

GROWING IN THE LORD

Lesson #2 -Prayer

Scripture Reading:

Introduction:

1. Growing involves communication with God through prayer.
2. If we are to grow in the Lord, we must be a people of prayer.
3. How can we cultivate a stronger prayer life before the Lord?
4. To gain a stronger prayer life we must look to...

I. THE EXAMPLE OF PRAYER

A. JESUS WITHDREW HIMSELF TO PRAY

1. The multitudes desired the presence of Jesus -Lk 5:15
2. Jesus would often go to the wilderness and pray -Lk 5:16
3. Jesus arose before anyone else to pray -Mk 1:35

B. JESUS PRAYED AT MAJOR EVENTS

1. He prayed at His baptism -Lk 3:21, 22
2. He prayed before calling the twelve -Lk 6:12
3. He prayed in Gethsemane -Lk 22:39-46
4. He prayed before His arrest -Jn 17:1-ff

II. THE TEACHING OF PRAYER

A. PERSISTENT WIDOW -Lk 18:1-8

1. He taught so His disciples would never lose heart
2. God is the contrast to the unjust judge; He will answer!

B. THE MODEL PRAYER -Lk 11:1-4

1. The prayer is not verbatim, but a model to follow.
2. Note some characteristics:
 - a. Short
 - i. No vain repetitions -Mt 6:7
 - ii. Long prayers are acceptable -Lk 6:12
 - b. Simple
 - c. Humble -shows our dependence on God
 - d. Realistic
 - i. We need God's forgiveness
 - ii. We must forgive others

III. THE BENEFITS OF PRAYER

A. THE DAYS OF JESUS

1. The feeding of the 5,000 -Lk 9:10-17
2. Multiple healings -Lk 9:37-42
3. Casting out demons by prayer and fasting -Mk 9:28, 29

B. OUR BENEFITS TODAY

1. We cast our cares on Him -1Pe 5:7
2. He is the God of all comfort -2Co 1: