

The Path 40 -

Prayer 3: Regularity in Prayer

Once we have chosen to pray, we must decide when to pray. David said, “Evening, morning and noon will I pray.” (Psalm 55:17) God encourages order (1 Corinthians 14:40). Few people will succeed in prayer, unless they set aside a planned time to pray each day.

In establishing the best time for our daily prayer, we must give consideration to our personal lifestyle. If we are a night person, then perhaps late at night would be our best time to pray. If we are an early riser, perhaps early in the morning would be our best time to pray. We should adjust an organized prayer time to fit our natural inclinations. An organized time, free of interruptions, will be one of our best assets in prayer.

Choose a place to pray: at home, at church, or elsewhere. Luke 11:1 mentions that Jesus was praying in a “certain _____.” This might suggest that he enjoyed a specific place for prayer. People that are experienced in prayer have stated that it is better to pray in a regular locality.

The scriptures refer to a closet of prayer. In Matthew 6:6 we read:

“But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.”

One can conceivably be “alone”, when others are around, by closing the doors of our minds through concentration. Our closet can be anywhere as long as we are able to push other things out of our minds and focus on God. In the Bible, prayer was conducted in all types of unusual places: altars of animals, walking in open fields, at the well, while wrestling, in chains, on an ash pile, in the belly of a great fish, standing in a river, in a wilderness, at a grave, on a cross, in a dungeon, in a shipwreck, and under an altar.



Choose objectives. Not only should our prayer be consistent with regard to time and place, but it should also be specific. Praying with objectives is one of the keys to answered prayer. In Isaiah 41:21, God challenges us to be specific:

“Produce your _____, saith the Lord; bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob.”

Praying specific prayers will increase our faith: we will see more of our prayers answered. We must bring specific needs to God. God promises to give us the desires of our hearts, but waits for us to specify our desires to Him. Vague, general uttering will never lead to victory.

Specific prayer allows us to pray boldly. We are not beggars. We have been invited by almighty God to bring our petitions to Him. We have been invited to ask of Him, and participate in performing His spiritual business in the world and in our lives!

Discussion

- 1. What is the best time in the day for you to pray each day?**
- 2. What are the best places for you to pray?**
- 3. Why is privacy to be preferred in prayer?**
- 4. Why should we be specific in our prayers?**
- 5. Why should we be bold in prayer?**