Seeing Blessing In Communion With God

Tony Mauck · James 1:5–8

INTRODUCTION

- I think I've decided that it's a subject, prayer, that I want to talk about more regularly.
- I've talked to enough believers to know that a lot of us are not praying like we think we probably should be.

1 What Stands in the Way of Prayer

Romans 12:12; Proverbs 3:15

- Perhaps we're unconvinced of how great our need is for this communion with God.
- Or perhaps we're unconvinced that God is really hearing us, that he's actually responding to the things that we are praying.
- I think there's also an issue of mechanics, not knowing exactly how to petition God.
- Another hindrance is that perhaps other things are our priority. Other things are more important to us than his glory.
- Wisdom. She is more precious than jewels. And nothing you desire compares with her.

2 Prayer Not as a Duty but a Great Blessing

- We need to see prayer not as a duty, not as an obligation.
- It is a great blessing to be able to have access and fellowship.
- And then to see that great and perfect and awesome God wants me, the likes of me.

3 Ask in Faith Without Any Doubting

James 1:5–8; 1 John 5:13–15

- When we pray to God, you have to do that in faith.
- If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach.
- But let him ask in faith without any doubting. For the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.
- If you are in Christ, if you are striving to live for him in holiness, you should not be doubting.
- This is the confidence which we have before Him that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

4 The Prayer of a Righteous Man Is Powerful

Mark 9:14–29

- The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.
- He said, This kind, this kind can only come out by prayer.
- More constant appeals to God, greater faith in prayer, keeps our minds focused on his presence.

5 Go to God's Throne

Hebrews 4:15–16; Proverbs 3:5–6; Proverbs 3:24–26

- We have a high priest who comes to the aid of the tempted, who sympathizes with our weakness, he understands.
- Receive mercy and may find grace to help in a time of need.
- Go to God's throne. Ask for mercy.
- Trust in the Lord with all your heart. And do not lean upon your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge him.

6 We Need to Be Praying Specifically

- Prayer is the key to heaven, but faith unlocks the door.
- We need to be praying about our salvation and the salvation of others.
- We need to be praying for our leaders. We need to be praying for our children. We need to be praying for every member.
- God is active and He is powerful. The next time you go to the throne of God, go knowing this. He lives and he rules.

THE CHALLENGE

Can we baptize you into Christ so that you can know the power of relationship with God and the wonder of his mercy and forgiveness for your sins?

MY NOTES