

Lesson 7: The Essential Requirement of Prayer

Lesson 7 Objective: To learn the indispensable nature of prayer to effective evangelism, and to learn to practice it!

Previous Lesson Review:

1. Stewardship – the gospel of Jesus Christ!
2. Discipleship required.
3. Our purpose – to glorify God; through the gospel!
4. The Bible defines the gospel.
5. ALL resources provided by God!

Motivated by biblical love!

I. An introductory word

- A. A personal request
- B. A word on “spiritual warfare”
- C. The character of this and future lessons:
 1. Practical – It’s time to get to work!
 2. Costly to live out because of opposition we will face:
 - Internal – our flesh (Gal 5:17)
 - External – fleshly enemies (2 Thess 3:2) and spiritual enemies (Eph 6:12)
- D. The costs:
 1. The battle against the flesh exacts costs (Rom 8:13-17; 1 Cor 9:23-27; Phil 3:10)
 2. The battle against fleshly enemies exacts costs (1 Cor 16:9)
 3. The battle against spiritual enemies exacts costs (Lk 22:31-32)

II. Is prayer important, and does it really work?

- A. Prayer is important! Ex 32:11-13
- B. Diligent, devoted prayer accomplishes more than “lazy” prayer Deut 9:18,25
- C. Prayer literally changes history!
 1. God told Moses He was going to destroy Israel Ex 32:9-10
 2. Moses prayed Ex 32:11-13
 3. God did not destroy Israel Ex 32:14

Read God’s assessment of what Moses did in Psalm 106:23.
*Will we be men and women who by our prayer stand in the breach to see the work of making disciples move forward? **It will be costly.***

III. Why do we pray for the work of making disciples (evangelism)?

- A. We are commanded to do so by Jesus Christ Jn 15:7; 16:24
- B. The work given to us is impossible apart from His help Jn 14:12-23; 15:4-5
- C. It is difficult work and we need His help! Jn 15:18-19; 16:1-4

IV. What will be accomplished through the channel of prayer?

- A. Whatever we ask in His name (the context of the work) Jn 14:13-14 et al
- B. Greater works than He did! Jn 14:12
- C. Abundant fruit Jn 15:5
- D. The Holy Spirit in our witness Jn 16:5-11
 1. Preparation
 2. Power
 3. Presence