

Prayer

(John 16:23-24)

Introduction:

1. (John 14-16) Jesus spoke to His apostles so their hearts would not be troubled.
2. Last Sunday evening we examined the Lord's comments in John 14:1-6.
3. This evening we are concentrating on the subject that Jesus mentioned in John 16:23-24 - "prayer."
4. The purpose for our lesson is to remind us of some general principles that relate to prayer.
5. Let us begin our study by showing . . .

Discussion:

- I. WHAT PRAYER IS
 - A. "Prayer" is the means that we have of talking to God.
 - B. (1 Timothy 2:1) There are various forms of communicating with God, including:
 1. prayers: addresses made to God
 2. supplications: asking God to supply needs (Matthew 6:11)
 3. intercessions: making petitions on behalf of others (James 5:16a)
 4. giving of thanks: expressions of gratitude.
 - C. Now that we understand what prayer is, we need to point out that . . .
- II. ALL 3 MEMBERS OF THE GODHEAD ARE INVOLVED IN OUR PRAYERS
 - A. Our prayers are to be addressed to the Father (Matthew 6:9).
 - B. Our prayers are to be addressed to the Father through the Son (John 16:23).
 1. (1 Timothy 2:5) Jesus serves as mediator between God and men.
 2. We pray to the Father through Christ.
 - C. (Romans 8:26-27) The Holy Spirit intercedes on our behalf when we pray.
 1. The Spirit helps us with our "infirmities" [weaknesses].
 2. He reveals what is in our hearts to the Father.
- III. THE BIBLE ASSURES US THAT GOD ANSWERS PRAYER
 - A. Jesus made this very clear in John 16:23.
 - B. However, we must understand that God answers our prayers according to His will (1 John 5:14-15).
 - C. When we pray, God's will may be:
 1. "yes" (James 5:17-18)
 2. "no" (Matthew 26:39, 42, 44)
 3. different from ours.

- D. Because God may not answer our prayers according to the way we make our requests, we must pray:
 - 1. patiently (Psalm 40:1)
 - 2. persistently (Luke 18:1).
 - E. Because God answers our prayers, we ought to pray with the confidence expressed in:
 - 1. Psalm 86:7
 - 2. Psalm 116:1-2
 - F. The Scriptures affirm that God answers prayer; however, . . .
- IV. WE MUST MEET CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR OUR PRAYERS TO BE ACCEPTABLE
- A. (Matthew 21:22) We must pray "believing" [in faith].
 - B. (John 15:7) We must abide in Christ, and His words must abide in us.
 - C. (James 4:3) We must pray with the proper motives.
 - D. We must be living "righteous" lives (James 5:16b).
 - E. We must be obedient to God's commandments (1 John 3:22).

Conclusion:

- 1. God's children certainly enjoy a great blessing in being able to talk to Him through prayer.
- 2. As we conclude this lesson, are you among those who can address God as "Father?"
- 3. We learn from Galatians 3:26-27 how to become His children.