

Member Information

Please welcome **Guadalupe (Lupita) Guzman**. Her address is 82372 Grant Drive, Indio, CA 92201; her phone number is (760) 501-9245

Quotations about Prayer

"I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had no where else to go. My own wisdom and that of all about me seemed insufficient for that day." - Abraham Lincoln -

"In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart." - John Bunyan -

September Birthdays

3 Wendy Cortes	15 Marcos Perales	24 Mason Perales
11 Marie Burruss	16 Jim Burruss	30 Kurt Hoffman
	30 Dortha Gentry	

September Anniversaries

13 Luis & Wendy Cortes

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
Mike McKnight

Church of Christ

81-377 Ave 46
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(Address Service Requested)

Indio Informer

Vol. 26 No. 37

September 6, 2015

"Prayer..."

What are some keys to effective prayer?

By Bob Prichard

Foremost in prayer we must recognize the sovereign power of God. He hears prayer and forgives sin. *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"* (1 John 1:9). Confession of sin is more than just admitting the sin. In confessing sin to God, we agree with Him about the nature and effects of sin. He knows what we have done, so in confession we acknowledge that He as Lord has the power to forgive us and cleanse us of unrighteousness. We should not fear confessing sin to God, because His matchless love for us is demonstrated by the cross of Christ. In recognizing with God the nature and effect of sin, we realize the inherent need to make restitution to others for our sin. The Philippian jailer made restitution for the harsh treatment of Paul and Silas: *"He took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway"* (Acts 16:33).

As He prepared to face the cross, Jesus prayed, *"Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done"* (Luke 22:42). Effective prayer must be marked by this attitude, not my will, but thine, be done. We must pray according to God's will. We may not always know fully what the will of God is, but we will know that His will is always consistent with the scriptures. The better we know His written word, the better we will be able to keep our prayers and our lives in tune with His will. James lamented that some chose not to pray according to God's will: *"Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts"* (James 4:3). We must pray according to His will, and do all that we can to let His will be done.

Even though the disciples were religious, and had prayed all of their lives, they knew that Jesus was different, so one said, “*Lord, teach us to pray*” (Luke 11:1). In response, Jesus gave a model prayer. “*Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil*” (Luke 11:2-4). He immediately then told a parable about persistence as a man begged for help from a friend. The friend helped, not because of friendship, but because of his importunity, or persistence in asking (Luke 11:8). Christ then pointed out that God will give to His children as any good father will, but He expects importunity, or persistence in prayer.

Fervency is another characteristic of effective prayer. God's people have always prayed with forceful sincerity. “*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*” (James 5:17). We read of Christ: “*And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground*” (Luke 22:44). The formalism of many prayers needs to be replaced with the fervency of real belief in God and in His promise to hear and respond to our prayers.

Praise Ideas for Prayer

By Neal Pollard

Prayer is a very personal exercise, a life built between an individual and God. Thus, these suggestions may of themselves feel intrusive or foreign to some. However, through the years, I have heard many express some difficulty in knowing how to praise God or what to say in praise to Him when in prayer. Leah, in naming Judah, was the first to articulate the idea (through his name), “*I will praise*” (Genesis 29:35). Moses resolved the same at the head of his song in Exodus 15:2. The remaining six times the phrase appears, the psalmist pens the words (Psalm 22:22; 35:18; 69:30; 109:30; 145:2; 146:2). Twice in the Psalms we learn that “*praise is comely*” (33:1; 147:1). In fact, it makes little sense to make the case for the

importance of praise to anyone who professes a belief in God and has seen His blessings and assistance in his or her life.

Having said all of that, what are some specific things one can praise God for in the exercise of prayer?

- Praise Him for His attributes (eternality, limitlessness, superlativeness).
- Praise Him for the wonders of creation (try praying under a starry sky, as the sun is rising, or out in the midst of nature’s beauty—words of praise will flow like water).
- Praise Him for His blessings.
- Praise Him for His sovereignty and superiority.
- Praise Him for His promises.
- Praise Him for His desire to have relationship with us.
- Praise Him for His providence.
- Praise Him for His plan of salvation, giving thought to its component parts.
- Praise Him for the glorious future He has prepared for us.
- Praise Him for the victorious work of Christ and its spiritual benefits.

Obviously, this is just a primer list of ideas. Contemplate God, His nature, His work, His personality, and we will have an ever-growing, ever-changing, and ever-deepening “praise component” in our prayer life. It is good to thank Him and petition Him, but take sufficient time to exalt Him by infusing our supplications with praise to Him! As David urged Asaph and his relatives to proclaim, “*Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised*” (1 Chronicles 16:25). Amen!

Special Notice!

The tract rack has been upgraded with a number of new tracts. Please feel free to take any tracts that may be helpful to you or others.