

A Transformed Walk: Enjoying personal devotions

Prayer

Reading: 1 Tim 1:12-2:7

Overflowing prayer 1 Tim 1:12-17

Paul overflows in prayer 1 Tim 1:17, 1 Tim 6:15-16

- He was so glad that Christ Jesus saved him 1 Tim 1:12-16
- He was brought up to pray Acts 22:3 (see Acts 5:34-40), Phil 3:5-7
- The early church constantly and instinctively prayed Acts 1:14, 2:42, 4:24, etc
- His mission was birthed in fasting, praying and Spirit-leading Acts 13:2
- He was fighting a battle 1 Tim 1:18-20

➔ **Cultivate unplanned overflowing prayer: Learn from others who pray** 2 Tim 3:10,14

Discuss: What influences have shaped the way you pray, and how could you grow in this area?

Planned Prayer 1 Tim 2:1-7

Pray all types of prayers

Petitions

Prayers

Intercession

Thanksgiving

Pray for all types of people

- That we might live peacefully v2
- It is good and pleases God v3
- “God our Saviour wants all men to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth” v4 (see Titus 2:11, 2 Pet 3:9)
- There is only one mediator, ransom, now witnessed to v5-7

➔ Cultivate planned prayer

Discuss: Brainstorm the empty clichés we use in prayer. How could praying all types of prayers for all types of people help us?

Practical suggestions:

Cultivate planned prayer – use a system

E.g., The Lord’ Prayer

To one young man, M’Cheyne wrote, “you read your Bible regularly, of course, but do try and understand it, and still more to feel it....Turn the bible into prayer. Thus, if you were reading the first Psalm, spread the bible on the chair before you and kneel and pray. Oh, God, give me the blessedness of this man...This is the best way of knowing the meaning of the bible and of learning to pray.” Andrew Alexander Bonar, *The Life and Remains of the Rev. Robert Murray McCheyne*, p48

Cultivate unplanned prayer – don’t use a system

“If such an abundance of good thoughts comes to us we ought to disregard the other petitions, make room for such thoughts, listen in silence, and under no circumstances obstruct them. The Holy Spirit himself preaches here, and one word of his sermon is far better than a thousand of our prayers...honour him by **letting go of this written scheme**; be still and listen to him who can do better than you can.” Martin Luther, *A simple way to pray*