

Prayer – Key Elements

Introduction

Of pre-eminent importance concerning prayer is this admonition, delivered to this writer many years ago by a Navigator staff member now with the Lord:

“Prayerlessness is a sin.”

Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way 1 Samuel 12:23.

Concerning the key elements of prayer, the gentleman who helped this writer to get saved on July 19 1967, John Ridgway, former Navigator staff member in the USA, now with the Lord, developed at a Navigator conference in Katoomba NSW circa 1969 from The Navigator prayer hand¹ a very effective finger gun² prayer hand. It's an excellent illustration of prayer that today's believer needs to apply consistently.



Thumb, upward to God, praise

Psalm 139:14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

Index Finger, for others, intercession/supplication

1 Timothy 2:1-3 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour.

Note how Daniel intercedes historically for Israel. His prayer applies contemporaneously, devotionally, practically for Britain today³:

Daniel 9:3 And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:

Daniel 9:4 And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments;

Daniel 9:5 We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments:

Daniel 9:6 Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.

Daniel 9:7 O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee.

In descending order, 3 fingers pointing back - useful to keep in mind when tempted to castigate national leaders or anyone else.

Thanksgiving

1 Thessalonians 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Petition, for self

1 Samuel 1:17, 27 Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him...For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my

petition which I asked of him.

Confession, of sin(s)

1 John 1:9 **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Be encouraged by Ephesians 3:20-21 **Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.**

Ephesians 3:20-21 are illustrated well by 2 Kings 8:1-6. The Lord's timing was perfect and He answered the woman, now evidently a widow, threefold:

2 Kings 8:3, 6 **And it came to pass at the seven years' end, that the woman returned out of the land of the Philistines: and she went forth to cry unto the king for her house and for her land...And when the king asked the woman, she told him. So the king appointed unto her a certain officer, saying, Restore all that was hers, and all the fruits of the field since the day that she left the land, even until now.**

Note carefully King Solomon's admonition, associating **Firm Grip** and **Prayer**:

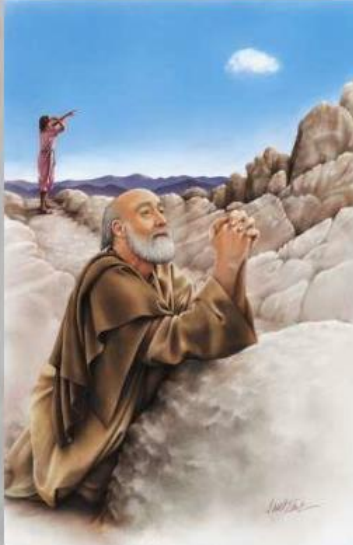
He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination Proverbs 28:9.

Conclusion⁴

James 5:17-18

¹⁷*Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.*

¹⁸*And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.*



References

¹ www.navigators.org/resources/ *Prayer, The Prayer Hand*

For further detailed analyses of prayer principles and practice see:

bible.org/seriespage/27-prayer-filled-life-part-1 From the series: *ABCs for Christian Growth - Laying the Foundation* by J. Hampton Keathley, III, 2.7. *The Prayer-Filled Life (Part 1)*

bible.org/illustration/four-principles-prayer *Four Principles of Prayer* by Bill Donahue

² en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finger_gun *Finger Gun*

³ www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/alans-books/ *Alan's Books, BRITAIN AND SODOM AND EGYPT 1ST EDITION.* "What saith the scripture?" Romans 4:3, Galatians 4:30 to "them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name" Malachi 3:16 and to "them that dwell carelessly in the isles" Ezekiel 39:6

⁴ www.slideserve.com/said/james Slide 18/20