



Ladies' Session #2

Wednesday, June 5, 1:00 p.m.

Mrs. Jan Patterson

"LESSONS IN PRAYER"

Introduction: Scripture passages that have encouraged me over the years in my communion with the Lord

I) *God made us for fellowship.*

Creation — Genesis 1:26a — "Let Us make man in *Our image, according to Our likeness* and Genesis 2:7b "... man became *a living soul.*"

II) *We can move even the hand of God.*

A. God's sovereignty – Daniel 4:35, Psalm 103:19, & Hebrews 4:3b

B Exodus 32:9-14 Incident of the golden calf

- 1) vv. 9-10, God tells Moses His plan
- 2) vv. 11-13, Moses' desperate, pleading prayer
- 3) v. 14, God "changed His mind."
- 4) Only testing Moses? Only given as a character study of the man Moses?

C. Genesis 18:20-33 (destruction of Sodom)

- 1) God's intention made known (v. 17)
- 2) Abraham pleads boldly *6 times*, each time more narrow
- 3) God agreed each time, "changed His mind"
- 4) v. 25 — righteous do suffer w/ wicked
- 5) vv. 27, 30, 32 — bold but humble prayer, God keeps answering
- 6) Prayer was for only 10 righteous — the Lord went beyond Abraham's words to his intent

Albert Barnes: "*He answers our real desires more than simply the words of our prayers.*"

~Have you ever seen God "repent?" It is by faith, not necessarily sight.

The Word is our assurance.

"Remember the Word unto Thy servant upon which Thou has caused me to hope,"

Psalm 119:49

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"LESSONS IN PRAYER" continued

III. *God's unfathomable knowledge, love, and goodness*

A. Psalm 139

- 1) vv. 1-6, His intricate knowledge of us
- 2) vv. 7-16, His specific watch care over us
- 3) Deut. 32:9 – His "portion"

B. Exodus 33:19 "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you"

- 1) Goodness – "beneficent attitude and concern"
- 2) Explains it Himself – Exodus 34:6-7

C. Psalm 145:9, Psalm 100:5 – "GOOD"

~Meditate on God's goodness, using His Word

IV. *It's Okay to Beg*

A. He knows everything, but desires our fellowship

- 1) Matthew 6:7-8
- 2) Mathew 9:38 –Why would He care and involve us?
- 3) Daniel 9

~Why let him go on and on if already answered?

~Beware of presuming on God's mercy

B. Luke 11:5-10 Parable of the persistent neighbor

- 1) Shameless persistence
- 2) "...keep on asking...seeking...knocking..."
- 3) God loves to honor His Word – use it

C. Luke 18:1-5 Parable of the unjust judge

- 1) v. 1, specifically given so we would not "lose heart"
- 2) v. 5, "wear me out"

Quote: "*Remember that all of the many promises we have in Scripture regarding prayer were not requested, but "freely given . . . uttered by spontaneous goodness," C. H. Spurgeon*

D. I Peter 3:12 He hears our “beggings.”

- 1) Word for prayer here is “supplication.”
- 2) Means “beg” or “beseech”
- 3) “The opened, extended hands of a beggar with no means in himself”
- 4) Genesis 32:26 (Jacob —“I will not let you go unless you bless me.”)
- 5) Romans 8:26-27 (“groanings too deep for words”)

V. There is No Unanswered Prayer

A. Answers not our way or timing

B. Prayer for removal of trials

- 1) So that we will pray, trust, etc.
- 2) Ephesians 3 passage —“in accordance with the eternal purposes of God” and “that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.”

C. God is the master “Conductor”

- 1) Romans 8:28—“God causes all things to work together for good . . .”
 - ~no second causes
 - ~not a “repair job”
 - ~a creative work
- 2) Often there is much more involved in our requests than we know.
 - ~Hearts (takes time)
 - ~Circumstances, faith, preparation, etc.

God’s purposes for eternity, for His kingdom, and for His glory are His own jurisdiction. He is always, GOOD, WISE, and RIGHT.

“Settle it in our hearts that our prayer is received. The answer will come in the best time.”

Conclusion

Mary Slessor said her daily life was “one long continuous prayer.” Comes from years of walking with and relying on the Lord.

Quote: “Be alert to the confirmations of His providences in our daily lives.”