

Learning Some Principles of Prayer From Five New Testament Women

ANNA

And there was one Anna, a prophetess, a daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, and she was a widow up to the age of eighty-four, who did not depart from the temple, serving God with fastings and petitions night and day. And at that very hour she came up and returned thanks to God, and spoke concerning Him to all those waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem (Luke 2:36-38).

- **Patterns** Older ones can be faithful patterns in prayer.
- **Focused** Loving and pursuing Christ and being occupied with Christ focuses our prayer.
- **Instruments** God needs some dispensational instruments to pray for His coming.
- **Location** It is good to have a place for prayer.
- **Service** Sisters can serve as priests before God with petitions.
- **Issue** Prayer issues in revelation, thanksgiving and well-speaking of Christ.

MARY – THE MOTHER OF JESUS

And Mary said, my soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has exulted in God my Savior; because He has looked upon the low estate of His slave. For behold, from now on all generations will count me blessed (Luke 1:46-48).

- **Condition** Pray depending on the Lord's mercy, because He is our Savior.
- **Word** Being filled with the knowledge and love of God's Word helps our prayer.
- **Being** Pray with an exercised spirit and a renewed, clear and sober mind.

These all continued steadfastly with one accord in prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers (Acts 1:14).

- **Corporately** Prayer of the church is necessary.
- **One Accord** Pray with one mind, not in opinions.
- **Perseverance** It is good to continue steadfastly in prayer for a period of time.

A CANAANITE WOMAN

And behold, a Canaanite woman came out from those borders and cried out, saying, have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter suffers terribly from demon possession. But He did not answer her a word. And His disciples came and implored Him, saying, send her away, for she is crying out after us. But He answered and said, I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. But she came and worshipped Him, saying, Lord, help me! But He answered and said, It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs. And she said, Yes, Lord, for even the little dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. Then Jesus answered and said to her, O woman, great is your faith! Be it done to you as you wish. And her daughter was healed from that hour (Matt. 15:22-28).

- **Earnestly** We can bring our needs before the Lord in earnest prayer.
- **Grace** The Lord shows us our stand (as Gentile dogs) so that we might know grace.
- **Utterance** God seems to desire that we speak what is in our heart – our burdens.
- **Short Prayers** Long prayers are not necessary in order to be heard. "Lord, help me!"
- **By Faith** Once we address Him as the Lord of all by exercising faith, we can receive and enjoy Christ as our life supply (the crumbs under the table).
- **Negotiating** Praying is similar to negotiation. We need to learn the utterance of prayer. We might pray, "Lord, You said . . . I'm here agreeing with Your will in heaven to be done on earth!"

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WOMAN WHO TOUCHED HIM

And He went with him, and a great crowd followed Him and pressed upon Him. And a woman was there, who had a flow of blood for twelve years. She had suffered much under many physicians and had spent everything she had and had not benefited at all, but rather became worse. When she heard the things concerning Jesus, she came up in the crowd behind Him and touched His garment, for she said, If I touch even His garments, I will be healed. And immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she knew in her body that she was cured of the affliction. And immediately Jesus, realizing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, Who touched My garments? And His disciples said to Him, You see the crowd pressing upon You and You say, Who touched Me? And He looked around to see her who had done this. But the woman, frightened and trembling, knew what had happened to her, and she came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. And He said to her, Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be well from your affliction (Mark 5:24-34).

- **Goal** Our goal in prayer is to touch Him, not just to crowd around Him.
- **Approachable** We should realize that the Lord is approachable to us today.
- **Strengthened** We are always healed when we touch Him.
- **Release** Touching Him in prayer releases us from the evil one's oppression and gives us peace.
- **Sympathy** The Lord cares for us in kindness and sympathy.

WIDOW IN PARABLE OF LUKE 18

And He told them a parable to the end that they ought always to pray and not lose heart, saying, There was a certain judge in a certain city who did not fear God and did not regard man. And there was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, Avenge me of my opponent. And for a time he would not; but afterward he said within himself, Even though I do not fear God nor regard man, Yet because this widow causes me trouble, I will avenge her, lest by continually coming she wear me out. And the Lord said, Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God by all means carry out the avenging of His chosen ones, who cry to Him day and night, though He is long-suffering over them? I tell you that He will carry out their avenging quickly. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth (Luke 18:1-8)?

- **As Widows** In a sense, the believers in Christ are a widow in the present age because their Husband, Christ (2 Cor. 11:2) is absent from them.
- **Suffering** As believers, we suffer unrighteous persecution.
- **Avenging** Our pray is that the Lord as the Judge will procure justice for us.
- **Opponent** We need God's avenging concerning the opponent, Satan the devil.
- **Persistence** We need to learn to be a bothering widow, praying persistently for this avenging, and not lose heart.
- **Kingdom** God's avenging us of our enemy will take place at the Savior's coming back.
- **In Faith** We should pray in subjective faith. At His coming He hopes to find faith.
- **How Long?** The martyrs underneath the altar are also crying out to the sovereign Lord.