

How to Pray

Lesson 23 – Ephesians 6:18-24

I. Lesson to learn from Matthew 17 ... *faith that moves mountains*

A. Faith that moves mountains context

(Matt 17:14-21)

B. Source of our faith: We can trust that God can and will do something.

1. Know His promises ...

2. Trust His faithfulness

a. to His promises ... *(Heb 10:23)*

b. to provide what we need ... *(Mat 6:30-33)*

3. Rely on His power ... *to do what He has promised ... (Rom 4:20-22)*

- Rely on God to move when we can't.
- Fasting ...

C. Object of our faith: Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

(Mat 6:19-21, 24)

1. Believe his way & will is best

(James 4:1-10)

2. Ask for His will *(John 6:38)*

(2 Cor 3:18)

(Eph 2:10)

(Luke 22: 42)

II. Lesson to learn from Luke 11 ... Ask & Receive

A. The Lord's Prayer ... *(Luke 11: 2-4)*

- *God's glory*
- *God's plans be done*
- *Meet our basic needs*
- *Forgive us*
- *Not overcome by temptation ... transform us!*

B. Parable of Persistent Neighbor *(v. 5-8)*

(Luke 11: 9-13)

C. Lesson - Be desperate for (and persistently seek) what God wants most for us

III. Look at Paul's 3 Prayers in Ephesians ... and overlay the principles we've just learned ...

A. God as the source & object of our faith ... as seen in Paul's 1st two prayers

1. Chapter 1 prayer: *(Eph 1:15 – end)*

- *Wisdom & revelation to know Him better ... so we can trust Him better*
- *Ability to grasp magnitude & hope of all He has eternally for us... His plans best!*
- *and also the power available to us! ... to accomplish these plans!*

2. Chapter 3 prayer: *(Eph 3:14 – end)*

- *Strengthened by Holy Spirit in us ... helping us to become & do all He's planned*
- *Ability to grasp extent of His love & thus be filled w/ fullness of God!*

B. Desperate & Persistent Prayer

Chapter 6 prayer: *(Eph 6:18-20)*

- *Dependence on God – desperate! *(Eph 6:18)**

- *In the Spirit ... (Rom 8:26)*
- *With all kinds of prayers & requests*

ACTS

PRAY

***Hand out and suggestions at end of lecture if interested ...*

- *Pray continually*
- *Be alert ... (1 Peter 5:8)*
- *Pray for other Christians ... including each other's transformation!*

C. God's will for our transformation ... fuel for our prayers!

Emphasis in prayers from Jesus, Paul & apostles ... more to change us than to change circumstances ...

(Luke 22:40)

(John 17:15-19)

D. God's will for the unity of the Church ... His greatest witness on earth!

E. Role of equipping for spiritual battle ... with the equipment, Paul sums up much of God's

desire for us ...

1. **Belt of Truth ... doctrinally strong**
2. **Breastplate of Righteousness ... morally pure**
3. **Feet fitted w/ readiness ... overflowing with love...higher goal than ourselves!**
4. **Shield against doubt, especially during trials**
5. **Helmet of salvation ...**

... assurance, but also prevents self-righteousness

... saved by grace that no one can boast ... He chose us!

6. **Sword (word of God)** – the one offensive piece ... *ask how to use / opportunities*

7. **Prayer** – the most essential piece! ... our walkie talkie in battle!

John Piper, [Let the Nations Be Glad](#), p. 65

F. To be an effective ambassador for Christ *(v. 19-20)*

***Email me (llcuffe@gmail.com) to get on the Strategic Missions Prayer (SMP) distribution list to join others from HPBC in praying for God's Kingdom growth in the least reached countries of the world.*

IV. Conclusion

(Heb 4:16)