

Sunday School Lesson for the Month of August 2020

A Way of Private Prayer

(Psalm 102:1-2)

(Sunday, August 2, 2020)

A big truck stalled on an expressway, and a man stopped to help. Upon inquiring about the problem, he found that the truck's wheel bearing had "frozen" for lack of grease. Well, what's so peculiar about that? The truck was an oil company truck and it was hauling grease.

Isn't this story a parable applicable to many of us who serve the Lord? Isn't it true that often we get so busy carrying the grease of the gospel that we neglect greasing our own spiritual bearings? Many Christian workers are stalled on the roadside because they failed to take the time to be alone with God in prayer. Have you spent some time alone with Him in prayer today?

If we are too busy to pray – then we are just too busy!

The gospels tell us that Jesus rose a great while before day to talk with the Father. It is imperative that we follow His example. I do not walk with the presumptuous mindset of a "know it all" when it comes to prayer, but I want to share with you some basic steps that should be included in your private prayer-life.

(Sunday, August 9, 2020)

I. Adoration

Prayerfully, read Isaiah 6 and you will find that Isaiah had a strange awareness of the presence of a holy, omnipotent, and transcendent God. If prayer is a conscious and personal experience with God, it is obvious that a consciousness of God's presence is essential. Take the time to close your eyes and think about God! He is your Father, and He is almighty, personal, kind, merciful, gracious, and concerned about you. *"He sitteth upon the circle of the earth" (Isa. 40:22). "He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might*

He increaseth strength...They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength” (Isa. 40:29-31).

(Sunday, August 16, 2020)

II. Confession

First John 1:9 was written to Christians. *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* Everyday we need to be honest with God – to confess and repent of every sin. We also need to pray for strength to overcome the day’s new temptation. Pray the prayer of the Psalmist: *“Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (Psa. 139:23-24).*

Psalms 32:51 will also be helpful in Confession.

(Sunday, August 23, 2020)

III. Thanksgiving

We have so much to thank God for – our spouse, our children, our church, our pastor, our health, and the opportunity of Christian service. The very breath we breathe is by the grace of God. Too often, we unthoughtfully say, “we thank you for all your blessings,” but we fail to name them one by one. Psalms 103 helps us rediscover how to express thanksgiving. On a day when everything seems to be going wrong, here’s what I want you to do: Take a sheet of blank paper, draw a line down the middle. On the left side, write the bad things that have happened to you (you probably can think of a few). Then on the right side, write the good things that have happened to you – you will write until you run out of space. Take time to thank the Lord for His blessings, one by one. I will assure you that the good things will be far more than the bad things.

(Sunday, August 30, 2020)

IV. Supplication or Intercession

James 5:16 says, "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Intercession should always follow confession and repentance. Only when we have confessed our own sins and experienced cleansing and dedicated ourselves a fresh to do the will of God in our own lives can we effectively pray for others. A prayerful reading of Romans 9:1-3 and 10:1 will help us to see the need for being in earnest about praying for others. I will never forget how earnestly I prayed for my baby daughter when her pregnancy was terminated with Siamese Twin boys and the final year of my Wife's life knowing her illness was terminal. I have often felt that my intercessory prayer life would be more effective if I could care as deeply for others as I did for my daughter and wife. It is my desire and should be yours to take time to pray compassionately for the lost, the sick, the bereaved and the troubled.

V. Petition

Jesus said, *"ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you"* (Luke 11:9). Bring your needs before Him. I am convinced that if we adore Him, confess our sins to Him, thank Him for His blessings, and intercede on behalf of others, as we bring our needs to Him, we will pray with Jesus, *"nevertheless, not my will, but thine be done"* (Luke 22:42).

Take time today and every day to Pray!!