



Privileges in Prayer

Psalm 55:16-17

Privileges in Prayer



- Psalm 55:16-17 - “As for me, I will call upon God, And the LORD shall save me. 17 Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice.”
 - David related his troubles - 1-14
 - He spelled out the doom of the wicked - 15.
 - After feeling defeated, David remembered the privilege of prayer - 16-17

Prayer Allows Access To God

- When we pray, we address the Creator
 - Psalm 115:1-9 - “Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, But to Your name give glory, Because of Your mercy, Because of Your truth. 2 Why should the Gentiles say, So where is their God? 3 But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases. 4 Their idols are silver and gold, The work of men's hands. 5 They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see; 6 They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell; 7 They have hands, but they do not handle; Feet they have, but they do not walk; Nor do they mutter through their throat. 8 Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them. 9 O Israel, trust in the LORD; He is their help and their shield.”

Prayer Allows Access To God

- When we pray, we address the Creator
 - Eph. 3:20 - “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think...”
 - Isa. 40:12 - “Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, Measured heaven with a span And calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales And the hills in a balance?”
 - Col. 1:16-17 - “For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.”

Prayer Allows Access To God

- Prayer brings us into his presence
 - Heb. 4:16 - “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”
- Our access is by Divine invitation
 - Psalm 50:15 - “Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.”

Prayer Is Available To All Believers

- Prayer is not just the activity of the spiritually powerful. Prayer is open to all saints, without exception
 - 1John 5:14-15 - “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”
 - John 15:7 - “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.”

Prayer Is Available To All Believers

- Many great prayers were offered by ordinary believers
 - Hannah - 1Sam. 1:9-12, 17 - “So Hannah arose after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the tabernacle of the LORD. 10 And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish. 11 Then she made a vow and said, O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head. 12 And it happened, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli watched her mouth... 17 Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him.”

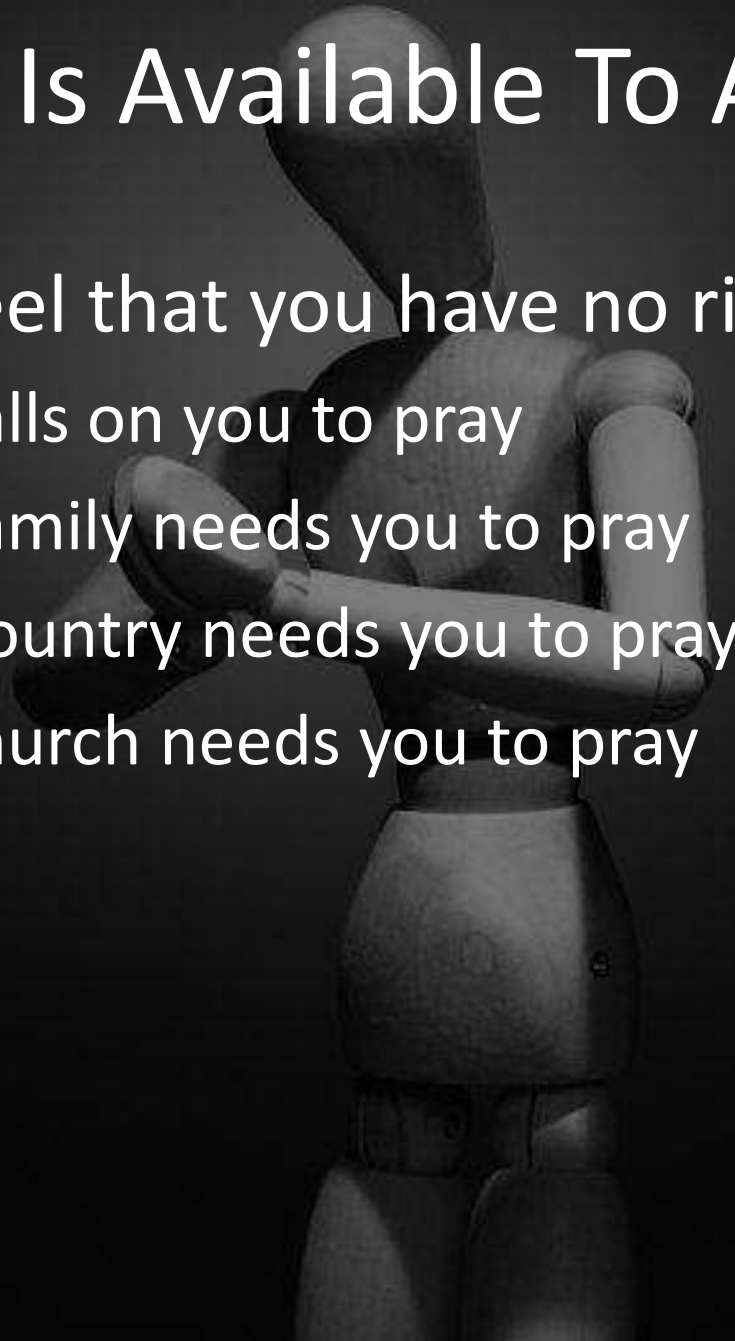
Prayer Is Available To All Believers



- Many great prayers were offered by ordinary believers
 - The publican - Luke 18:13 - “And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!’”
 - The dying thief - Luke 23:42 - “Then he said to Jesus, Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.”

