



CrossRoads Notes:

Turn your Bibles to John 15:7

Title: Connecting in Prayer

Theme: Five Truths to Success in Prayer

“If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.” (John 15:7)

Introduction: *Every child of God has gone through a dry period in prayer and some have never really been able to fully enjoy the success in prayer that the Lord Jesus wants them to experience. Many do not know what the heart attitude should be in coming to the Lord in prayer.*

Proposition: *I would propose to you that when the child of God understands and submits to the Lord in Biblical prayer, he will find himself obeying God’s instructions to “pray continually.” (1 Thessalonians 5:17)*

Interrogative Sentence: *Just what are five Biblical truths that enable the child of God to enjoy success in prayer?*

Transitional Sentence: *If Christians submit and cling to these truths, they can expect to see God, answer their prayers in a way that will glorify Jesus Christ in and through their lives.*

The thrust to being successful in prayer is beautifully presented in the key word “remain” or better translated as “abide” in the New American Standard Bible. Therefore, it is a necessity that we understand what Jesus meant when He said, “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you...”

To “abide” (*meno*) as it is used in John 15:7 gives us the idea that the child of God has a heart that studies and learns the Word of God. This Christian’s thoughts, desires and motivations are birthed forth as he prayerfully reads the Bible. The application is that he remains united with Jesus Christ in mind, heart and will. It also has a command to hold on, to continue on, to keep obeying, to live on and rest in the everlasting loving arms of Christ. The purpose for this type of living is to cleanse the heart so as to do away with selfish prayers. The connection in “abiding” is maintained by obedience to the written Word of God.

Illustrations: Real Human Circumstances

The fact is, unless Christians are abiding in Christ and abiding in His words, they will not have the spiritual strength to keep themselves out of the gutter of the flesh, the world, and lies of the devil. Jesus Christ is the only one who can bring deliverance and the Word of God is the only food that can make and keep them spiritually healthy.

Illustration: Robertson of Brighten

The Word of God reveals to all that they have a Friend that gave His very life for the redemption of mankind and He rose from the dead so Christians can have victory over sin and death. The connection is sacrificial love and abiding in Christ involves having a Biblical picture of what Jesus has and will do for you. Our Biblical picture of abiding is found in the relationship that Jesus had with His Father. Jesus was in contact with God; again and again Jesus withdrew into a solitary place to meet with God in prayer.

Christians must follow the example of Christ. They must deliberately take steps to establish and maintain a constant relationship with the Lord Jesus. By arranging life so as to be prayerfully reading and studying the Word of God so they can give attention to it. They must consciously be in prayer, through the day, so they can meditate on what Jesus is telling them to get done. They must be in humble prayer asking for the will to obey and the strength to endure.

Foundational truths to abiding in Christ: One, the Christian must enrich his own life by having an ongoing surrendered relationship with Jesus Christ. Two, his prayers are to be for the glory of Jesus Christ alone. As he prays with this in mind and heart, the results of his prayer life turns men's hearts to God and Christ.

Three questions asked by those who are successful in prayer:

1.) Do I admit and confess the wrong that the Holy Spirit reveals to me is offensive to the Lord?

(1 John 1:8)

2.) Am I presently ignoring God's Word and avoiding His Biblical principles for living?

(1 John 3:21-22)

3.) Do I really want to surrender to God's will for my life?

(1 John 5:14-15)

Transitional Sentence: *The first step to Christians connecting with God in prayer is to be honest with themselves. Do they live in way that reflects a life of abiding in Christ? Jesus Christ gives us another truth to connecting with God in prayer.*

(Mark 11:24-25)

One, you must have a faith that Christ will answer your prayer in accordance to His Father's will and two, you must have a forgiving attitude toward others.

Illustration: Andrew Lang

Robert Bridges wrote, "To forgive is the sign of a great man, but to forget is sublime. Nothing but the cleansing Spirit of Christ can take from these memories of ours the old bitterness that we must forget.

Do you rely on the Holy Spirit to cleanse your heart and keep the root of bitterness out so you can be successful and connect in prayer to God?

Transitional Sentence: *Being connected in prayer means that you must have a compassionate heart to the needs of those who cry out for help.*

(Proverbs 12:13)

(James 1:27)

Illustration: Multi-multi-multi- millionaire

This leads to the obvious question “What is our purpose to having God answer the prayers we pray?”

Transitional Sentence: *If we want to be connected to God in prayer, we must pray that God will make us a blessing to others. Then we must believe that God will answer prayer and never take our authority in Christ for granted.*

(James 1:5-7)

It is to believe it when He says, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” (Hebrew 13:5b) God’s people are secure no matter what comes their way, so there is no need to use the world’s way of doing things. It is to believe it when he said “...and surely I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20) Christians are to go forth in the Great Commission in confidence that Jesus is in sovereign control of everything in heaven and on earth.

Matthew’s Gospel does not end with a command, but a promise and there is a truth that must be grasped in the Greek word for “always” (*pasa tes hemeras*), strictly meaning “the whole of every day.” This suggests that Christ continued presence is with us “day in and day out” no matter what troubles or difficulties may come.”

Caution: Wrong approach to doing the Lord’s work

(Mark chapter 9:14-29)

Transitional Sentence: *Once you have it deep within your heart that God answers all prayers offered up for the glory of Christ, you must pray in Jesus’ name if you want to connect with God in prayer.*

(John 14:13-14)

Illustration: “In My Name”

In Closing: There are five truths to connecting in prayer 1.) Christians must be abiding in Christ. 2.) Have a forgiving heart. 3.) Have a compassionate heart to the needs of others. 4.) Believe that God will answer prayer and 5.) Pray in Jesus’ Name.

Let us Pray!