


NAMPA BIBLE CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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Prayer - By Josh Norris

Most every Christian would admit that they desire to have an improved prayer life and rightfully so. What better goal could be imagined? Not only is prayer our opportunity to communicate with the Creator of the universe, but it's also our opportunity to participate in bringing Him more glory. All this is why D. Martyn Lloyd Jones called prayer "the highest activity of the human soul".

The Biblical concept of prayer carries with it a very simple idea. It is the idea of asking God for help. In fact, prayer is the blessed privilege of tapping into the unlimited power of an *all powerful* and *wise* God. It's our opportunity to ask Him to save, forgive, equip, heal, direct, empower, make wise, and increase faith. But it's also an opportunity for us to bring Him glory by expressing our dependence, faith and trust in Him.

So, if prayer is so powerful, such a blessing and a chance to testify of God's goodness, why is it such a struggle for most Christians? For many of us it comes down to the fact that we're not desperate. As Americans, we are fat and happy. Our hard days are not that hard. We can shelter and insulate ourselves from trials, pain and difficulty. If we hurt, we take medicine. If we're sad, we seek entertainment. If we're lonely, we join a club. Truly desperate people, in need of daily food, shelter, health, and guidance, will pray.

Whatever the cause, lack of prayer usually puts us into a dangerous downward spiral. Temptation, doubt, fear and self-idolatry dominate our thoughts as we try to survive by putting ourselves in God's place. Once we find ourselves enthroned where only God should be found we also find ourselves being hindered from receiving His wisdom, destroying our view of His Sovereignty and Might, and ceasing to care for others by failing to intercede for them.

But sometimes, we do pray, and our prayers aren't answered. This is because prayers done with sinful motives, selfishness and manipulation in mind are not answered or, if they are answered, it happens in spite of us. Ultimately, when we don't pray or when our prayers are ineffective, the Bible says that there are a few likely culprits:

- Sin in general (I Peter 3:7, 12)
- Lack of sincerity (Heb 10:22)
- Lack of humility (Psa. 10:17)
- Lack of faith (James 1:6-7)
- Lack of asking (James 4:2)
- Lack of fervency (James 5:16)
- Lack of perseverance (Luke 18:1)
- Lack of patience (Micah 7:7)
- Wrong motives (James 4:3)

When done righteously, prayer is a limitless force which allows us to participate in God's plan in a very direct way. He has given us the privilege of being involved in fulfilling His will by answering our faithful prayers! When we learn to pray with God's glory in mind we not only receive blessings, such as His wisdom and nearness, but we also get to care for those around us with loving intercession. Prayer is indeed a mighty weapon for His glory should we choose to wield it faithfully.

James 5:13-16

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make them well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

Current Calendar Events....

April 1st thru 6th

- 1st - Janice Denney's Ladies I Peter Bible Study
- 2nd - Jim Rickwa's Home Group
- 3rd - Kim Arnold's Ladies I Peter Bible Study
- 5th - College and career ministry meeting
- 6th - AWANA Scary hair night
- 7th - Creative Homemaking

April 7th thru 13th

- 7th - Cecelia Book's Ladies I Peter Bible Study
- 8th - Janice Denney's Ladies I Peter Bible Study
- 8th - Josh Norris' Home Group
- 9th - Gordon Goldsmith's Home Group
- 10th - Kim Arnold's Ladies I Peter Bible Study
- 10th - Creative Homemaking (Soups)
- 13th - AWANA Lemon King night

April 14th thru 22nd

- 14th - Cecelia Book's Ladies I Peter Bible Study
- 15th - Janice Denney's Ladies I Peter Bible Study
- 16th - Jim Rickwa's Home Group
- 17th - Kim Arnold's Ladies I Peter Bible Study
- 20th - AWANA Final club night
- 21st - Cecelia Book's Ladies I Peter Bible Study
- 22nd - Janice Denney's Ladies I Peter Bible Study

April 23rd thru 30th

- 22nd - Josh Norris' Home Group
- 23rd - Gordon Goldsmith's Home Group
- 24th - Creative Homemaking (Vegetable and Herb gardening)
- 24th - Kim Arnold's Ladies I Peter Bible Study
- 27th - AWANA fundraiser
- 28th - Cecelia Book's Ladies I Peter Bible Study
- 29th - Janice Denney's Ladies I Peter Bible Study

- For more details on any of the calendar events please visit www.nampabible.org/calendar

Ministry Spotlight: Prayer Ministry

The prayer team meets every Sunday morning at 8:30 to intercede for the church, worship and prepare for the morning worship service together in humility before God.

In addition to coveting your attendance at the prayer meetings, the prayer team would like to pray for you! If you have a special prayer request please share it by using the pink cards in the bulletin and/or by contacting the Fowlers or the Glovers.

Please join us this Sunday to pray for the sermon, the worship service and the various needs of the body of Christ.

Pray For...

- A more devoted, deep and faithful prayer life.
- An unceasing daily commitment to prayerful communion with God.
- Unity and close-knit relationships among the body of Nampa Bible Church.

Quote to live by

"No one is a firmer believer in the power of prayer than the devil; not that he practices it, but he suffers from it." - Guy H. King

Did You Know....

- Nampa Bible Church offers a church prayer journal which has a list of all the members as well as inspirational verses on prayer.
- Your ministry can be on the calendar and in the Ministry Spotlight. Contact Josh Norris or Debbie Vierth.
- You can be involved in the newsletter! Talk to Josh Norris to get involved.

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