

The Bulletin

Meeks Street Church of Christ

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July 16, 2023

“There Are Blessings In Prayer”

By Carol R. Sutton



Prayer is a subject of great importance. "Pray" in different forms appears in the Bible more than five hundred times. Although there is much said in God's Word about prayer, many people do not understand the truth about it. Traditions and personal desires and preferences account for the error that is believed and taught by many on this subject. Unless one is willing to study and accept what God's Word says on this subject, he cannot be pleasing to God and saved eternally.

Great men of the past have been men of prayer. Abraham, the friend of God, prayed to God on behalf of Abimelech, who had taken Sarah his wife, and God healed him, his wife and his maidservants (Genesis 20:1-18). When some of the Israelites were being consumed with the fire of the Lord because they were complaining, Moses prayed unto the Lord and the fire was quenched (Numbers 11:1-2).

Hannah, who was barren, prayed for a son and the Lord opened her womb and blessed her by giving her Samuel (1 Samuel 1). Elijah, a man subject to like passions as we are, prayed for it not to rain, and *"it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months."* And he prayed again, and *"the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her rain"* (James 5:17-18). God heard the prayer of Hezekiah who was sick, and God healed him and extended his life fifteen years (2 Kings 20).

As a result of Daniel praying to God three times a day, he was cast into a den of lions, but God delivered him (Daniel 6:10-23). Job was blessed of the Lord because "he prayed for his friends" (Job 42:10).

Jesus emphasized the need of persistent prayer in Luke 18:1-8. Paul taught that men should pray often and regularly (Rom. 12:12; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:17). *"Lord teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples"* should be the sentiment of every true child of God. Is it yours?

“The Rock”

By Craig Thomas

In Psalm 28, David pours out his heart to the Lord for His aid, comfort, and protection. May we learn from David's example that the Lord is the only true "Rock" (v. 1) upon which we can build our lives.

Jesus addressed this when He told the story of the contrast between the *"wise man who built his house on the rock"* versus the *"foolish man who built his house on the sand"* (Matt. 7:24-27).

Anyone with even a cursory understanding of sound construction principles knows that when the *"rains descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon"* those two houses what the result would be. The wise man's house *"did not fall, for it was founded on the rock."*

On the contrary, the “foolish” man’s house “fell”; and “great was its fall.” The obvious point is not construction principles; it is life principles! The wiseman’s life remained solid, serene, and pleasing to God because he built his life on hearing and obeying God’s Word (Matt. 7:24). The foolish man’s life “came apart at the seams” because he did not hear and obey God’s Word (Matt. 7:26).

When the storms of life roll in with their howling winds and driving rain what will you do? If you’ve built your house properly by relying on the true “Rock” you will be buffeted and challenged but survive the experience and be the better for it (Jas. 1:2-4; 1 Pet. 1:6-7).

If the Lord is not your “Rock” you will be between the proverbial “rock and a hard place.” You will be washed downstream and suffer utter destruction. People of that spiritually unprofitable mindset believe they can cruise through life unscathed by problems. This Psalm explodes that myth! Things may appear “hunky dory” but the bill for taking the Lord for granted always, sooner or later, comes due. As David said:

*“4 Give them according to their deeds,
And according to the wickedness of their endeavors;
Give them according to the work of their hands;
Render to them what they deserve.
5 Because they do not regard the works of the Lord,
Nor the operation of His hands,
He shall destroy them
And not build them up.” (Psalms 28:4-5)*

It is easy to delude ourselves into the false notion we can spend our lives satisfying self and ignoring the “Rock” and never have to answer for it. That is the epitome of self-deception. Ultimately “the righteous judgment of God” will hold us accountable and the “Rock” “*will render to each one according to his deeds: eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness — indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil*” (Rom. 2:6-9).

As each day of our life is lived, we are building our eternal house. How is yours coming along? Do you have flood insurance?!

“Spiritual ABC’s”

By Brad Phillips

As we strive to be faithful children of God, let’s consider the following spiritual ABC’s.

- Add to your faith (**2 Peter 1:5-11**).
- Be brave and be strong (**1 Corinthians 16:13**).
- Care for one another (**1 Corinthians 12:25**).
- Do your part (**Ephesians 4:16**).
- Endure hardship (**2 Timothy 2:3**).
- Forgive one another (**Ephesians 4:32**).
- Grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord (**2 Peter 3:18**).
- Honor all people (**1 Peter 2:17**).
- Increase and abound in love to one another (**1 Thessalonians 3:12**).
- Judge with righteous judgment (**John 7:24**).
- Keep the Lord’s commandments (**John 14:15**).
- Love the Lord thy God with thy all (**Mark 12:30**).
- Mind your own business (**1 Thessalonians 4:11**).
- Never grow weary while doing good (**Galatians 6:9**).
- Obey God rather than men (**Acts 5:29**).
- Pray without ceasing (**1 Thessalonians 5:17**).
- Quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord (**Lamentations 3:26**).
- Rejoice in the Lord always (**Philippians 4:4**).
- Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (**Matthew 6:33**).
- Teach others (**2 Timothy 2:24-26**).

Understand the will of the Lord (**Ephesians 5:17**).

Visit your brethren (**Acts 15:36**).

Walk worthy of the Lord (**Colossians 1:10**).

Exercise thyself toward godliness (**1 Timothy 4:7**).

Yield not to temptation (**James 1:12**).

Be Zealous for good works (**Titus 2:14**).

I encourage all of us to strive to make proper application of these ABC's as we seek to be right in the sight of God!

News and Notes:

Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, J F Dancer, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Sandra Oliver, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Burt Ward, Jamie Jones, Janet Boren, Fred Johnson, Todd Bryan, Alton Bailey, Joe Shane, Bill Woodall, Mary Ann Holley, and Anita Harris.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Blake Briggs
Preaching: Adam Harris
Sermon #1: "The Complications Of Isolation"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Jerry Kennemur
Author: 1 & 2 Thessalonians
Starting Page & Question: Mark Mayberry
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Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Russell Briggs
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Dan Cottrell
Scripture Reading: Matthew 14:25-33
Song Leader: Lee Busby
Lord's Supper: Paul Busby
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Adam Harris
Sermon #2: "The Discomfort Zone"
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Sr.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

July 19, 2023

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Johnson
Workbook: Ezekiel
Author: Dan King
Starting Page & Question: — —
Invitation: Russell Briggs
Song Leader: Paul Busby
Closing Prayer: Danny Sheffield