

Awaiting Reply
(A lesson on Prayer)
Psalm 62:5
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to remind us all of some ideas concerning prayer.

- Intro:
1. There are many aspects of prayer that we could consider.
 2. In the past we have discussed prayer as it is done in a worship service.
 3. This evening, we will look at prayer at a personal level.

I. Misunderstandings about Prayer

A. Postures of prayer.

1. In the Bible it's not uncommon to find people praying & worshipping with their faces to the ground. Some older men have been known to step into the aisle and kneel on one knee (**2 Chron 20:18**).
2. Can or should a person do so today? Like many things, the denominational world has caused us to second guess some ideas. While kneeling to pray or praying with one's face to the ground is not unscriptural, many refrain from doing so. (Growing up in a denominational background illustration, what I saw & experienced).
3. Our motive in how and what we pray should tell us a lot.

II. Fervent Prayers

A. Show our desire and sincerity

1. Some types of prayers show our desire & sincerity. All prayers are not equal because of the subject of the prayer.
 - Prayers before a meal are not the same as a prayer for the sick or a prayer for forgiveness.
2. Fervent prayers are prayers of great sincerity and for a certain purpose.

B. Fervent Prayers are profitable (**James 5:16**)

1. Since fervent prayers of the righteous are profitable we should not be ashamed to ask others to pray for us.
- 2.

III. What to do if we feel God is not listening or answering our prayers. (**Ps 39:12**)

at different times we may have felt as if God is not listening to our prayers. This is a problem caused by man, not God.

A. Examine & repent

1. **2 Corinthians 13:5**; sin can hinder our prayers (**1 Pt 3:7b**)
2. A humble heart and repentance can solve many problems.

B. What are the purpose of your prayers?

1. Selfish prayer? Evil prayer (praying for ill towards others, etc)?
2. Are your prayers according to God's will? (**James 4:3b**)

C. Consider who is praying for you.

1. Some prayers have a 10ft limit, they don't go past the ceiling because the prayers of

the unrighteous do not get a response from God.
2. **James 5:16b**

Application & Conclusion:

1. Do you feel your prayers are hindered?
2. Do you need to rethink how you pray?
3. Full Invitation

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Luke 13:3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – Rev 2:10,

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9