).
- II. Prayer allows us to have our needs fulfilled by God (Luke 11:1-4).**
 - A. You and I have physical needs as well as spiritual needs.
 - B. Notice in the prayer that Jesus taught the disciples:
 - 1. Jesus said to pray for physical needs (vs. 3).
 - 2. He also said to pray for spiritual needs (vs. 4).
 - C. God is the giver of every good and perfect gift (James 1:17).
 - 1. All the good things in our lives are a result of the blessing hand of God being active in our lives.
 - 2. This includes the physical as well as the spiritual.
 - D. The Psalmist said long ago...(Psalm 37:25).
 - 1. God takes care of those who are His.
 - 2. He wants to provide us with the things we need and He will when we turn to Him in prayer.
- III. Prayer allows us to find mercy and grace in hard times (Hebrews 4:16).**
 - A. This verse should cause us to love God even more.
 - 1. In it we are told that we get access through prayer to the very throne room of God.
 - 2. We do go to God we can do so with confidence.
 - 3. It is through prayer that we obtain grace and mercy.
 - B. I believe there are at least three ways this is intended for us.
 - 1. There are difficult situations we face physically in life.
 - 2. We also face temptation to sin.
 - 3. We also face times when we need forgiveness for sin.
 - 4. All three of these are covered in this verse.
 - C. The context is dealing with times when our faith is tested.
 - 1. This can happen with physical problems as well as spiritual problems.

2. When we face those times, God promises us the grace and mercy we need to get through them if we come confidently in prayer.
- D. The meekest person should have the greatest confidence when praying to God.
1. 1 John 5:14-15.
 2. We must have confidence if we are to obtain the answer we want to our prayers (James 1:6).
- E. When we are tempted we need grace and mercy to get us through the period of temptation.
- F. When we sin, we need grace and mercy to obtain forgiveness.
- G. Praying to God allows us to look for that way of escape or to be forgiven when we failed to use the way of escape.

IV. Prayer allows God to furnish us with peace (Philippians 4:6-7).

- A. How many times do we worry about things over which we have no control?
1. Someone has said 90% of the things that bring worry in our lives never come to pass.
 2. Of those things that do come to pass, some of them are completely out of our control.
- B. Paul says we are not to be anxious or worried about things.
- C. Rather, we are to pray to God and when we do, we shall be given the peace of God that is beyond our understanding.
1. God is the God of peace (vs. 9).
 2. He sent His Son so that we could have peace with Him (Colossians 1:20).
- D. When we pray in this fashion, instead of worrying, God will “keep us.”
1. This is a military term.
 2. It carries the idea of God’s peace standing guard over us.
- E. He is not talking about peace from or with enemies.
1. We will have peace with God.
 2. We will know we are in a right relationship with God.
- F. This knowledge is allowed by prayer.

V. Prayer allows us to show our faith.

- A. When you and I pray to God and ask Him for our needs to be met, we are showing God we have faith in Him.
- B. We are letting Him know we are dependent upon Him for everything.
1. Paul told the Athenians...(Acts 17:28).
 2. The Lord upholds all things by the word of His power (Hebrews 1:3).
- C. We also show our faith through thankfulness.
1. When we thank God for our needs being met, we are showing Him our faith.
 2. When we go to God with a request it is to be done with thanks (Philippians 4:6).
 3. When we are thankful, it is a sign of faithfulness.
- D. We are showing that we understand who it is that meets our needs and

- gives us the blessings we seek.
- E. Prayer is a sign of faithfulness to God and faith in God.

The idea for this outline came from Mark Posey