

What Will Improve My Prayer Life?

Introduction

We had three sermons on prayer in January. Has anything changed or improved for you?

- Greater awareness of prayer throughout the day? More time spent? Better discipline?
- More boldness (confidence, assurance) in drawing near to the throne of grace?
- Better focus on God? Feeling closer to God? Thinking about Him more during the day?
- Finding greater strength to overcome temptations?
- More and more submitting your will to God's will?

Daryl and I are tag teaming. What he discusses on Wed I include in the Sunday sermon.

Discussion Wed night on Melchizedek from **Heb 5:11** "of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing."

Also **Matthew 13:14-15** (quote from *Isa 6:9-10*)

¹⁴And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says:

'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive;

¹⁵***For the hearts of this people have grown dull.***

Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed,

Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears,

Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.'

I. What will improve my prayer life?

Instead of saying, "I need to pray more often" or "I need to pray better," maybe we ought to say, "I need to be more... "

- A. Convicted in my faith: **1 Thess 1:1-10; Jas 1:5-8**
- B. Disciplined: **1 Tim 4:7-8**
- C. Selfless: **James 4:1-4**
- D. Open, Honest, with Integrity: **Psa 15:1-2**

Psalms 15:1-2 – O Lord, who may abide in Your tent? Who may dwell on Your holy hill? He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, and speaks truth in his heart.

Who can come into God's presence? Only the one who walks with integrity and does what is right and speaks the truth in his heart. The sort of person they are at the worship service is not any different from the sort of person they are the rest of the week. This person will be open and honest and truthful with God, and will not hesitate to come into God's presence to speak with Him.

Psalms 41:11-13 By this I know that you delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me. But you have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in your presence forever. Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.

Psalms 26:1-3 Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted

in the LORD without wavering. Prove me, O LORD, and try me; test my heart and my mind. For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in your faithfulness.

Psalms 25:19-21 Consider how many are my foes, and with what violent hatred they hate me. Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me! Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you. May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you.

Proverbs 2:8 he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints.

II. Psalm 15 defines four areas of integrity.

A. A person of integrity...

1. **speaks well of people. (v. 3)** *who does not slander with his tongue and does no evil to his neighbor, nor takes up a reproach against his friend.*

How we talk about people affects how truthful and open and honest we are with God.

2. **keeps company with the righteous. (v. 4a)** *in whose eyes a vile person is despised, but who honors those who fear the Lord.*

Who we hang out with affects how truthful and open and honest we are with God.

3. **can be trusted. (v. 4b)** *who swears to his own hurt and does not change.*

How good our word is affects how truthful and open and honest we are with God.

4. **avoids greed. (v. 15a)** *who does not put out his money at interest and does not take a bribe against the innocent.*

How generous we are with money affects how truthful and open and honest we can be with God.

B. **We can be unmoveable before God. (v. 5b)** *He who does these things shall never be moved (Psalm 15:5b).*

God wants integrated (whole, pure, unhypocritical) worshipers. A person who lacks spiritual integrity is unstable, and will not remain in God's presence. But a person who is integrated, who does the will of God from the heart, shall never be moved away from God.

Conclusion

2 Corinthians 7:11 (NKJV) ¹¹For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.