

Ideas for an Effective Prayer Time

by James Hood

1. Start by praising and thanking God.

“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name (Ps. 100:4).

“Praise ye the LORD . . . Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness” (Ps. 150:1-2).

2. Confess and forsake all known sin, and yield fully to God.

“If I regard iniquity in mine heart, the LORD will not hear me.”

“Search me, O God, . . . and see if there be any wicked way in me.”

“Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”

(Ps. 66:18; 139:23-24 / Matt. 6:10)

3. Claim God’s promises as you pray.

“The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword . . .” (Heb. 4:12).

“My word shall not return unto me void . . . (Isa. 55:11).

“Whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer believing, ye shall receive.”

“The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

“God is not willing that any should perish . . .” (II Peter 3:9).

4. Follow patterns found in Scripture.

Matt. 6:9-13 / Eph. 1:15-23; 3:14-21 / Phil. 1:9-11 / Col. 1:9-12

5. Pray for the spiritual needs of Christians.

(e.g. encouragement, comfort, teaching, wisdom, need to witness, holiness, daily devotions, backsliders, family problems)

6. Pray for God to send laborers into the harvest (Matt. 9:36-38).

People in full-time ministry; also more witnessing Christians

7. Pray for the salvation of lost people.

Paul gives us a good example of this in Romans 9:1-3 and 10:1.

8. Pray for the musicians (Psalm 95:1-3 / Col. 3:23 / I Cor. 10:31).

9. Pray for the preacher (Eph. 6:18-20 / II Tim. 2:25-26).

10. Pray for yourself and the others as listeners (Ps. 119:18, 33-34, 66, 73, 108, 125, 135 / Acts 16:14 / I Thess. 3:1 / James 1:22).

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