

The Wonder of Prayer

Ephesians 1:17-19;
3:16-19

1. The heart of prayer

a. The Father's plans – Eph.1:17-23

- to give us a glorious hope – v.18
- to empower his Church – v.19-23

b. The love of Jesus – Eph.3:16-19

- he “dwells” in us – v.17
- his vast love for us – v.v.18,19

c. The gift of the Spirit – Eph.1:17;3:16

- making real to us the Father's plans
- helping us know & enjoy Jesus' love

2. The riches of prayer

- a. Resting in God's protection-Ps.91:1,2
- b. Receiving peace, joy & strength –
Ps.23:4-6; Acts 4:23-31
- c. Tuning our hearts to God - Ps.42:1-5
- d. Experiencing eternity – Eph.1:17-19
- e. Guidance for the journey – Dan.9:1-3
Acts 1:14; 13:1-3

The riches of prayer

- f. Getting to know ourselves—Job 42:1-6
- g. Questioning, arguing & wrestling with God – Job, Psalms, Hab., Paul
- h. A rich, wonderful conversation with God

.....

1. It is the most natural thing to pray
2. It is the most incomprehensible thing for a Christian not to pray

3. The struggle of prayer

We have 3 very powerful opponents:-

- a. Our proud, unbelieving, lazy & easily distracted hearts & minds
- b. The scornful, dismissive world
- c. Satan

We will never become joyful, committed prayers on our own

4. Good news for prayers

- a. The Father welcomes us
- b. The life & work of Jesus
 - he showed us it is possible
 - he opened the way for us
- c. The Spirit stirs us & helps us
- d. The Church – we pray with the O.T.& N.T. Church and with the local Church

Week of prayer

- a. “Lord teach me / us to pray”
- b. Join with others as often as you can
- c. Determine you will get to know God better in the coming year