

Built By the Lord

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Chapter 18

Family Prayer

I. Husbands as Prayer Leaders

A. 1 Thessalonians 5:17

B. Ephesians 5:22-24 → Husbands should be leading in this effort.

1. We must consider our family's prayer life.
2. Do we pray more than at meals and a quick, "Now I lay me down to sleep..." at bedtime? Do we even do that?!?
3. Husbands, we are at war!
4. Ephesians 6:10-13
5. We are fighting against hellish forces of the devil himself and they are not just attacking our society in general, but also our families in specific.
6. We must set the vision, the battle plan, and lead our families in prayer.

C. Intercession

1. Ephesians 5:23 → Our role mirrors Jesus' role in the prayer for the church.
2. Romans 8:34 → Jesus intercedes for us.
3. Hebrews 7:25 → Jesus always lives to make intercession for us.
4. The father's role for the family is to make intercession for them.
 - a. This is MORE than a generic prayer.
 - 1) "Lord please bless my wife and kids."
 - 2) This is a specific prayer for our wives' and children's needs & desires.
 - b. This is NOT a selfish prayer.

D. Jesus taught His disciples (and us) how to pray. Luke 11:1-13

1. Jesus' disciples had prayed all of their life. But there was something different in how Jesus prayed.
2. We teach by instruction and by example.

E. Prayers... and actions -- 1 Peter 3:7

1. If we mistreat our family (especially wives), our prayers will not be profitable.
2. Children are quick to discern a difference in what is prayed and our actions. What will happen to our influence in their lives?
3. We must lead in prayer and in making our prayers worthwhile by living properly in our family.

II. Wives as Prayer Partners

A. A suitable helper → Genesis 2:18

1. Proverbs 31:12 → The greatest way to help is through prayer.
2. Psalm 127:1-2 –
 - a. Wives are called on to do SO MUCH.
Work a full-time job, take the kids to all of their events, come home and cook, clean, help with homework, wash and iron clothes, etc.

b. Note v. 2 –

- 1) Without God in the family, these things are all in vain.
- 2) We make all of these things worthwhile by inviting God into our families in prayer.

B. Not competitive

1. Satan interferes with the process by getting wives to compete with their husband.
2. Who adds the most? Who does the most? ...sacrifices the most? ...has the toughest time?
3. Satan fosters this infighting. We cannot pray with and for someone that we are attacking.
4. Stop and remember Matthew 5:44. We even pray for our enemies... if it has come to that. 😊
5. Let's drop the walls of competition and view each other as partners.

C. 1 Peter 3:3-4 → Peter's advice

1. Husbands and wives are partners. Learn to value what God values, think what God thinks, and want what God wants.
2. Let your life and your family be God's instrument to work in His world.
3. THIS is the crux of a successful prayer.
4. We align our values, desires, words, and actions with God.

D. 1 Peter 3:1-2 → What is our goal? Heaven for all.

1. Wives, continue to pray for your husband.
2. Pray for yourself that you can be the wife you know you ought to be... even if he is making it hard for you.
3. Pray for your husband and the aspects of his life that are praiseworthy.
4. Pray for him and strive to complement him, using your strengths to make up for his weaknesses.
5. Proverbs 14:1

III. Obedient Prayers

A. We often view prayer as an adult activity. Ephesians 6:1-2

B. Teaching them to pray is part of our responsibility as parents.

C. Children should pray for:

1. Their parents, raising you is not easy.
2. The wisdom of their parents. Parents live in constant fear that they are doing it right.

D. "We are what we repeatedly do."

IV. Today's Response

A. Stop and pray with your family. Pray together.

B. Matthew 7:7-11

1. God gives good gifts to those that ask Him.
2. What kinds of blessings has your family received because you asked?
3. What blessings have you missed because you have not asked?