

Lessons on Prayer from Bible Characters

by Evangelist James Hood

Abraham and Moses -- Praying for sinners

(Genesis 18:16-33) (Numbers 14:11-20)

These men pleaded with God for unworthy people who were about to be consumed.
(See Isaiah 59 & Ezekiel 22. Will you be the intercessor God is seeking for?)

Hannah (I Samuel 1:1 - 2:11) -- Faith promise praying

She prayed with fervency and humility.

She kept her promise to the LORD and praised Him greatly for His answer to prayer.

Samuel (I Samuel 7:5-13 & 12:23) -- Persistent praying

He saw a great demonstration of God's power and deliverance from enemies.

He persisted in prayer for people that rejected God's plan and rejected him.

David

His prayers are filled with praise to the LORD (note I Chron. 29:10-14).

They are filled with affirmations to obey the LORD (Psalm 9:1-2; 62 & 63).

They teach many lessons about dealing with sin (Psalms 38 & 51).

Hezekiah (II Kings 19:14-20) -- Praying with the right motive

He was concerned for the LORD's name and His glory.

Daniel

He was consistent in prayer all of his life (chapter 2 as a young man / chapter 6 as an old man)

He practiced fasting and prayer regularly (note 9:3-19 and 10:1-3)

Nehemiah

He responded to a great need with fasting and prayer (ch. 1)

He prayed before taking action, before making decisions, and when facing trouble
(note 1:10; 2:4; 4:4-6, 9; 5:19; 6:14; 13:14,29)

The Lord Jesus Christ

~ *His example in prayer:*

- He fasted and prayed for 40 days in the wilderness (Matt. 4).
- He rose up early and went to a solitary place to pray (Mark 1:35).
- He prayed all night before making an important decision (Luke 6:12-13).
- He spent a great deal of time praying at night (Matt. 14:23 & Luke 9:28-29)
- He prayed for a long time in Gethsemane (Matt. 26 / Mk. 14 / Lk. 22 / Jn. 17)

~ *His instructions on prayer:*

1. Pray for God to send laborers into the harvest (Matt. 9:36-38).
2. Watch and pray (Matt. 26:40-41 / Mk. 14:32-42).
3. Pray believing (Matt. 21:17-22 / Mark 11:20-24).
4. Pray persistently (Matt. 7:7 / Luke 11:5-10 & 18:1-7).
5. Pray forgiving (Mt. 6:14-15 / Mk. 11:25-26 c.f. Mt. 18:15-21 / Lk. 17:3-4)

We can learn much from Paul's prayers --

Ephesians 1 & 3

Philippians 1:1-11

Colossians 1:3-13

I Thessalonians 1:2; 3:9-10;

II Thessalonians 1:11-12

II Timothy 1:3-5

"*Benedictions*" --

Romans 16:25-27

II Corinthians 13:14

Hebrews 13:20-21