**DOES PRAYER MATTER?**

Prayer series Part 1

Psalm 145:18

“18 The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.”

**1. JESUS PRAYED HABITUALLY. LUKE 22:39-41**

39 Jesus went out **as usual to the Mount of Olives**, and his disciples followed him.

40 On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation."

41 He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, **knelt down and prayed**.

**2. DANIEL PRAYED HABITUALLY. DANIEL 6:10**

10 Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. **Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed**, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

**3. PSALMIST PRAYED REGULARLY. PSALM 55:17**

17 Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress, and he hears my voice.

**4. THE DISCIPLES OF JESUS PRAYED REGULARLY. ACTS 3:1**

1 Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o'clock prayer service.

**5. A GENTILE (CORNELIUS) PRAYED REGULARLY. Acts 10:2-3**

2 He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and **prayed to God regularly**.

3 One day **at about three in the afternoon he had a vision**. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!"

**COMMON CHARACTERISTICS FROM BIBLICAL PRAYER LIFE**

**1. THEY PRAYED REGULARLY. ROMANS 12:12**

“Base your happiness on your hope in Christ. When trials come, endure them patiently; steadfastly maintain THE HABIT OF PRAYER.” Rom. 12:12 (Philips)

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” (NIV)

**2. THEY EXPERIENCED GOD MORE VIVIDLY. 1 JOHN 5:14-15**

14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

15 And if we know that he hears us--whatever we ask--we know that we have what we asked of him. (1 John 5:14-15)

**3. THEY EXPERIENCED THE PRESENCE OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD MORE POWERFULLY.**

**(1) JESUS** Luke 3:21-22

21 When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And **as he was praying, heaven was opened**

22 and **the Holy Spirit descended on him** in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

**(2) DISCIPLES** Acts 1:8, 14; 4:31

8 But you will **receive power** **when the Holy Spirit comes on you**; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

14 They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

31 **After they prayed**, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit** and spoke the word of God boldly.

**(3) PAUL** Acts 9:11.

11 The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, **for he is praying**.

**(4) CORNELIUS** Acts 10:2-3

2 He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.

3 **One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision**. **He distinctly saw an angel of God**, who came to him and said, **"Cornelius!"**

**APPLICATIONS**

**1. WE NEED TO DEVELOP PRAYER HABIT.**

18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and **always keep on praying for all the saints**. (Ephesians 6:18)

**2. JOIN MATURITY 201 CLASS.**

Register by June 14 on NVCCC EM website. (Find it on the announcements page!)

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