

Power in Prayer

The Foundations of Prayer

I. Introduction

- Last time, we looked at *what* prayer is and reasons that we may pray.
- Tonight, we will look at *why* we can pray.
 - Illustration: we know what a light bulb is and know why we use it, but not all understand the science of electricity and conductivity that powers the light bulb.
 - In this lesson we will try to the foundation that prayer is built on just as we might study scientific foundation for how a light bulb works.

II. Foundation in God

- God is the Creator of all things – Genesis 1:1, John 1:3
 - Prayer must be included in that list, and if God created it then He did so for a purpose!
- God is omnipresent and omniscient – Psalm 139:7-8, Jeremiah 23:23-24
 - If God is everywhere and all-knowing, then He is able to hear our prayers!
- God is good and loving toward us – Luke 11:11-13
 - If God loves us then He is inclined to hear and answer prayer!
- God is true and His promises are true – Titus 1:2
 - If God said He wants us to pray, then He meant it!
- God desires a relationship with us – I John 4:8-10
 - If God wants a relationship with us, He must have a means to communicate with us and have a conversation with us.

III. Foundation in Humanity

- We are born with a desire to communicate – observation: infants cry, toddlers babble, the deaf sign, etc.
 - We also try to communicate with our God!
- We are finite, broken, and inadequate to care for all things – Psalm 103:13-16
 - In our weakness we cry out for help to the Infinite and Mighty God!
- We acknowledge our dependence upon God's mercy for salvation and day-to-day life – Ephesians 2:8-9, Jeremiah 17:5-8
- We learn of and obey God's commands to pray – I Thessalonians 5:17, Romans 10:17
 - Our knowledge of, faith in, and obedience to God's commands
- We recognize our prayers produce actions in ways that cannot be circumstantial.
 - The greatest reason to engage in prayer is that it produces results.

“Prayer is our most formidable weapon, but the one in which we are the least skilled, the most averse to its use.” – E. M. Bounds