



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Discipline of Prayer (Luke 11:1)

JANUARY 27, 2016

Dave DePue / PO Box 1775, Topeka, KS 66603 / dave.depue@capitolcom.org

*Prayer changes things as it transforms us. It brings us into the deepest and highest spiritual work.¹ Praying national and world leaders that have been mightily used by God include Abraham, Joseph, David, Solomon, Daniel, Washington, Eisenhower, and many others. **What would you be praying about if you had assurance that it would come to pass?***

INTRODUCTION

God's mighty leaders saw prayer as the main business in their lives. Jesus rose *"a great while before day"* to pray (Mark 1:35). King David wrote *"Early will I seek Thee"* (Psalm 63:1). Christ's first disciples sought out helpers to take over the tables and food service, freeing themselves to pray and teach (Acts 6:4). **What routine duties could you delegate out so that you can devote more time to praying for those breakthroughs in your life and work?**

WORKING WITH GOD

Corinthians 3:9a For we are co-workers in God's service;

The Apostle Paul saw God as architect and us as human instruments for His use in building. Our prayers can make a difference in lives, even in God's immediate plans. Moses pleaded with God and He showed mercy to the disobedient Hebrew people (Exodus 32:14). Jonah preached impending judgment on Nineveh. They repented! God delayed judgment on that great city for three generations (Jonah 3:10).

Are we be praying for such grace? (Genesis 18:26)

LEARNING TO PRAY

Luke 11:1b "LORD, teach us to pray,"

Jesus showed His disciples that praying is a learning experience. He gave them a model prayer. It resembled a child asking of a parent for something desirable. **Are you asking God only for mere stuff?**

1. Take time to get to know God through study, meditation, and prayer. Andrew Murray², in his classic text on prayer, reminds us of the intimate relationship that Jesus shared with His Father: *"I knew that Thou hearest me always"* (John 11:42). Parents, especially grandparents, anticipate a child's desires though they may wait for a polite request and thanks.

2. Study and seek to know God's will for you and His people. This may be the most powerful component of prayer. Jesus, His disciples, and the prophets knew God's will. When praying for others, they did not say *"If it be thy will."* Their prayers were bold, even commanding.³ "Walk," "Be well," "Stand up." When praying for ourselves, we seek guidance and release from mere human desires. Jesus sought relief from the cross and prayed, "Nevertheless, not My will, but Thine be done" (Luke 22:42). **Are you in God's will?**

3. The prelude to intercession for others is listening. God may reveal the real need or the person may share something which needs attention first. Jesus dealt with a man's sin problem then addressed his request for healing (Matthew 9:2-6). **Do you practice listening?**

4 Are you moved by compassion to pray? God's Spirit may be leading you to intercede (Romans 8:26). Consider practicing short prayers by giving blessings to people and praying for those we see and hear of. *Pray without ceasing* (1Thessalonians 5:17).

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Matthew 28:18 Jesus said, "All authority is given unto Me in heaven and on earth."

We get a glimpse of the spiritual realm through the Book of Job. Satan accused God of blessing Job to earn the man's praise. God allowed Satan to test Job, attacking his possessions, family, and then his health. Job endured, proving to Satan and the reader that faith is real and God is Sovereign. Jesus gave us a model for spiritual warfare. He cited His Father's authority, quoted Scripture, and bound the enemy *"go away."* (Matthew 4:1-9). **Are you using His authority?**

A PRAYER

Father God: It seems that evil forces are threatening. I know that no weapon formed against me shall prosper (Isaiah 54:17). I claim Your Word and bind the evil around me. This I pray in Jesus' mighty Name. Amen.

¹ Richard Foster, Celebration of Discipline. (Harper) 1998.p33.

² Andrew Murray. With Christ in the School of Prayer. (Fleming H. Revell Co.) 1895.

³ Richard Foster, Celebration of Discipline. (Harper) 1998.p37.