

Luke 11; Lord's Day 45
THE PRIVILEGE OF PRAYER

- I. Why are we to pray?
 - A. Prayer is necessary because it is commanded as a necessary part of our spiritual warfare (Ps. 27:8; Eph. 6:18).
 - B. Prayer is necessary because it is the primary way to thank God.
 - C. Because the covenant is a relationship of friendship, prayer is our side in that holy conversation with the covenant God.
 - D. Prayer is necessary because it is the means God would have us use to receive grace and the Holy Spirit.
- II. How are we to pray? This is determined by the character of Him to Whom we pray. This will be the attitude for proper preparation
 - A. Prayer must be sincere, i.e., focused, using all of one's faculties and efforts.
 - B. Sincere prayer is focused on the one true God as He has revealed Himself in His Word.
 - C. Pray with humility and contrition.
 - D. Ground your prayers by faith on the merit and worthiness of Jesus Christ, the only Mediator.
 - E. Pray forgiving if you have anything against anyone (Mark 11:25,26).
 - F. Prayer is to be without ceasing, so it expresses the attitude of our life, consciously living as God wants.
- III. For what are we to pray? For all the things He has commanded us to ask of Him.
 - A. "According to His will" (I John 5:14).
 - B. Pray for whatever He promises - ask boldly that He fulfill His promises (when He is pleased to do so).
 - C. Ask primarily for spiritual needs: His grace and Spirit (Luke 11:13).
 - D. "Without ceasing" implies that we desire to see His infinite love and perfect wisdom in every event and circumstance of life.
 - E. Conclusion.