

S . W . E . E . P

FOUNDATIONS

Prayer

(by Apostle Hennie Meyers)

One of the four pillars of the New Testament Church.

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. (Acts 2:42 KJV)

Prayer very simply put is communication. This implies two directional conversation. The lack of communication is one of the first signs of a problem that exists in a relationship.

His church is a house of prayer for the nations.

And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written: 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it 'a den of robbers.'" (Mark 11:17 NIV)

Prayer should be a characteristic of the church.

Prayer is taught.

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." (Luke 11:1 NIV)

The 'Our Father' prayer is an example that Jesus gave the disciples of the different elements that should be present when praying.

What did He teach them?

He taught that God is your Heavenly Father.

That He loves us and wants intimacy with us.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3:16, 17 NIV)

He wants to hang out with you because He loves you.

Prayer is not making God do what you want Him to.

It is spending time with Him being intimate with Him.

God wants your fellowship more than your service. Service is a by product of your intimate relationship with Him.

God wants you!

His purpose is eternal life.

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. (John 17:3 NIV)

'Knowing' - intimate, personal, experiential knowledge.

Sin was not the purpose of Christ's coming it was the the barrier that prevented man and God to be intimate.

This is what prayer is all about, it is not as superficial as getting God to meet your needs.

That our God is great!

We should be telling others about His goodness, His mercy, His Grace etc.

He's not angry with us anymore because His Son bore the sin, judgement, and punishment we deserved so that we can be intimate with Him.

If we teach people that they should be saved to avoid hell and to have their needs met, that's what they will have faith for.

That prayer is worship, thanksgiving and praise.

That we have to pray in line with His will.

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

Prayer is governed by laws.

Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. (Romans 3:27 NIV)

You only receive if you believe.

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. (Hebrews 11:6 NIV)

Faith comes from hearing the word.

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ. (Romans 10:14-17 NIV)

Prayer is 'speaking to your mountain.'

"Have faith in God," Jesus answered. "Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. (Mark 11:22-24 NIV)

God already knows what you need.

And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. (Matthew 6:7, 8 NIV)

He is not withholding things from you but you have to say something. Take authority over your circumstances. Talk to things!

Don't limit God!

He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. He was amazed at their lack of faith. Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. (Mark 6:5, 6 NIV)