



Teacher: Beth Seifert

©Naomi's Table 2014

Lesson 105: 2 Samuel 17:1-16 Confounded Counsel

Of the 316 times that the word “pray” is mentioned in the Bible (at least in the ESV) 166 of them are in the Old Testament and the rest are in the New Testament. While the Old Testament does talk about “crying out to God” and “coming before God” as well, it is interesting to note that the majority of the time prayer is talked about in the New Testament, it is to help us to understand how to come before God, now that we no longer require the priests to stand in between the people and God.

Because of Christ’s sacrifice, we can come directly to God in prayer in an intimate and precious way that we couldn’t before. Prayer is a significant and precious portion of our walk with God, and it is a way in which the Spirit is able to draw us closer to Him as we spend time talking to Him. (I’m not saying that prayer wasn’t important in Old Testament times; but we are able to come before God in a way that is different than it was under the law, and that is a gift we often take for granted.)

Read Psalm 65:1-4. Why is praise due to God?

What does God hear?

When the sins of our flesh are overwhelming, what does God provide for us?

What will the one who is brought near to God be satisfied with?

Read Matthew 6:5-15. What attitude are we to take when we pray?

Are we to use as many words as we can? When we talk to God, are we to spend our time focusing on what we want/need?

Look closely at the Lord’s prayer: what specific things are we instructed to pray for here?

How much of what we are to pray for involves temporal issues?

How much involves eternal?

Read Acts 1:14, 2:42, 6:4, 10:1-2. What did the early believers devote themselves to?

Read Acts 4:23-31. Read through this prayer of the believers after they had been released from prison. What is their focus?

Is their focus on their glory? Their physical needs? Their safety? Keep in mind, they had just gotten out of prison, as they prayed these words.

What did they continue to do in boldness?

Read Romans 8:26-27. Who helps us pray?

Do we know what we ought to pray for?

How does the Spirit help us pray?

Read Romans 12:12, Ephesians 6:18-20, 1 Thessalonians 5:17. How often are we told to pray, according to these verses?

Read Philippians 4:6-8. What is the "cure" for anxiety?

Read 1 John 3:21-24. Why do we receive what we ask for from God, according to verse 22? What is His commandment, first and foremost?

Read 1 John 5:14-15. Verse 14 tells us He will hear us when we do what?

As you come before your Father today, ask Him to increase your faith. Ask Him to help you to pray with boldness and confidence, knowing that He is trustworthy. Ask Him to help you to leave your concerns with Him, instead of continuing to carry them yourself. Ask him to provide a reminder when you begin to take those concerns back, to fret over them again and again, so that you can stop and give those things back to Him.