

Prayer!!!
By Robert J. Hiertzler
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Why do we pray?

Open my eyes...

Ephesians 1:17-18 ...The eyes of your understanding being enlightened...

God has called every one of us here to do something here in Lake County. When I was younger, I prayed and asked God what life was all about. I wanted to know if it was just to grow up, get married, have kids, and die. It took ten months for God to answer that prayer, and I went through a lot in those ten months. I was over a thousand miles from where I prayed that prayer, I was in the Navy, and I got baptized in a horse trough in the basement of a church. God let me know that He was answering my prayer.

Acts 26:15-18 ...To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light...

The same thing applies to us, today. We have a responsibility to share. Apostle Paul had an interesting testimony. He was a Pharisee named Saul, and went around arresting Christians, before he got knocked off his high horse. Then he asked the question, "Lord, what would you have me to do?" God sent Ananias from Damascus, and told him to minister to Saul. Ananias quickly reminded God, "Saul is the kind of guy that kills guys like me." God sent him anyway, and Saul listened to Ananias.

Maybe you're here today because you're seeking God. Maybe you've been to church all your life, and just want a closer relationship with God. There's people like that in the Bible, too.

Forgiveness and repentance...

Psalms 51:10- ...renew a right spirit within me...

Then I can go teach others... Maybe something from your past is still haunting you. Maybe today is the day that you let it go, or start to let it go.

Healing touch (our lives and other lives)...

In the Book of Acts, Peter prayed for a woman named Tabitha, and she came back to life (Acts 9:36-40). In this drought that we're having, a lot of things have turned brown, but when the rain comes, they'll turn green again. Maybe all you need is to have your spirit renewed, brought back to life. It's like when Jesus told the adulterous woman, "Go, and sin no more."

Anointing in our life to share with others...

The Scripture is Isaiah 61:1-3 if you're taking notes, but let's read:

Luke 4:17-21 ...The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...

I have a device in my bedroom that glows in the dark and lets me know what time it is, and in the morning makes an annoying sound to wake me up. We are the time clock for these people.

Sometimes God sends people far away to share with them. There's the story of Phillip and the Eunuch (Acts 8:26-39). God sent Phillip to talk to this eunuch, who was far away from home also, and the eunuch was reading a passage from Isaiah, and he asked Philip about it. Phillip began at the same Scripture, and taught him about Jesus. Then, in the middle of the desert, they came across some water, and the eunuch asked to be baptized.

We need to have that frame of mind that, wherever we go, who are we going to share with.

Protection Prayer...

Acts 4:24-31 ...grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word...

Peter and John were on their way to the Temple to pray, and they came across a lame man. Peter healed him, and he was leaping and praising God, and the religious leaders tried to tell Peter and John that they shouldn't be doing things like that. Now, this was not a pray about, "Oh, woe is me, the leaders told me to stop doing what I was doing," this was a prayer for boldness that they could continue to do God's work.

Guidance, Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge...

Isaiah 11:1-2 ...wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, ...

That same spirit rests on us. God's given us tools, but we have to learn to use the tools. A lot of times it seems the only way we learn is through trial and error.

Count your blessings; they outnumber the complaints. I have complained, and God has reminded me of my blessings, and when I tried to count my blessings, I lost count.

Right Now Prayers...

Back in December, one day when I went in to work, it was very quiet. I was wondering what was going on, it was so quiet. When I went to put my lunch in the fridge in the breakroom, my supervisor pulled me aside and told me that one of my co-workers had been in a car accident. She asked me to contact the church and have people pray for him. I got on the phone and sent out text messages, and people started praying for him. He had his eleven year old twin sons in the car with him, and they took the sons to a children's hospital and took him to another hospital.

The next day, we got word that one of the sons had passed, and the other son wasn't doing too well, so I got on the phone again, because we needed those 'right-now' prayers. People started praying, and the surviving son opened his eyes and started wiggling his toes, so they knew there was no spinal damage. A week later, they were both released from the hospital. The father is not huffer, but when he came back to work, he gave me big old bear hug, and thanked me for the prayers.

Praising God...

Daniel 6:10-24 ...prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime...

Daniel prayed, even though he knew it was against the king's decree, because he knew it was the right thing to do.

