

A Good Prayer Life

Transparent

Points we have Considered

God wants a relationship with us. 2. God invites us to pray. 3. God promises to listen to the righteous. 4. God cares. 5. God answers. 6. We need to be consistent in prayer. 7. We need to be persistent in prayer

Points to Consider

1. We Must Be Honest and Transparent with Ourselves.
2. We Must Be Confident that God Loves Us Anyway.
3. We Must Be Honest and Transparent to God.

We Must Be Honest and Transparent with Ourselves

In Psalm 51:3 David acknowledged his sins. He realized his guilt when Nathan told him a story and accused him of being the villain. He simply said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord."

1 Kings 8:37-40 *When there is famine in the land, pestilence or blight or mildew, locusts or grasshoppers; when their enemy besieges them in the land of their cities; whatever plague or whatever sickness there is; 38 whatever prayer, whatever supplication is made by anyone, or by all Your people Israel, **when each one knows the plague of his own heart**, and spreads out his hands toward this temple: 39 then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive, and act, and give to everyone according to all his ways, whose heart You know (for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men), 40 that they may fear You all the days that they live in the land which You gave to our fathers. NKJV*

Before prayer can be effective, we must know the _____ of our own heart.

Luke 18:9-14 *Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men — extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' 13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." NKJV*

The Pharisee was not honest with himself, so he could not be honest with God. He should have started his prayer by declaring himself a self-righteous man.

We Must be Confident that God Loves Us Anyway!

1 Tim 1:12-17 *And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, 13 although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. 14 And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. 15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. 16 However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for*

everlasting life. 17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. NKJV

Paul remembered his former life as a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man. He considered himself the _____ of all sinners.

At the same time, he recognized that God extended _____ to him.

Rom 5:6-11 *For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.* NKJV

When we were sinners Christ died for us.

One of the blessings of reconciliation is the privilege of talking to God.

We Must Be Honest and Transparent to God

Ps 7:3-5 *O Lord my God, if I have done this: If there is iniquity in my hands, 4 If I have repaid evil to him who was at peace with me, Or have plundered my enemy without cause, 5 Let the enemy pursue me and overtake me; Yes, let him trample my life to the earth, And lay my honor in the dust. ... 8 The Lord shall judge the peoples; Judge me, O Lord, according to my righteousness, And according to my integrity within me.* NKJV

When David was hiding from Saul he asked God to judge him according to his righteousness. David knew he wasn't guilty and had no problem being _____ before God.

Ps 26 - David wasn't _____ when describing His motives to God. David believed that God would concur with his judgment.

Ps 139:1 - David was transparent in his prayers because he knew that God knows and sees _____.

Ps 38:1-22 - David knew when his suffering was _____ fault.

David knew that all his desires were before God and that his _____ was not hidden from the Almighty.

Ps 51:1-11 David's prayer of confession started with an _____ and transparent statement about his sin.

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4. God cares
5. God answers
6. We need to be consistent in prayer
7. We need to be persistent in prayer
8. We need to be transparent and honest in prayer