

The Prayer Hand

(The Prayer Hand As A Diagnostic Tool)

Ephesians 6:16

I. Since Faith and Prayer are linked... (when did faith change from our trusting God to our getting God to do our will?)

1. God is not what we believe, by Faith we believe what God is as revealed in His Holy Word
2. God's will is not what we believe, by Faith we believe God's will as revealed in His Holy Word.
3. God does not do what we believe, rather by Faith we believe what God does as revealed in His Holy Word.
4. By a word of faith command, God does not do our bidding, rather by faith in the commands of His Holy Word we do His bidding.
5. Faith is not the ability to get God to act on our behalf, rather by faith we believe that He has acted and is acting on our behalf and trust in His sovereign, good and holy will.
6. God can do anything, but He doesn't, He only does His good and holy will.

II. How We Pray Is Important To God... (Prayer is more than Confession & Supplication (Health, jobs, and relationships))

Illustration: Husband/ wife/food

- A. Error revealed in popular song, *"You don't have to know how to pray, you don't have to know what to say, as long as you say Jesus."* Nothing could be further from the truth (Mark 5:7; James 4:3).
- B. God not man defines prayer and worship, what is and is not important in worship, how, when and where to worship. Man has never been free to worship God in any way he chooses (Deuteronomy 12:13-14, 14:23, 16:5-6).
 1. Saul and the hasty evening offering (1 Samuel 13:9-14)
 2. Saul and the spoil of the Amalekites (1 Samuel 15:15-23)
 3. Israel, the northern kingdom, sins by worshiping God on the high places (1 Kings 12:30-33)

Adoration

Philippians 4:4

Habakkuk 3:17 & 18

Example: Job 1:20

1. The worship of God without reference to man
2. Invalid examples/ False Enthusiasm
3. God is revealed in His Word not in experience

Confession

I John 1:9; II Corinthians 7:9-11

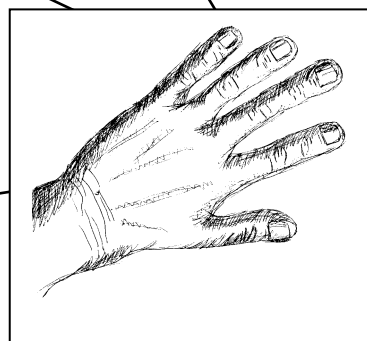
Fellowship, not Relationship
Our heart, not God's heart

Thanksgiving

Psalm 140:13

I Thessalonians 5:17, 18

1. The Worship of God in reference to man
2. Not that we have it but that God would give it
3. What does it mean when you stop saying "Thank you"?



III. The Prayer Hand

1 Timothy 2:8 *Therefore I want the men in every place to pray...*

Colossians 4:2 *"Devote yourselves to prayer..."*

- A. By faith we submit our prayers to the will of God, the Word of God. We do not place our hope in faith, we place our faith in God, our hope in God as revealed by His holy Word

John 15:7 I John 5:14, 15

Spiritual Warfare

James 4:7.

I John 4:4

What spiritual warfare is not... (satan and I are not on speaking terms.) 1 Tim 4:1-2

Supplication

Asking God: Humility and Confidence

(Luke 22:41,42; Rom 8:27; Eph 5:17)

Vs.

Telling God (Authority)

(Freshman year, shrubs, weather chaos)

Trapping God

(Father, son, promise to go to the park, mother in hospital)

Being God

(Trusting in faith; breaking the spell, Based on our limited intellect I am glad God withholds this power from Christians.)

1. **Ourselves** Psalm 116:1,2 (114:1,2 – Russia)
2. **Others** Ephesians 6:18
3. Illustration of father and son: The absurdity of questioning the existence of God based on His answering our prayers
4. **Asking With Confidence** – we return to...
John 15:7; I John 5:14, 15

Husband wife illustration: Food is Word of God, now finish illustration with positive examples both with wife and God