

## PRAYER

Prayer is a wonderful blessing for the child of God. In Daniel 6:4-11, Daniel prays in spite of the king's prohibition of prayer. Prayer is a powerful part of our lives. The words prayer, prayers, praying, and pray are found 451 times in the Bible—Prayer is important. Therefore, we will observe some things concerning this great privilege.

1. What is prayer? Prayer means to petition, request, or entreat. It is the way in which we communicate with God (Rom. 10:1). Prayer involves praise (Mat. 6:9), thanksgiving (Phi. 4:6), confession (I John 1:9), and petitions (Phi. 4:6).

2. Why should we pray? Prayer is a direct command (1 Thess. 5:17). It is a means of obtaining blessings (Jam. 4:2). Prayer is a powerful tool in the hand of the faithful (Acts 4:32).

3. When should we pray? Petitions should be as often as our needs and thanksgivings as often as our blessings (Psa. 55:17).

4. For what should we pray? We should pray for strength in temptations (Mat. 26:41), for wisdom (Jam. 1:5-7), for unity (John 17:20-21), for forgiveness (Mat. 6:12), for the sick (2 Sam. 12:16), and for people in general (1 Tim. 2:1).

5. What hinders our prayers? Prayers are hindered by allowing sin to remain in our lives (Isa. 59:1-2), by praying selfishly (Jam. 4:3), and by doubting (Jam. 1:5-8).

6. Who can pray? The obedient (1 John 3:22), the submissive (I John 5:14), and the faithful (John 15:7). Please notice that the sinner is not heard. One who continues in sin is not heard (1 Pet. 3:12; John 9:31; Psa. 66:18; Isa. 59:1-2).

7. How should we pray? It really does matter how we pray. We must pray fervently (Jam. 5:16), and we must pray

believing (Mark 11:24). Our prayers are to be addressed to the Father, not to Jesus. (John 16:23).

8. God really does answer prayers. The Bible clearly teaches that God hears and answers our prayers and receives the thanksgiving we offer before Him (Isa. 65:24; Psa. 118:5; 120:1; Heb. 4:16; 1 Pet. 3:12; Mat. 7:7-11).

Prayer is the faithful child of God's way of communicating with Him. It can bring about changes in our lives and in the lives of others as God works in the realm of His providence. May we ever have the attitude found in Luke 11:1; "one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray."

---

Toney L. Smith

### ARE WE WILLING TO "HEAR" AND "DO"?

In II Kings 18 we are being introduced to King Hezekiah, one of the best kings Judah ever had. In verse three we read, "And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord..." When I said he was one of the best kings Judah ever had it was not just my opinion, for verse five says, "He trusted in the Lord God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him," And the next verse tells us why, "For he clave to the Lord, and departed not from following him, but kept his commandments, which the Lord commanded Moses." And because he **HEARD** the word of God and **DID** what it said, "the Lord was with him, and he prospered whithersoever he went forth..." (v. 7).

In the same chapter we are also given an insight into the Northern Kingdom, Israel and beginning in verse eleven we read, "And the king of Assyria did carry away Israel unto Assyria, and put them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes: Because they obeyed not the voice of the Lord their God, but transgressed his

covenant, and all that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded, and would **NOT HEAR THEM, NOR DO THEM** (emphasis mine, MW). Here we find the answer as to why Israel was destroyed — they **WOULD NOT HEAR**, and they **WOULD NOT DO!**

**FOUR OPTIONS** seem to be available to us in this regard. In times past, and in our own day, there are those who:

(1) Will **NOT HEAR** and will **NOT DO**. Israel is our prime example here. Jeremiah gives us another example in chapter six where the people said, "We will not walk therein...We will not hearken."

(2) Will **HEAR** but **NOT DO**. The Rich Young Ruler in Matthew 19, wanted to hear what he needed to do, but then would not do "But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions" (v. 22)

(3) Will **DO** but **NOT HEAR**. This is the "do-your-own-thing" philosophy. Those in Judges 17:6 wanted to do what **THEY** wanted to do, but not hear what God said.

(4) Who **HEAR** and **DO**. All of those listed in Hebrews 11 fall into this category. They heard God's word and did what He said. The Hebrew writer said they did these things "by faith." That's how Romans 10:17 explains faith — "hearing and doing."

**WHERE DO WE FIT IN?** Remember what James wrote on this subject? "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves" (James 1 22). May we never follow Israel's example in II Kings 18:12. Nor those James describes as "forgetful hearers." We need to always be those who gladly **HEAR** and **DO**.

---

Michael Wyatt

## BIRTHDAYS

Ted Thrasher, 11-30; Linda Thomas, 12-02.

## ILL

**Sunday:** Steven and Debbie Schleif; Millie Robertson (PM).

John Shafer's daughter, Jody Hartman, was hospitalized with loss of control of her arms and legs on Friday.

**Those battling cancer:** Ledgia Campbell, David Cole, Shauna Heck, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

## HOME BOUND

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Barbara James' Aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at Sharon Lane in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

## SYMPATHY

Our sympathy is extended to our sister Clara Scott and her family in the passing of her sister Elizabeth Ray on Thursday, November 26, 2009. Visitation will be held at the Dickey Funeral Home in Garden City, Missouri on Thursday, December 3 at 1 PM with funeral services following at 2 PM. Interment will be at the Garden City Cemetery.

## OUT OF TOWN

Erin Stillwell was visiting with camp friends last Sunday. Chris Edwards was away on business last week. The Thrasher families were visiting relatives in Aurora, MO over the Thanksgiving holiday.

## POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held next Sunday, December 6, following our AM worship. All are welcome to come and enjoy the good food and company!

## ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 47; Sunday PM, 32; Wednesday PM, 28.

## Those To Serve

November 29, 2009

**BUILDING AND COMMUNION.....Thomas**

### MORNING WORSHIP

**ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Trent Thrasher**  
**SONG LEADER.....Joel Nelson**  
**OPENING PRAYER.....Jared Nelson**  
**PRESIDE.....Jeff Nemechek**  
**ASSIST.....John Cody Carter**  
**ASSIST.....Dave Parish**  
**CLOSING PRAYER.....George Thomas**

### EVENING WORSHIP

**OPENING PRAYER.....John Dodson**  
**CLOSING PRAYER.....Chris Edwards**  
**LORD'S SUPPER.....Jeff Nemechek**

**WEDNESDAY Dec. 2nd**

**SONG LEADER.....George Thomas**  
**INVITATION.....Jeff Nemechek**

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Sunday

Bible Study..... 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship..... 10:30 AM  
Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM

### Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study..... 10:00 AM  
Bible Study..... 7:00 PM

**Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher**

**Phone: (913) 764-2325**

**E-mail: [olathecofc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:olathecofc@sbcglobal.net)**

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**515 WEST PARK**

**P.O. BOX 482**

**OLATHE, KANSAS 66051**

**[www.kc-cofc.org/olathe.htm](http://www.kc-cofc.org/olathe.htm)**

**[www.oabs.org/olathe.asp](http://www.oabs.org/olathe.asp)**