

The Prayer Class

Purpose: *To encourage greater participation and joy in prayer*

The Prayer Class meets in God's Throne Room 24/7

In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence Ephesians 3:12

The LORD has done great things for us, and ***we are filled with joy*** Psalm 126:3

Teacher: Abe Funk

Date: November 28, 2024

Lesson: *God Values Our Prayers*

Welcome to The Prayer Class:

Unanswered prayers are among our hardest experiences as Christians. We need to remember how God feels about our praying; what does it mean to our loving Father? I hope this lesson will encourage you to keep on praying, if for no other reason than to enjoy sweet fellowship with the Lord.

Bible Reading: Revelation 8:1-5

When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar before the throne. The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand. Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

Key Verse: *He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all the saints... 8:3*

Background and Lesson:

This lesson continues my series, *People Who Prayed*. Corrie ten Boom (1892-1983) spent the first fifty years of her life living peacefully with her father above their watch shop in Haarlem, Holland. During World War II, the ten Booms were imprisoned for the "crime" of hiding Jewish refugees; believed to be about 800 people. After her release, Corrie traveled all over the world captivating audiences with her inspiring story. She is the author of many bestselling books including *The Hiding Place*. We had the honor of hearing her at a conference we attended. Her strength to survive the Nazi camp, and the death of her sister in the camp are a testimony to her devotion to prayer. The following lesson and stories are selections from Corrie ten Boom's book, *Don't Wrestle, Just Nestle*.

Sometimes we underestimate the value of our prayers. In the book of Revelation, we read how precious they are in God's eyes. They are so precious that they are all preserved there. When I read this text, I understand a little bit of the value our prayers have in the eyes of our heavenly Father. Look back at the prayers you have prayed for that person you are worrying about. Not one of those prayers is lost. They are all kept in heaven. What a comfort. What an encouragement.

Have you ever been discouraged about your praying? Does it seem your prayers are never answered? Much of our anxiety comes as we worry about others. This isn't helped, it seems, if we pray

for others and then do not see our prayers answered. Let me tell you a few stories that I think will give you encouragement to go on, despite seeming failure.

I had the wonderful experience of being invited to speak on national television in my country to bring an Easter Message. More than six million heard my message. But the most wonderful result was hearing from some people I had not heard from in years—people I had prayed for many years ago. One man wrote, “Twenty-five years ago when I came out of the concentration camp you brought me the Gospel. I thought I was not ready for it, but you told me you were going to keep praying for me. Last night I saw you on TV—and now I can say with all my heart, I have accepted the Lord.”

Another man telephoned. “Forty-five years ago, you told me exactly the same thing you said tonight on TV—I always refused to accept Jesus. Can I come to see you?” We prayed together and then I asked him to pray and invite Jesus his heart. He prayed, “Jesus, I cannot open my heart. Please won’t you force the door?” And Jesus did a miracle in the life of this man—an answer to my prayer after forty-five years.

But the most amazing answer came the week after the TV broadcast. When I was five years old, I accepted the Lord Jesus as my Saviour. After that I developed a burden for the people of my town. We lived in Haarlem, quite near the Smedestraat. In this street there were many pubs. Because of the pubs, I often saw many drunken people, some were dragged into the police station on the same street. I wanted to do something so badly to help, but what can a little girl do in such a situation? All I could do was pray—and I did a lot of that. My mother told me later that for a long time every prayer of mine ended with the words, “Lord Jesus, please save those people in the Smedestraat. And save the policeman too.” Following my TV appearance, I received a letter. “My husband said that it was so nice that you lived in Haarlem. He lived there for seventeen years, and he worked in the police station on that street. After I heard you on TV, I knew that you would be interested to know we now know the Lord personally.” It took over seventy years for me to hear that my prayer was answered.

Why do I tell you this? Too let you know that no matter how discouraged you are about your prayers, God never lets you down.

Quote: *A prayer delayed is not a prayer denied* –Robert Schuler

Think About This

Are you discouraged about some prayers? How does Corrie ten Boom encourage you to keep praying?

A Prayer for You:

Dear God, help us to not focus on our prayer but on the one to whom we pray; not on the promise but the promise giver; not on the answer but on the answerer, and simply trust you. For your glory, Amen!

My Notes and what To Pray for:

Add your prayer requests here: yourself, family, church family, missionaries, & leaders in government

Note: All Scriptures are from the NIV Bible unless otherwise indicated

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful Colossians 4:2

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