

Sunday School Lesson for the Month of January 2020

Prayer and the Will of God

1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

Sunday, January 5, 2020

It is the will of God that each of His children have the habit of praying. This truth takes on added significance if we recognize prayer as a dialogue between the Heavenly Father and each of His children instead of it being a monologue in which the child of God does all the speaking. It is much more important that we hear what God has to say than God hearing what we have to say.

It has been suggested that while we offer our prayers to God, He directs his prayers to us. We are eager to receive answers to our prayers. The Heavenly Father is even more eager that we respond to His prayers.

Sunday, January 12, 2020

I. Prayer is a part of the Will of God for each of us!

- a. The Bible teaches from beginning to end that God is a prayer-hearing God.
- b. The Bible teaches that the Heavenly Father is eager to bestow His gifts of love and wisdom on us.
- c. The Bible teaches that God gives only the gifts that are good for us as a result of our prayer.

Sunday, January 19, 2020

II. Our Prayers are to be in harmony with the Will of God.

The Lord teaches that we can expect blessings from God through prayer if we pray in harmony with the Will of God. Jesus says in John 15:7, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you."

In His first epistle, John discussed praying in harmony with the will of God, *"and whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight," "and this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us: and if we know that He hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him."*

Prayer is not intended to be a means whereby people can secure that which they wish for in selfish indulgence. Prayer is the means whereby we request divine resources that are necessary for doing God's Will.

Sunday, January 26, 2020

III. Praying in the Will of God.

We discover God's will as we examine his commands and promises that are recorded in the Bible. We gain insight into His will as we increase our knowledge of the mind of Christ and as we follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

If we are to fully respond to prayer as a part of God's will for us, we need to do more listening than talking.

Paul says, "pray always – without ceasing, because this is the will of God concerning you." Prayer is God's ordained way for man to receive things from Him. God moves, acts and responds to prayer. Prayer is a law that He has established throughout the universe. Why? Because prayer stirs fellowship and communion with God and brings about a greater knowledge and understanding of God. It causes a person to learn more and more about God and stirs more trust as well as worship and praise of God. Prayer stirs and causes every good thing imaginable between God and man. This is the reason God designed prayer as the primary way for man to communicate with Him. This is the reason for this exhortation. Therefore, pray without ceasing: Continue and persevere in prayer. Pray faithfully, regularly, daily, consistently and unceasingly.

Things happen when we don't pray! Without consistent and persistent prayer, our spiritual lives become weak, times of worship becomes rituals and our understanding of the scriptures becomes confused and meaningless.

But everything in life is better with prayer. Substantial prayer and authentic prayer changes everything!

Through Prayer we,
Reach for the intangible
Look for the invisible
Long for the incomparable
Believe the incredible
Live for the incorruptible

Through prayer, God changes our personality, our character, our desires, our purposes, our methods, our habits, and our attitudes.