

Wednesday's Wisdom

a weekly short note from Mike Minear

"Showing Gratitude In Prayer"

By Joshua Creel

In Acts chapter 2 we read about the 3,000 that were forgiven of their terrible crime and in gratitude they devoted themselves to knowing His will, to fellowship with their brothers and sisters and to worshipping the Lord. (vs. 42) Just like those 3,000 on the Day of Pentecost, if you are in Christ then you have reason to rejoice every day because God has forgiven you of your sins! So, we should emulate their example and show our gratitude every day.

Note: The following is Mr. Creel's sermon outline from this past Sunday's sermon. This 30 min lesson is available along with his lesson on "Showing Gratitude in Bible Study" on DVD, I will be happy to mail you a free copy, just ask. Mike

I. Recognizing the value of Prayer.

A. As we read, the early church was devoted to prayer. **Acts 2:42**

B. Since all of these Christians were from Jewish backgrounds they would have appreciated prayer:

1. The peace and assurance of the godly as they pray,

Psalm 4

2. The awesome privilege of petitioning the Almighty, **Psalm**

65.

II. Practical ways we can show gratitude in prayer:

A. Begin with the proper perspective.

1. For too many, prayer is nothing more than obligation, **cf. 1Thess. 5:17**

2. But our Lord wants us to view prayer as opportunity!

a) An opportunity to "ask, seek and knock" knowing that our God hears and gives wondrous gifts! **Luke 11:5-13**

b) An opportunity to gain courage, because we are petitioning the Righteous One! **Luke 18:1-8**

c) An opportunity to lay our anxieties upon Him!

1Peter 5:6-7

B. Always be ready to pray. **1Thes. 5:17**

1. Should have regular times when we pray, **Daniel 6:10**

2. Pray whenever we see a fitting occasion, **Neh. 2:1-4**

C. Make prayer a simple expression of the heart, **Matt. 6:5-13.** God is wanting to hear from us! Perhaps, we need to take the formality (not the humility or respect) out of prayer.

D. Remember one of the main purposes of prayer: thankfulness. **1Thes 5:16,18**

1. Note to those leading public prayers: you are leading the whole congregations souls in prayer. Our prayers need to lay our hearts before God and need to focus giving thanks to Him

not just reciting a list of sick and other concerns that we may have.

E. Tune your prayers to the will of God.

1. God answers according to His will, **1 John 5:14-15**
2. We need to trust Him and be able to pray that His will be done, cf. **Luke 22:42**
3. There is wondrous assurance in such prayers! **Phil. 4:4-**

7

Conclusion: Is prayer an obligation to you? Those on Pentecost devoted themselves to prayer because their sins were forgiven and they wanted to communicate to their Father. Will you remember what God has done for you, and turn prayer into an opportunity? An opportunity to speak to our Father!