

Thanks Living, Part 3 - Pray With Thanksgiving

☐ Monday - What is Man that Thou art Mindful of Him?

O how low God must stoop to hear my prayers. He is the Almighty, but I am made from the dust of the earth. O Lord, "What is man, that Thou art mindful of him?" (Psa. 8:4). That God would listen to my feeble prayers is an unfathomable condescension. Yet, not only is He willing to listen, but He repeatedly commands His people to pray (Psa. 50:15; Phil. 4:6; 1 Thess. 5:17), and even offers great rewards to those who make prayer their habit. Read 2 Chron. 7:14, Jer. 33:3, Jam. 5:16

☐ Tuesday - Essential Elements of Effective Prayer, Part 1.

There is one prayer that prevails with God, and another whose sound waves bounce off the ceiling and go no further. And so a brief review of the essential elements of effective prayer is needed: [1] First, you must be born again. [2] Then, you must pray with a clear conscience, which means there can be no unconfessed sin in your life. By necessity, this requires that you live in obedience to God's law, and when you sin, you must confess it immediately, for it is the effectual fervent prayer of a *righteous* man or woman that availeth much. And [3] you must pray in faith that God has the power to answer your prayer. Read Psalm 66:18; Prov. 15:8, 29; 28:9; 1 John 1:9, 3:21-22; James 1:6-7, 5:16

☐ Wednesday - Essential Elements of Effective Prayer, Part 2.

Here are three more important elements of prayer that honor God: [4] You must pray with importunity; that is, with perseverance. [5] You must pray with selfless motives. And [6] you must pray in Jesus' name, which means that, as an ambassador for Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 5:20), you must pray according to God's will, for Jesus' interests (WWJP? What Would Jesus Pray), e.g. for the furtherance of His kingdom and glory (Matt. 6:33). Read Genesis 32:26; Prov. 16:2; Luke 11:5-10, 18:1-8; John 14:13, 16:23-24; James 4:3; 1 John 5:14-15

☐ Thursday - The Seventh Element: Thanksgiving.

There is a seventh element of effective prayer which is quite possibly the most neglected. God's Word exhorts, "Devote yourselves to prayer ...with an attitude of *thanksgiving*", and again, "In everything by prayer and supplication with *thanksgiving* let your requests be made know to God". As we have already seen, God commands His people, "In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God (1 Thess. 5:18), which includes every prayer. So then, in every prayer give thanks, for this is the will of God. Read Phil. 4:6-7, Col. 4:2

☐ Friday - Thanksgiving Sweetens Every Prayer.

The truth is that God will not accept sour prayer, but thanksgiving sweetens our requests and makes them acceptable to God. It gives wings to our prayers so that they may traverse this earthly sphere and enter the spiritual realm. Thanksgiving is the key that opens the gates of heaven, and allows our prayers to pass through the outer court, past the myriads of angelic hosts, and into the immediate presence of God. Dear Christian, if you wish your prayers to prevail with God, then bathe every new request for what you need in thanksgiving for what you already have.

Read Psalm 95:2, 100:4