

Embers to Flames

Personal Preparation for Prayer

I. Introduction

A. Why don't we pray?

1. No model
2. Bad prayer meetings
3. Theological issues
4. Hard work
5. Discouragement
6. World View
7. We are not desperate for God

B. Why should we pray?

1. God desires intimacy with you
 - *“But let him who glories, glory in this: that he understands and knows me (personally and practically...)”* Jer. 9:23-24 AB
 - *“let me see your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.”* S. of Sol. 2:14b
2. Prayer is God's appointed way to bless us
 - *“You have not because you ask not.”* Jas. 4:2
 - *“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with your weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”* Heb. 4:15-16
 - *“Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made know to God. And the peace of God which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”* Phil. 4:6-7
 - *“...we dig up by prayer the treasures that were pointed out by the Lord's gospel...”* John Calvin
3. Jesus example of prayer on earth and in heaven
4. Because “our sworn enemies, the devil, the world, and our own flesh, never stop attacking us.” Heidelberg Q&A 127

5. To release power

- *“The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available (dynamic in its working).” Jas. 5:16AB*

II. God's Design for Man

A. We are created in God's Image

B. He designed us as body, soul and spirit

- *“May the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit, soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.” 1Thess. 5:23*
- *“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit...” Heb. 4:12*



1 Thessalonians 5:23

Soul –Mind, Will and Emotion Seat of our personality

Mind *“My soul continually thinks of it” Lam. 3:20*

Will *“Give me not up to the will (original “soul”) of my adversaries” Ps. 27:12*

Emotion *“You shall love the Lord your God...with all your soul” Deut. 6:5*

Spirit-Conscience, Intuition, Communion

Conscience- discerning *“I had no rest in my spirit” 2 Cor. 2:13*

“By rejecting conscience, certain people have made shipwreck of their faith.” 1 Tim. 19B

Intuition-knowing “*Jesus perceiving in his spirit*” Mk. 2:8
Communion “*My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.*” Lk. 1:47

C. View Body, Soul and Spirit Handouts

D. God desires personal relationship with you and alignment with His will

III. We increase our effectiveness in prayer by clearing the land in our own lives

A. Reconcile the past (Reconciling the Past: Dr. V. Matthews handout)

- Pre-conversion sin
- Generational sin Ex. 20:5-6, 34:7; Jer.32:18 (See Freedom in Christ worksheet on Generational sin)
- Soul ties
- Take steps to walk in freedom

B. Recognize the effect of error (See handout, “What is True About Me According to Scripture”)

C. Repent 1 Jn. 1:9

D. Know your true self-worth as a Christian (“The Christian and His Self-Worth” Dr. V. Matthews handout)