

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Exodus 32:9-14.**
- B. Many in the congregation have taken the Spiritual Talent Inventory test. Scores on these test rated prayer about 10th or 11th out of 20.
- C. Therefore, this morning's lesson is to deal with the way to restore power in prayer. Hopefully, to help us improve our prayer life.
- D. How does one go about restoring the power in prayer? Answer: The same way restores the power in anything (worship, evangelism, Xian living); by doing it God's way.

I. THE POWER IN PRAYER.

- A. In our scripture reading for today we see how that the prayer of Moses changed the mind of God.
- B. We may not think much of ourselves, but we need to think a lot about the power of prayer. (Joke about backwoodsman cutting trees.)
- C. One of the great tragedies about prayer is that we have great power at our disposal and either don't know it, or worse yet don't use it.
- D. Ephesians 3:20 says God is able to do everything we ask in prayer, so are we asking?

II. PRAYER IS SOMETHING TO BE LEARNED.

- A. Prayer is not something that comes naturally. We must learn how to do it. The apostles wanted to learn how to pray (Lk. 11:1).
- B. In the NT we see many guidelines for acceptable prayer:
 1. Pray regularly,
 - a. A set schedule is good (Dan. 6:10).
 - b. Be devoted to prayer (Rom. 12:12).
 - c. Example of the persistent widow (Lk. 18:1-5).
 - d. Parable of the friend at midnight (Lk. 11:510).
 2. Pray in forgiving spirit (Mk. 11:25; Mt. 6:12).
 3. Pray in faith, not "I hope, I hope" prayers (Jas. 1:6).
 4. Pray in confidence and in harmony with God's will (1Jn. 5:14).
 5. Pray in the name of X (Col. 3:17).
 6. Pray in sincerity, not hypocritically (Mt. 6:5).
- C. These are some of the "mechanics" of prayer. They are important in restoring the power therein. But sometimes we know the "how-to" of something but there is still no power in it. If this be the case we need to know the importance and need for prayer.

III. THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER.

- A. I believe there to be many reasons for having a good prayer life. We need to realize the importance placed on prayer.
- B. Prayer is important because:
 1. JC demonstrated, practiced, and demanded it.
 2. There is a devil trying to destroy our soul.
 3. God has appointed it a way of obtaining and being a blessing.
 4. The apostles regarded it as important as anything else in their ministry.
 5. Of what it gives; peace, power, evangelism, fasting, strength, courage, etc.
- C. Samuel said that it would be a sin to cease praying (1Sam. 12:23).
- D. We must see the importance of prayer and the word of God together (Prov. 28:9).

IV. WE NEED TO PRAY.

- A. We have discussed our learning to pray and that prayer is important. But in closing we must realize that we need to pray.
- B. Jesus taught this need in Mark 11:19-24. We need to pray because we need God!
- C. Having faith in God means:
 - 1. Your heart is bigger than your hands.
 - 2. You believe in more than you can do.
 - 3. You commit your life to something bigger than you are.
- D. If we make our life's decisions based on our hands and our 5 senses, we do not need prayer. If we have faith in God we need to pray to Him.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Prayer is powerful.
- B. Prayer is something everyone needs to learn how to do.
- C. Prayer is important.
- D. Prayer is a needed activity of the faithful.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.