

LIFE APP EXILED IN PRAYER

April 25-26, 2020

Matthew 6:6-13 NKJV: “But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:

As we continue to stay at home because of the coronavirus, we're probably all feeling like we have been “Exiled” and one of the most important things we can do during this time is develop our prayer life to be more fervent and effective. This involves creating a solitary place that can become a sacred space for us to meet with God on a daily basis. Deepening our faith through prayer is an enormous blessing that we can receive during these difficult days. We can learn how to do this by looking at the model prayer Jesus gave to His Disciples.

- 1) While teaching His Disciples about prayer, Jesus gave them several warnings to heed. Describe the warning and what we should do instead.

Avoid hypocrisy: Matthew 6:2 NKJV:

Avoid vain repetition: Matthew 6:7 NKJV:

Avoid pride and arrogance: Luke 18:9-14 NKJV:

2A) Where did Jesus tell His Disciples to pray and why is this important for us to do? Matthew 6:6

2B) PERSONAL: How often do you pray? Describe the place where you pray most of the time.

3) PERSONAL: What do you find in Luke 11:1? Why do you think the disciples asked for this instead of asking Jesus to teach them other things - like how to heal, how to teach, how to do miracles, etc.?

4A) What amazing fact about God did Jesus reveal in Matthew 6:8?

4B) PERSONAL: How do the following verses help you better understand the Principle of Providence - that God is our Father who loves us and wants to bless us - that we are a child of God?

Psalm 84:11:

John 16:24:

Ephesians 3:19-20:

5) PERSONAL: In Matthew 6:10, we find the Principle of Dependence as we pray for God's Will in our lives. Share your favorite verses about Trusting God and Trusting His Will.

Read Matthew 6:10-13:

6A) The third principle from the model prayer is the Principle of Acceptance. According to these verses, what can we receive from God when we ask for it and need to accept?

6B) What additional principles of prayer do you find in the following verses that will help us receive these things from God?

1 John 1:9:

Philippians 4:6:

Psalm 72:12:

Read 1 John 5:13-15:

7) The fourth principle is the Principle of Confidence, which is found in the Doxology of Matthew 6:13. According to this 1 John passage, why should we have confidence when we pray?

ACT: Prayer - talking honestly with God - praying to God, through Jesus, in the Power of the Holy Spirit - should be an important part of our daily lives. Jesus gave us a model prayer to follow using four Principles: The Principles of Providence, Dependence, Acceptance, and Confidence. If we will spend time with God in our solitary place - in secret - it will become a sacred space - a place where we can talk to God about all of our needs and know that He hears us and that He will answer us according to His Perfect Will and His Perfect Timing! There is Power in Prayer! This is a wonderful time to start utilizing what God has given us through His Son!

Daily Devotional: It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

- Every day this week let's look at passages that describe the different principles of prayer.

Monday:

1 Kings 8:46-49 NKJV

When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin), and You become angry with them and deliver them to the enemy, and they take them captive to the land of the enemy, far or near; yet when they come to themselves in the land where they were carried captive, and repent, and make supplication to You in the land of those who took them captive, saying, 'We have sinned and done wrong, we have committed wickedness'; and when they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies who led them away captive, and pray to You toward their land which You gave to their fathers, the city which You have chosen and the temple which I have built for Your name: then hear in heaven Your dwelling place their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause,

Tuesday:

Nehemiah 1:5-6 NKJV

And I said: "I pray, Lord God of heaven, O great and awesome God, You who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments, please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You. Both my father's house and I have sinned.

Wednesday:

Psalms 5:1-3 NLT

O Lord, hear me as I pray; pay attention to my groaning. Listen to my cry for help, my King and my God, for I pray to no one but you. Listen to my voice in the morning, Lord. Each morning I bring my requests to you and wait expectantly.

Thursday:

Psalms 17:1-2 NLT

O Lord, hear my plea for justice. Listen to my cry for help. Pay attention to my prayer, for it comes from honest lips. Declare me innocent, for you see those who do right.

Friday:

Psalms 88:13 NIV

But I cry to you for help, Lord; in the morning my prayer comes before you.

Saturday:

Ephesians 6:18 NLT

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Sunday:

Colossians 4:2 NLT

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

