
Upcoming Events

Church Retreat at Tulsa, OK, June 26-28

Vacation Bible School (VBS) at Metro July 22 - 25

Weekly Schedule

Tues, May 19th (Rowlett) Ladies Prayer @ Sunny & Leelamma's res (7 PM)

Thurs, May 21st (Flower Mound) Ladies Prayer @ Paul & Leelamma's res (7 PM)

Fri, May 22nd (Mesquite) Fasting Prayer @ Parsonage (10 AM)

Fri, May 22nd (Metro) Prayer Meeting @ Metro (7 PM)

Sat, May 23rd (Metro) Fasting Prayer @ Metro (10 AM - 7 PM)
3 Sessions: [10 - 1 PM] [2 - 4 PM] [5 - 7 PM]

Prayer for the Nations: Ethiopia (Africa) *

- A revolution in 1974 over threw the Emperor Haile Selassie and brought in a Marxist government, which ruled for 17 years with the help of the USSR. During this chaotic time Ethiopia suffered severe droughts and famines. Since 1991 a more democratic government has brought greater freedom to Ethiopia and given greater political power to the regions.
- Churches in Ethiopia survived the persecution of the Communist era. In 1960 there less than 200,000 Christians in Protestant churches and by the year 2000, this number has grown to nearly 12 million!
- There has been a move of the Holy Spirit in some sections of the Orthodox Church – with people becoming Christians and getting close to God.
- The growth of the Protestant Church has been amazing. Pray that these Christians would continue to have a real passion for evangelism. Pray also for real spiritual growth and discipleship in the Church.
- The Ethiopian Orthodox Church has survived for centuries almost cut off from Christians around the world and surrounded by Islamic nations. Many Ethiopians belong to the church without having a personal relationship with Jesus and a living faith – and many are also caught up in the occult. Pray that Holy Spirit can bring new life to this Church.
- Many people have come to Ethiopia to escape the violence and bloodshed of Sudan's civil war. Over 100,000 people live in refugee camps near the border. Pray for their immediate care and health and for the security of their future.
- With over 80 languages spoken across Ethiopia there is an ongoing need for Bible translation. The Bible or the New Testament is available in 18 languages – and a further 12 languages are in development. Training courses are given regularly to train Ethiopians in translation – pray that many would be able to use their skills in this way.
- AIDS has spread rapidly and affects over 3 million – that's 10% of the adult population. Pray for Christians who provide care and counselling for families who are suffering.

* http://operationworld.24-7prayer.com/country.php?country_id=21

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of God



*Celebrating the Presence of God
Demonstrating the Love of God
Communicating the Word of God
Educating the People of God*

May 17, 2009

Sing aloud unto God our strength: make a joyful noise unto the God of Jacob. (Ps 80:1)

Welcome

The Privilege of Prayer

We all pray at one time or another. Even those who don't believe in God, calls out to God in crisis and says, "O God, help me!" We are all familiar with prayer to some extent or another. Prayer is one of the greatest privileges God has given to man. I can come boldly to the throne of grace at any time and talk with my Father (Hebrews 4:16). And what's more, He is always there to listen to my prayers. I am amazed that God has given me such a privilege to talk with Him at any time. I do not have to make any special appointments but I can come with a clean and pure heart at any hour, for any need and open my heart before Him. God not only listens but He's also promised to help me. One of the greatest mysteries among the angels in heaven is that man has been given this glorious privilege of prayer. Often times, we take little advantage of it and treat it in such an ordinary way.

Prayer is not a religious work where one should expect a merit badge for the work. Nor should it be considered as a duty to fulfill an obligation. But it is expressed in a basic form of worship. It is a natural and spontaneous result from the conscious awareness of God. As I meditate on the greatness of God and His nearness to me and His love for me, I naturally respond with deep, inner worship of Him. The psalmist says, "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise" (Psalm 100:4). A believer has a source of power and that is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will intercede for you and me while we pray. Indeed, the Holy Spirit is the source of power in our life and the greatest outlet of that spiritual power is prayer.

So, use this privilege of prayer to renew your faith in troubled times. When Job was overwhelmed by his trials, he cried out in great agony, "Oh that one would hear me!" (Job 31:35). While Job was surrounded by people that had no sympathy for him, Job turned to the Lord alone: "Behold my witness is in heaven, and my record in on high.... Mine eyes pour out tears to God" (Job 16:19-20). We also hear a similar cry from King David who was often surrounded by large families and companions. David urged God's people to do as Job did: "Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us" (Psalm 62:8). Both Job and David poured out their hearts to God in the midst of their trials, and so can you and I. Let me encourage you to take advantage of this privilege through prayer and surrender your life into the hands of the Lord. You can come freely to God and make your needs, desires and requests known to Him. You can open your heart to Him and lay the innermost secrets of your soul. He already knows what you are going to say. As you talk with the Father, He will give you help, strength and guidance. The psalmist says, "He will respond to the prayer of the destitute; he will not despise their plea" (Psalm 102:17). By doing so, you will abide in His peace no matter what your circumstance.

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Sermon Notes

In the Book of Exodus, we see Moses went to the tabernacle to commune or talk with God. Moses had a close and intimate relationship with God. Something that is vital in effective prayer is a close personal relationship between the petitioner and God. In return, God spoke to Moses, "as man speaks to his friend" (Exodus 33:11). Through Jesus Christ, we have access to an intimate relationship with God. God has given each of us "the spirit of adoption whereby we cry, Abba Father. The spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God" (Romans 8: 15-16). As the song says, "What a privilege it is to carry everything to God in prayer". May you have this beautiful experience of prayer, not as a work, not as a burden, not as an obligation but as the most joyous privilege in the world.

In Christ,
Suby Jacob