

EVANGELISM STARTS ON OUR KNEES IN PRAYER

INTRO

Prayer is vital to the success of any Christian endeavor and that includes evangelism and our assignment to be a witness and ambassador. Prayer does not save people – unless it is their own prayer and that shows you how powerful it is. God chose prayer as the channel to bring salvation. Prayer does not save people – it takes the preaching of the Gospel – but prayer opens the doors to an honest sharing of the Gospel. God works in answer to prayer and prayer moves the hand that moves the world.

I. Praying for the Lost Must Be Done in Faith.

- A. Faith begins where the will of God is known.
 - 1. It is God's will for all men to be saved 1 Timothy 2:1-4.
 - 2. God is not willing that any should perish 2 Peter 3:9.
 - a. We need to pray and work to make it hard for anybody in our city to go to hell.
 - b. We start out with the answer; the will of God – that assures us God hears us.
 - c. We offer it up to Him like a mirror, putting Him in remembrance of His Word.
- B. First of all, talk to God about men – then talk to men about God.

II. Prayer Prepares Us/Sensitizes Us to Divine Appointments.

- A. Divine appointments.
 - 1. Like Philip in Acts 8:26-40, God has divine appointments for us.
 - 2. “Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season...,” 2 Timothy 4:2.
 - 3. “...coming in that instant...,” Luke 2:38. Anna, who served God with fastings and prayers both night and day v.37, was instant or in the right place at the right time because prayer keeps you sensitive to God's timing.
 - 4. “Continue in prayer and watch...,” Colossians 4:2.
 - 5. Jesus prayed early in the morning Mark 1:35 and received a divine appointment in v. 38, “...let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth.”
 - 6. “...continuing instant in prayer,” Romans 12:12. It puts you on standby; present and near to the opportunity.
 - 7. Prayer is for feeling, seeing, and hearing. A missionary once said, “When we pray – God gives us”:
 - a. “Jesus pacemakers” – so our hearts will be moved by the things that move the heart of God.
 - b. “Jesus contact lenses” – so we can see people and situations the way He sees them.
 - c. “Jesus hearing aides” – so our ears will be able to clearly hear His voice and the voice of crying, sighing, dying humanity.”
- B. We need to offer ourselves up to the Holy Spirit for intercession about things we know not to pray for as we ought but He does Romans 8:26.

III. Praying for Lost People.

- A. Pray for your inheritance of lost souls Psalm 2:8.
 - 1. We need to ask for souls to be saved even though we know it is God's will – He still said to ask.
 - 2. Every believer has an inheritance of lost souls.
 - 3. Many things that are God's will never happen until we pray.
 - 4. Ask and it shall be given us Matthew 7:7.
- B. Pray to bind the strong man Isaiah 14:12,16,17; Matthew 12:29.
 - 1. There are spiritual forces that will not let people go.
 - 2. We deal with the spiritual forces operating in their lives.

3. No man spoils a strong man's house until he first binds him.
 4. We have keys to bind/loose Matthew 16:18,19.
 5. We bind the devil and demon forces.
 6. We need to exercise our authority in the realm where we have dominion, which is the spirit realm. Our authority can be unleashed against the adversary in prayer Exodus 17:8-13.
- C. We pray for light to open their eyes from the blindness, darkness, and deception Isaiah 42:16; Ephesians 1:17,18.
1. The reason men rebel against God is their mind has been blinded 2 Corinthians 4:4, understanding darkened Ephesians 4:18, and heart deceived Titus 3:3.
 2. God gives us His promise Isaiah 42:16 to turn on the light.
- D. We pray to turn them to receive Acts 26:18; Philippians 1:19.
1. A person is saved or not because of receiving Jesus or not John 1:12. This is the bottom line of – Are they saved? Have they received Jesus?
 2. People come to the Lord like turning a light bulb into a light socket; it is one turn at a time until the light comes on.
 3. We have a supply of the spirit and power of God through prayer to turn them so they can receive.
- E. We need to pray for open doors to speak Colossians 4:3,4; Ephesians 6:19,20.
1. Prayer sets up appointments – doors of opportunity.
 2. Doors in scripture represent an entering into any spiritual experience.
 3. Lydia – whose heart the Lord opened.
- F. Pray for laborers to be sent into the harvest Matthew 9:38.
1. God knows the perfect person to send to everybody.
 2. God knows how to position laborers in the lives of people.
 3. God knows where the people are because it's His harvest.
- G. Prayer helps our ministry efforts to be accepted Romans 15:30,31.
1. We pray so they will not be able to resist the wisdom and spirit by which we speak Acts 6:10.
 2. Acceptance means an approving reception; to receive favorably; to believe in, assent to, or agree to.
 3. Paul said Christ coming into the world to save sinners is worthy of all acceptance 1 Timothy 1:15.