

"Prayer." Acts 12:5; 12.
Acts 12:5;

Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

Acts 12:12;

And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered to gather praying.

1-Prayer:

1-This subject is one that has generally been misconstrued and misrepresented.

2-In fact, it has been badly handled by those who know more of theology than the Bible.

2-Prayer is universal; Natural instinct of man.

1-It is as natural for man to pray when in sorrow as to eat when hungry.

2-Prayer is common to all races and nationalities. Heathern nations pray with fervor for the blessings of their deities.

3-Indeed, is it doubtful if a human being ever existed who did not voice, at some time in life, the sentiment of his soul to some higher power.

3-The Bible the only positive revelation of God to man.

1-Since the Bible is God's revelation to man to the Bible we go for an understanding of this subject-the subject of prayer.

"Prayer." Acts 12:5; 12.

1-The Meaning of Prayer:

It is a supplication addressed to God.

One should not be given to discursiveness in his prayer. Roving-Rambling.

2-Prayer is not just a desire:

1-If our desire is strong enough our wish or prayer will come to pass. False.

2-Prayer must be made in intelligible statements:

1-Jesus taught his disciples to pray after a certain manner, and then gave them the form of words. Matthew 6:9-13.

3-Hannah spoke in her heart, yet her lips moved in prayer:

1-First Samuel 1-13;

Now Hannah, she spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought that she had been drunken.

4-We must do more than desire-we must ask for what we would receive:

1-First Samuel 1:27;

For this child I prayed and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him.

2-John 14:13;

And what soever ye shall ask in my name that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

1-To enjoy these promises, we must:

1-Believe; 2-We must ask in his name.

3-We must approach him with a complete submission to the Father's will.

2-As Jesus prayed-Luke 22:42-Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

"Prayer." Acts 12:5; 12.

3-Prayer is not vain repetition: Matt.6:7

1-But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that shall be heard for their much speaking.

1-Vain repetitions and much speaking were used by Gentiles in heathen worship.

2-These repetitions and much speaking lose sight of the true motive in praying to God.

2-Christian prayers:

Christians should be careful to restrict the use of their word in prayer.

Christians should use great simplicity and not high-sounding phraseology in prayer. We are speaking to God in our prayers and should be careful of our speech.

4-We consider next "The Posture in Prayer"

There are instances on record of various postures in prayer.

1-Standing: 2-Chronicles 20:5;

When Moab came against Jehoshaphat it is said that, Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord before the new court and prayed.

2-Standing: Mark 11:25-27;

And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: That you Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

3-Bowing: Exodus 4:31

1-Israel bowed their heads and worshipped

2-Nehemiah 8:6; After Ezra had read the law to all the people "They bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground."

"Prayer." Acts 12:5; 12.

4-"Posture in Prayer" continued:

4-Kneeling: Acts 7:60;

1-Stephen knelt down when he prayed.

2-Acts 9:40;

When Peter raised Tabatha to life he knelt down to pray.

3-Acts 20:36;

On the seacoast with the Ephesian elders Paul knelt down with them and prayed.

4-Acts 21:5;

Before Paul left the Christian of Tyre, where he tarried seven days, he knelt down with them and prayed.

5-Prostrated: Joshua 5:14;

When the Captain of of the host of the Lord appeared to just before the battle of Jericho, Joshua fell on his face to the earth and did worship.

Prostrated: Matthew 26:39;

In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus fell on his face and prayed saying,

"O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: Nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."