Prayer Is Available To All Believers

- Never feel that you have no right to pray.
 - God calls on you to pray
 - Your family needs you to pray
 - Your country needs you to pray
 - This church needs you to pray



Prayer Anticipates God's Answer

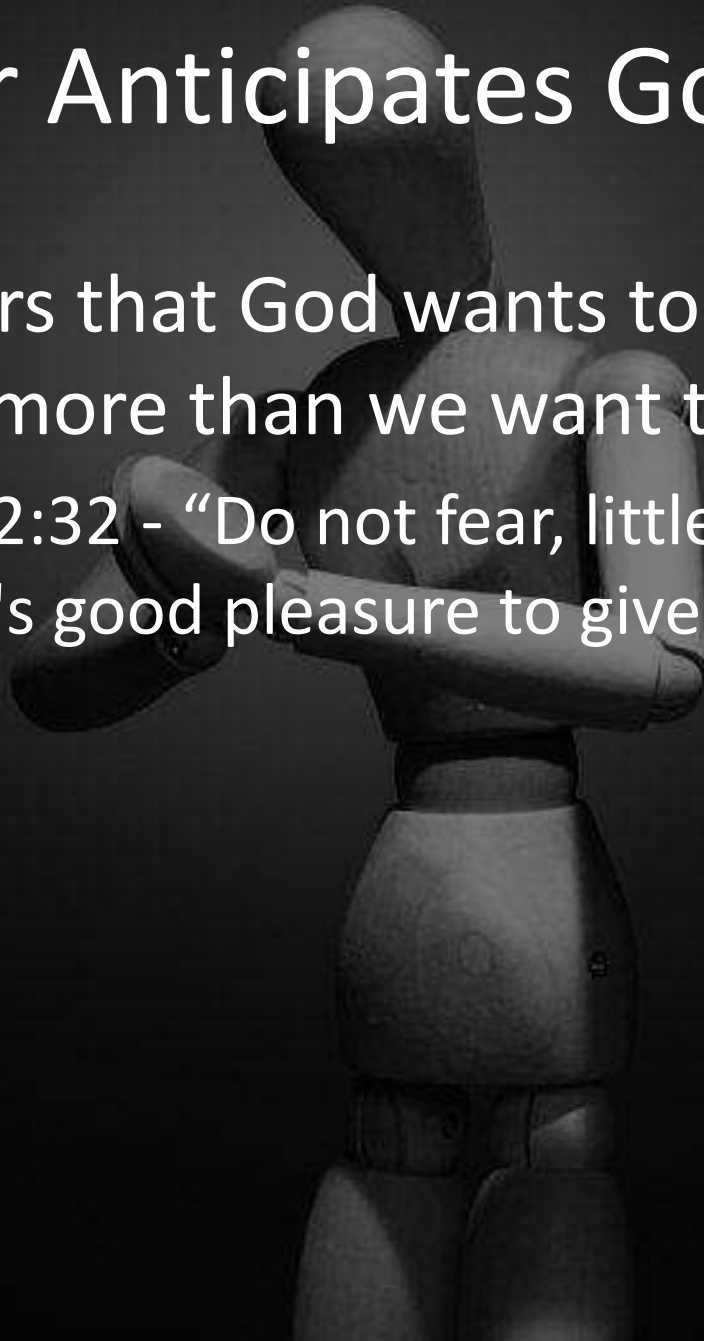
- Prayer is a privilege because God promised He will hear and answer
 - Jer. 33:3 - “Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.”
 - Isa. 65:24 - “It shall come to pass That before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear.”

Prayer Anticipates God's Answer

- This gives us confidence when we pray
 - John 14:13-14 - “And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”
 - John 16:23-24 - “And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. 24 Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”

Prayer Anticipates God's Answer

- It appears that God wants to answer our prayers more than we want them answered
 - Luke 12:32 - “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”



Prayer Anticipates God's Answer

- If there is a breakdown between our prayers and God's will to answer, it lies in our prayers
 - James 4:2-3 - "You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures."
 - 1John 5:14 - "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."

Prayer Achieves The Impossible

- Matt. 17:20 - Prayer has the power to summon the Providentially supernatural in this natural world
 - Elijah on Mt. Carmel - 1Kings 18:36-38
 - Abraham for Sodom - Gen. 18:23-25, 32
 - Moses for Israel - Ex. 32:11-14

Prayer Achieves The Impossible



- How many here are living different and better lives because of the power of prayer?
- Never say God cannot do it; prayer is a privilege because it can achieve the impossible
 - James 5:15 - “And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.”

Prayer Advances The Kingdom Of God



- 2Thes. 3:1 - “Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you”
- Our prayers can influence events in places where we cannot go and in times where we will not live.
 - Overseas works
 - Family in distant places
 - Policy in government
 - The health of the sick and shut-ins
 - The concept of “prayer warriors”

Prayer Advances The Kingdom Of God

- The power of prayer lies not in the preacher or the church building. The power is those who pray in faith, anywhere at any time
 - Matt. 6:5-6 - “And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.”

Prayer Advances The Kingdom Of God



- Prayer opens doors, hinders evil, heals the sick, and convicts the sinner.
 - Rom. 1:9 - “For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers”
 - Rom. 15:30 - “Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me”

Prayer Advocates God's Greatness

- The connection between prayers of men, the power of God, and the faith it produces
 - 1Kings 18:36-39 - “And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. 37 Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again. 38 Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. 39 Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!”

Prayer Announces God's Greatness

- Prayer declares His grace - He allows sinners access.
- Prayer declares His goodness - He is willing to hear and answer.
- Prayer declares His greatness - it unleashes the power of God in this world
- Prayer declares His glory - it shows Him to be the only true and living God
- After salvation, prayer is the greatest privilege we enjoy.
- Go often to the throne of God in prayer.