



Are You Ready For Prayer?



Are You Ready For Prayer?

Learning to pray like the psalmist did.

Preparing to Pray

- ✦ 1 Peter 5:8 Roaring lion looking for weakness
- ✦ Eph 6:10-18 Whole armor of God
 - girded your loins with truth,
 - breastplate of righteousness,
 - shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;
 - shield of faith,
 - helmet of salvation,
 - sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:
 - with all prayer and supplication praying at all seasons in the Spirit

Preparing to Pray

- ✦ Psalmists prepared by studying God's word.
 - Psalm 1:2 Delight and Meditate
 - Psalm 40:8 Within my heart
 - Psalm 19:7-11 More desirable than honey or gold.

Our relationship to God's word lays the foundation for coming to God in prayer.

Preparing to Pray

✦ Psalmists prepared to pray by living God.

- Psalm 26:1 Living in Integrity
- Psalm 66:18 Lord will not listen if we have iniquity
- Psalm 51:3 Confession of sins

Understand that we cannot sin with impunity and think our prayers accomplish anything.

Preparing to Pray

- ✦ Psalmist prepared by having a broken and contrite heart.
 - Psalm 51:16-17 Horrendous nature of sin brings broken and contrite heart
 - Psalm 32:5 Confess to God is only cure

The proud will not pray. Without a heart broken and contrite we won't pray consistently or properly.

Preparing to Pray

- ✦ Psalmist prepared by surrendering to God.
 - Psalm 18:1-3 Rock, Fortress, Tower
 - Psalm 31:5 Trust in God
 - Psalm 119:10 Give ourselves completely and wholeheartedly to God

If we do not surrender our lives to God we won't pray.

Preparing to Pray

- ✦ Psalmist prepared by offering sacrifice.
 - Psalm 5:3 Offering to have access in prayer
 - Psalm 54:6 Promise to sacrifice when God responds
 - Psalm 66:13-15 Fulfillment of sacrifices promised while praying

Preparing to Pray

✦ Psalmist prepared by offering sacrifice.

– Why was prayer tied to sacrificial altar?

- Isaiah 59:1-2 Sin separates us from God
- Numbers 28-29 Over 1200 sacrifices per year
- Hebrews 10:1 Those were inadequate
- John 1:29 Jesus takes away the sin of the world!
- Hebrew 10:19-22 We enter the holy place through the blood of Jesus Christ

Preparing to Pray

- ✦ Psalmist prepared by offering sacrifice.
 - Why was prayer tied to sacrificial altar?

Without sacrifices we cannot come into the presence of God and lay our petitions before Him.

Preparing to Pray

- ✦ If we want to be able to pray – we need to prepare:
 - Study the Bible
 - Strive to obey God's will
 - Have a broken and contrite heart
 - Put our trust in God
 - NOTHING REALLY MATTERS.....Unless....

Preparing to Pray

✦ You are in Jesus Christ

- Have you been baptized into His sacrificial death?
- If not – than despite all the emotional comfort that praying may do for you, it is not connecting you to God.

Preparing to Pray

- ✦ Prepare to pray by entering into Jesus Christ and surrendering ourselves to His will.

Are YOU ready to pray?

Come today and answer the invitation of Jesus to be baptized into His body and be re-connected to God.