

INSTINCTIVE PRAYING

Genesis 4:26

Introduction:

Prayer is as old as man, as universal as religion, and as instinctive as breathing. It is practiced in some form by all faiths. Prayers come from the heart with a need greater than man's ability to fix. All prayer acknowledges a higher being than the one offering prayer.

Most men try to pray, yet so few know how. All prayers fall into two categories: Prayers that reach God and Prayers that don't reach God. The prayers found in Luke 18:9-14 illustrate this in the Pharisee and the Publican both praying at the Temple. Both men went to the same place, the same time, and for the same purpose, which was for prayer.

The Pharisee prayed in his religious pride, expecting God to answer because he considered himself worthy. He informed God of all his goodness and reminded Him he was better than others. He boasted of his good works. He told God, "I fast; I give." This kind of prayer doesn't reach God because it's a self-righteous prayer.

The Publican came to God in great humility and conscious of his unworthiness and began confessing himself as a sinner and begging for mercy. This is the kind of prayer that reaches God. This is a righteous prayer.

It's a wonderful privilege to pray because it brings us into a close fellowship with God by admitting our need for Him and our utter dependence upon Him.

- I. **WHAT IS PRAYER?** Matthew 7:7-11
- II. **WHY PRAY?** Luke 18:1
- III. **HOW TO PRAY?** Matthew 6:9-13 – The Model Prayer.
- IV. **WHERE TO PRAY?** Acts 12:5
- V. **HINDERANCES TO PRAYER?** I Peter 3:7
- VI. **DOES GOD ANSWER ALL PRAYERS?** John 15:7

Conclusion:

Let's challenge ourselves to be more instinctive in real prayer!

Matthew 7:7 – 11

7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 9 Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!"

Luke 18:1

1 "Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart."

Matthew 6:9 – 13

9 "In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.

10 Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.

13 And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."

Acts 12:5

5 "Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church."

1 Peter 3:7

7 "Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered."

John 15:7

7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you."