

### 13. Pray and Keep On Praying

As one of the special projects in a congregation, members were being encouraged to select certain missionaries for whom they would faithfully pray each day over a certain period of time. As different ones were volunteering, Gordon and Sue were discussing between themselves as to whether or not they should make such a commitment. It wasn't that they didn't want to - rather, would they be able to live up to their promise? Obviously they were taking the whole matter very seriously. They wanted to make certain that they would faithfully follow through. The two points they were questioning were: Would they remember to pray for the missionary family each day, and would they have the time?

What a wonderful privilege is ours to be able to go directly to the holy Lord God anytime, day or night with anything in humble, fervent prayer. As in all other matters, if we would pray successfully, we would do well to follow Jesus' example.

Jesus prayed in **PUBLIC**. He made it a practice to go to the synagogues and take part in the public worship. And His Word to us is not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together." *Hebrews 10:25*. He tells us that where two or three are gathered in His name, He's right there in their midst.

Jesus also had the habit of **PRIVATE** prayer. We are told in *Matt. 14:23*, "After He had dismissed the crowd, He went up into the hills by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone." As Jesus loved private prayer, so He bids and encourages us: "When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father. Your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you." *Matthew 6:6*.

Jesus' prayer life was also very **PERSONAL**. As a model, our wonderful Savior gave His disciples of all time the brief and beautiful, "Our Father." Only seventy words, but how all inclusive!

Also, Jesus was instant in prayer, insistent and **PERSISTENT** as when He pleaded to His Father in Gethsemane's Garden. We are urged to "continue instant in prayer." *Romans 12:12* Pray and keep on praying.

Furthermore, we have so very much for which to give all praise and **THANKS** to God from "Whom all blessings flow." Take inventory and see what great things God has done for you and give thanks. "Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him." *Col. 3:17*.

Jesus prayed for His **FRIENDS**, and He continues to pray for His friends - for you and for me. Just think of it, Jesus, the holy Son of God prays for us! John, chapter 17, is the prayer in which Jesus intercedes for us to the heavenly Father. Part of that prayer was our Scripture reading.

Jesus not only prayed for His friends, but also for His **ENEMIES** - for those who hated Him, who mocked and taunted Him and finally nailed Him to the gory beams of a cross. From the cross we hear Him pray: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do!" *Mark 23:34*. As Jesus, so it must be with us, His followers. He bids us in *Matt. 5:44f*, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven." And we will soon discover that we cannot continue to dislike, to hate or have any ill-will toward those for whom we pray. Faithful prayer helps to adjust and to cleanse our own hearts.

Prayer, what a beautiful subject to contemplate! What a privilege to be able to go to Jesus in prayer anytime, with anything, day or night! What a very special blessing is ours!

# Pray and Keep on Praying

## We Begin

- L: Our Father, Who art in heaven,  
G: We come to You in prayer and devotion.

## We Search Scriptures - John 17:1-2 & 20-26)

Leader (L) and Group (G)

- L: After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:
- G: "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him."
- L: He first prayed for His disciples, then He prayed for us:
- G: "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

## We Meditate

Follow this outline as the meditation is presented

- Jesus' prayers were:  
Public • Private • Personal • Persistent  
For thanks, for friends, for enemies
- Following Jesus' example of prayer
- Prayer: our 24-hour-a-day privilege
- Prayer: what a blessing!

## We Respond

- L: O God the Father in heaven, our Creator and Preserver,  
G: We praise Your glorious name.  
L: O God the Son, our Savior and Friend,  
G: We praise Your glorious name.  
L: O God the Spirit, our Comforter and Counselor,  
G: We praise Your glorious name.

## We Pray

We pray to You, Lord God, at Your invitation. In times of trouble we call to You for help. In times of weakness or illness we call to You for strength and health. In times of joy we call to You with praise. Help us to pray to You at all times, and to keep on praying, for You have promised to hear and answer our every prayer. We praise You, God, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

