

POINT: PRAY ABOUT ALL THE THINGS THAT KEEP YOU FROM PRAYING

INTRODUCTION: OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN IS LONGING TO HELP US (Lk.11; Jms.4:1f)

I. IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER: A MEANS OF GRACE (Acts 2:42; see Mt.22:37,39)

- A. **TO HONOR GOD** (Ps.50:15; contra 2Chr.16:12)
- B. **TO BLESS YOUR NEIGHBOR** (Num.21:7; Jn.17:1f; Jms.5:16)
- C. **TO BLESS YOURSELF** (Lk.11:5-13; Phil.4:6f; Ps.65:2)

II. REMINDER OF EXHORTATIONS TO PRAY

- A. **DEVOTE YOURSELVES TO PRAYER** (Acts 1:14; 2:42; 6:4; Rom.12:12; 1Cor.7:5; Col.4:2; Jms.5:17)
- B. **PRAY OFTEN; CONTINUALLY** (Acts 1:14; 10:2; see 1Th.5:17; see Gen.32:26; Is.62:7)
 - 1. always (Rom.1:10; Phil.1:4; Col.1:3; 4:12; 1Th.1:2; 2Th.1:11; Phm.1:4)
 - 2. day and night (Neh.1:6; Lk.2:37; 1Th.3:10; 1Tm.5:5; 2Tm.1:3)
 - 3. three times a day (Ps.55:17; Dan.6:10,13; e.g., monthly day of prayer)
 - 4. all day; all night (Ps.72:15; Lk.6:12)

III. OBSTACLES TO PRAYER

- A. **I'M TOO BUSY** (Lk.10:38f; Acts 6:4,1f; see Jms.1:5)
- B. **I'M TOO TIRED** (Mk.14:32f=Mt.26:36f; see Is.40:30f; Mt.11:28; Lk.18:1f; Heb.12:3; see 2Kngs.20:6f)
- C. **I'M TOO DRY** (see Is.44:3; Jn.7:37; Rev.21:6; 22:17)
- D. **I'M TOO DISCOURAGED** (Ps.39:7; 42:5,11; 43:5; 2Cor.4:16; see Mk.9:24; Lk.18:1f; Heb.12:3f)
- E. **I'M TOO ASHAMED** (Lk.18:13; see Ps.130:4; 1Cor.6:9-11)
- F. **I'M TOO BITTER** (Eph.4:2,31f; Mt.6:12,14f; 18:15f; Rom.12:19)
- G. **I'M TOO ANGRY** (Eph.4:26; Jon.4:1f; see Ps.22:1f(Lk.23:46); 38:8; 55:17f; see Ps.13:1f; see Job)
- H. **I'M TOO FULL** (no need, Rev.3:17; not want, Mk.4:19; 1Jn.2:16; Ps.17:14; Jms.4:1-4)

IV. REMINDERS

- A. **QUESTIONS: WHEN? WHERE? HOW? FOR & WITH WHOM?** (see Ps.55:17 / Mt.6:6,9f / Ps.5:3; Phil.4:6; Dan.9:4f / Jms.5:16; Acts 1:14; 2:42)
- B. **TOOLS: LORD'S, PSALMS, PASSAGE; A.C.T.S.** (see *Valley of Vision*; lists (yours, others); emails; binder)

CONCLUSION: TURN OBSTACLES INTO PETITIONS (Lk.11:1-13; Jms.4:1f)

POINT: PRAY ABOUT ALL THE THINGS THAT KEEP YOU FROM PRAYING

Discussion question:
Brethren, what shall WE do? (see Acts 2:37f)