

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?