

THE BENEFIT OF PRAYER

John 16:24

Introduction: Happiness comes and goes and often sorrow replaces the happiness as everyone knows. The world is full of unsuspecting changes. The Disciples' happiness of being with Jesus had changed into sadness upon His telling them that He was going to be leaving them, however Jesus assured them that whatever they asked the heavenly Father in His (Jesus') name, it would be granted and the answers to their prayers would far outweigh the loss of their happiness of having Jesus there with them. Jesus was telling them to pray and they would have their prayers answered and they would be blessed and filled with joy. That has not changed for there are great benefits in praying.

I. AS A BELIEVER IN JESUS, IT IS ONE'S DUTY TO PRAY

1. It is an easy "duty."
 - If one's heart is not right with God, it is more difficult to pray, however prayer is possible.
 - When one's heart is right with God, then prayer is as easy as breathing is to the body and it is the first and most natural thing the saved soul can do.
2. It is a reasonable "duty."
 - No question that people are dependent and it is only reasonable that they should recognize their dependence at God's throne of grace and ask for those mercies which he/she stands in need of.
 - True, God already knows one's needs before being asked, but it is only right and proper that one should bring them to God and lay them before him, thus humbling one's self before God.
3. It is a necessary "duty."
 - God cannot be forced nor coerced, or begged into answering prayer, yet He has appointed prayer as the means of obtaining His blessings.
 - There is no way to try to figure out all the ins and outs of prayer, but it is sufficient to know that God has required it as a means to meeting one's needs and if one will not do things God's way, then there is no need to go to Him in prayer, asking for this or that.
4. It is an accepted "duty."
 - God will not hear any prayer offered that does not show respect to His Son, Jesus Christ, but when one offers his/her prayer through God's Son, Jesus Christ, it gets God's attention.
 - Jesus told His Disciples to ask in His name and the Father would grant their prayers.

II. BELIEVERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PRAY

1. God hears all those who pray, the vilest person who comes to Him in the name of Jesus shall be heard.
2. There is no limit to what one may ask God for, provided what they ask for will bring good and is in accordance with God's will.

3. God delights in the well being of His people and desires that they should be happy here on earth as well as when they get to heaven, so it is with this in mind that God commands prayer to be a "duty" because when done right, it is the means of filling one's soul with the greatest joy.
 - Prayer can bring peace to the most upset mind.
 - Let a person under sudden irritation or calamity begin to pray and quickly that irritation and uneasiness is calmed, and things become more quiet, enabling that person to get good out of the potential evil and will turn sorrow into joy.
 - Prayer brings God near to one's soul.
 - In answering prayer, God takes away any veil that might block one's view of Him.
 - Moses saw that veil removed and saw God's brightness.
 - The three chosen Disciples saw the veil removed when on the mount and saw Jesus and some heavenly men.
 - Prayer can remove things that have blocked one's clear view of God up to that moment.
 - Prayer gives on an earnest, foretaste of heaven itself.
 - Happiness in heaven comes because of the presence of God and prayer brings the presence of God to that one in prayer.
 - Countless can speak of great joy that came from spending time alone with God's presence.
 - Praying, in a sense, is bringing heaven down to earth to where that one praying is.

CONCLUSION:

1. Sometimes one does not get what he/she prays for, then what?
 - Do not think that God hasn't heard or has gone back on His promise.
 - *"...you ask amiss..." (James 4:3)*
 - Asking coldly, formally, hypocritically, no respect to the name of Jesus, the Son of God will cause God to not answer one's prayer.
 - Pray as one ought, as God commanded, and one shall never complain of not being heard.
2. A warning to those who have answered prayers.
 - Be careful to not think yourself to be more holy than you really are, don't become puffed up with pride because "God heard your prayer."
 - Always fall at God's feet in humility, let not pride nor boastfulness be a part of you.
 - If you ever feel secure and in charge, you become vain and if that happens, God will hide His face from you and not answer your prayers.
3. Christian, believer, God has commanded that you pray, go to Him with your needs, go to Him with your concerns, go to Him for fellowship but do so in humility and in the name of His Son, Jesus.