

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Purpose

To emulate the meditating life of Joshua by regularly including prayer in our lives – successful living. (Josh. 3:5, 7)

Objective

- “We ought **always** pray and not faint” (Lk. 18:1).
 - Daniel refused to give up his prayer life and made it a regular habit (Dan. 6:10).
 - David said: “As for me, I will call upon God; and the Lord shall save me. Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and He shall hear my voice” (Ps. 55:16-17).
 - Elijah’s prayer changed the weather pattern (Ja. 5:17-18)
 - Hezekiah’s life was extended (2 Ki. 20:1-6)
 - Hannah was granted a son by her request (1 Sam. 1:12-13, 20).
 - Paul prayed for relief from his “thorn in the flesh” – note: it doesn’t always go our way (2 Cor. 12:7-8)
- “Praying without ceasing” was a source of strength to these and others in the Bible and we should not neglect this source of communication (1 Th. 5:17; Eph. 6:18).
- Over and over in his life, Joshua waited till the Lord spoke before he acted. (Ch.1:1-9, then vs. 10, 3:7-8, then vs. 9ff, 4:1-3, then vs. 4ff, 4:16, then vs. 17, then 6:1-5, then vs. 6ff, 8:1-2, then vs. 3ff, etc. etc.) The lesson I think we learn is Joshua’s desire for God’s involvement/direction/guidance in his life. It ought to be the same for us! Prayer is how we stay connected/in touch with our God...His will and His desire for us.
- And it is His will to do as He chooses. James 4:13-15 – we ought to say “as the Lord wills”. Even Jesus’ prayer was “not **my** will, but **thy** will be done!” (Lk. 22:42)

Outcome

- The semester theme has been successful living. The topics included faith-based living, worry-free living, perseverance, attitude, perspective and prayer. In summary we should all understand that **successful living** takes work, **faith-based living** means that we control the problem of **worry**, that we build **moral courage** and “faint not”, that we develop **attitudes** that are positive and worthy of our calling, that we view things from the eye of faith (**perspective**), and that we use the power of prayer to establish our hearts and commune with our Creator.
- **Prayer** is essential to living a successful life as a Christian. Prayer is a privilege; use it.

Key thought

- Prayer is the “dipstick” to measure the level of our spirituality. Are we a quart low?
- If you are sick, pray! If you are worried, pray! If you are faint, pray! If you are oppressed, pray! If you are happy, pray! If you desire a good success, pray! As the old hymn says: “Pray in the morning, pray in the evening, pray at the noontime, pray all the time.”

Discussion

1. Is there any problem/person we cannot pray for or about?
2. Is there any reason for not praying more often? Do you make time to pray?
3. List things we can specifically pray for:
 - Our enemies (Mt. 5:44)
 - Our brethren who are being mistreated (Heb. 13:3; 2 Th. 3:1-2)
 - Our rulers (1 Ti. 2:1-2)
 - Laborers to reap the harvest (Mt. 9:37; Jhn. 4:35)
 - Those that are in poor health (3 Jhn. 2)
 - One another (Ja. 5:16)
 - Individuals in particular (Lk. 22:31-32)
 - Our own selves (Ps. 19:14)
 - Direction and guidance (James 4:15, Lk. 22:42 – thy will be done!)
4. Should we pray frequently about the same thing? (Lk. 18:1-8; 2 Cor. 12:8-9)
5. Can we pray in a way that disrespects God? (Like God is a vending machine)