

## **PRAYER**

Prayer is one of the central most precious gifts given us as children of God. Sadly it likewise may be one of the most neglected. How often we pray, what we say when we pray and the reasons we pray, if not careful become more of a habit than a sincere pouring out of our heart unto God. How often do we find ourselves praying along habitually, citing certain phrases or reciting a check list of things we need to pray for? While we may be saying the words, our thoughts are somewhere else. Many times we are focusing on some carnal difficulty that we are facing. I'm not suggesting that these burdens of life are not real and deserve our attention, but we must realize that the stress and the doubt associated these burdens are a hindrance to our spiritual life and can be fatal to our soul. When we find ourselves dealing with difficulties in our life that has engulfed our service to God negatively what do we do? When Hannah desperately desired a child in 1 **Sam 1:9-15** Notice how she deals with her burden. ***(KJV) 9So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD. 10And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore. 11And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head. 12And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli marked her mouth. 13Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken. 14And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? Put away thy wine from thee. 15And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.*** In Lamentations 2; 19 The word of God from the mouth of Jeremiah says **19 Get up! Cry out at night, every hour on the hour. Pour your heart out like water in the presence of the Lord. Lift up your hands to him *{in prayer}* for the life of your little children who faint from hunger at every street corner.** When faced with difficulty and our soul is endangered where do we turn? Christ says come unto me all you who labor and are heavy laden I will give you rest **Matthew 11:28**. In **Hebrews 4:16** we're encouraged to boldly approach the throne of grace in time of need. Take it to the Lord in prayer. We should diligently use the gift of prayer that God would help us in these endeavors, asking in faith nothing wavering **James 1**. Prayer is not a habit God desires we develop simply so we can say we have prayed. It is a gift He has given us. When we humbly accept this gift it results in a pouring out of our souls unto God. **Psalms 5:1-3 (KJV) 1Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my meditation. 2Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray. 3My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct *my prayer* unto thee, and will look up.**

Jay Dixon