

Elder Bobby Willis



Prayer As A High Priority

There was a song many years ago on the Pop Charts entitled “*Sound of Silence*.” Sadly, this title could be used to describe many family homes, even of those who profess to be Christians. One cannot be a true disciple of Christ unless prayer is a high priority in their home. Breakfast, lunch and dinner should begin with a prayer of thanksgiving and one of asking for the Lord’s blessing. Believers who are serious about their service to God engage in prayer on a regular basis.

Many well known historical figures of the Bible placed a high priority on prayer. Abraham, upon going into the land of Canaan, “**buildded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the Lord**” (Genesis 12:8). Any time we have a move of any significance to make, it would be far better to call upon the name of the Lord to make sure we are following His will and not ours.

Then there was the time in the life of Moses when the Lord told him to bring the people of Israel into the land of Canaan and Moses said unto the Lord, “**Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way...**” While it is true that Moses did not always do that which the Lord had instructed, we find that Moses was a praying man, seeking the direction the Lord would have him to go. Earlier, we find Moses crying out unto the Lord in prayer when he did not know what he should do. In his prayer, “**Moses cried unto the Lord, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me**” (Exodus 17:6). This might seem like a desperation prayer as Moses had begun to fear for his life. When the time of our life seems to be short and we know not what to do, our prayers almost become desperate in our need to know what would be pleasing unto the Lord.

Need often facilitates prayer. Even though it should not always be that way, we would be kidding ourselves to say otherwise. However, if prayer is a priority in your home, it should be exercised often, regardless of our circumstances.

One of the most known biblical occurrences of intense prayer is when David prayed that his young child be spared (II Samuel 12:16). A similar situation is faced by Elijah when the son of the widow woman who had made him a little cake, had no breath left in him. Elijah then **“cried unto the Lord, and said, O Lord my God...”** These were intense prayers by David and Elijah, but they were offered up as a matter of priority. These two men of God were accustomed to praying unto the Lord in whatever they set their hands to do.

Another example of prayer as a priority is found in Daniel 6:10-11, **“Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime. Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.”** Daniel was known for his prayers unto the Lord as he knew of their importance.

If prayer is not a high priority in your life, it is high time that you consider it for what it is, a commandment of our Lord. Even amongst the thieves which had defiled the temple, the Lord made this declaration, **“It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer;...”** (Matt. 21:13, Mark 11:17, Luke 19:46). The Lord was quoting from the writing of Isaiah (Isaiah 56:7). It must be noted that the Prophet was speaking that which the Lord Himself had given him. Surely what the Lord says is worth taking note of and then doing. ***“Think About It!”***