

PRAYER

Intro. No one will debate the impt of prayer. More talking than action on this. But sometimes talk helps action, so talk. Introductory today.

I. Why do we not pray?

- A. Cannot see God. Unconscious reason. Hard to pray bec can't see the one to whom we talk. Jn 5:24. Acts 7:48f. Find it hard to talk to human who won't look at you. Find it hard to talk on radio. If need help along this lone, then see God thru X, Jn 1:18. Not an image but a character thru His actions. e.g. didn't help you to know me by a picture before I came. Know me by actions.
- B. Embarrassed. Esp. for public prayer. Overcome this by doing. Small group then larger. Remember: short prayers in public, long in private.
- C. No time. Real bec all busy. Two cures:
 - 1. Ask God to show you how impt. Always have time for impt thing.
 - 2. Form the habit now. e.g. Daniel 6, 80 yrs old, prime minister, 3 x day. You won't have more time next year. Time spent in prayer saves time later.

II. Why should we pray?

- A. God commands it. Lk 18:1; 1 Thess 5:17; Col 4:2.
- B. We need it.
 - 1. Objection: God too great to be interested in little me. Diff bet great and infinite. Bec He's infinite He is interested. If just great He wouldn't be.
 - 2. Objection: What's going to be will be anyway. We aren't Calvinists when it comes to living. If God wills we're going to live we will without means. But we eat. Why not pray?
- C. God need it. God loves our fellowship in prayer. Don't bel in Deism in praying either. Illus. Husband could provide for family and live in dorm, but won't if loves them.

III. How do we pray? In His name.