

Introduction and Review:

I. Our Encouragement to pray...

There are no exceptions to the promise... "everyone..."

II. Our Encouragement to pray clarified...

A. Prayer is not a "free for all..."

This promise of Jesus is often misinterpreted... word of faith movement... Prayer of Jabez

1. An inadequate way to think about God...
2. The Bible has a great deal more to say about the subject of prayer...

B. Prayer is to be...

1. In faith... *James 1:5-8* "faith honors God and crowns Christ not itself..."
2. In Christ's name (that is for His sake and by His authority...) *I Timothy 2:5-6*
 - a. My only basis of acceptance...
 - b. As one washed in His blood....
3. In Accordance to His will...
 - a. Jesus example...
 - b. *I John 5:14*
 4. In connection with righteousness...
 - a. *I Thessalonians 4:3*
 - b. *John 15:17*
 - c. *James 5:16b-18*

Lesson: Success in prayer is connected to righteousness... *Proverbs 28:9; I Samuel 15:22; Psalm 37:4*

Observations: **I.** Prayer calls for a measure of hard work... *Psalm 25:1*

2. There is great encouragement to pray...it is the main means of grace... *Hebrews 4:16*
3. God's answer is always best... *II Corinthians 12:9*
4. God will answer!

III. Our Encouragement to Pray Illustrated...

A. Consider our human fathers...

B. Jesus enforces His conclusion upon our conscience in vs. 11

Observations: **1. Jesus believes in the fall of Adam into sin... Romans 3:10, 23; 8:7-8**

2. ***If we can depend upon "evil" earthly fathers to give good gifts...how much more our Heavenly Father... Romans 8:32.***
3. ***May God grant us an increase of faith in His loving care for us.***