

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

Lessons From the Life of Paul

Philippians 2:1-4:23

2008

Introduction

Quotes from the Bible:

Isa 56:7 "... for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations."

Matt 21:13 "It is written," he said to them, "My house will be called a house of prayer"

Quotes on prayer:

S.D. Gordon: "The great people of earth are the people who pray. I do not mean those who talk about prayer; nor those who say they believe in prayer; nor yet those who can explain about prayer; but I mean those people who take time to pray."

E. M. Bounds: "What the Church needs today is not more or better machinery, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use—men of prayer, men mighty in prayer. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men -- men of prayer."

Samuel Chadwick: "The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayer-less studies, prayer-less work and prayer-less religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but he trembles when we pray."

Directed Prayer In Pairs

I'll be guiding us through a series of brief devotionals followed by a response time of prayer in pairs.

1. Ground rules:

- a. Pray with your spouse or someone of the same sex
- b. Don't spend excess time talking -- get right to prayer.
- c. Keep your prayers brief. Instead of praying one long prayer, share shorter prayers back and forth -- don't be a prayer hog!

2. Begin by praying that:

- a. God will bless your time of prayer.
- b. God will use this time in a very powerful way to draw you closer to Him.
- c. God will lead you by His Holy Spirit

3. Pray with your partner

I A Life Marked by Advancement: 3:13-14

A. Advancement of the **gospel** - Phil 1:12, 25

1. **Prokope**: "To beat the breast in grief and advance anyway!"

Phil 1:12 “Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.”

Phil 1:25 “Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith ...”

- a. Paul’s chains inspired unbelievers in the Palace Guard to consider Christ
- b. Paul’s chains inspired his fellow believers to evangelize

B. Advancement of our spiritual life: Swinging on vines

Phil 3:13 “Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it.

But “***One thing I do ...***”

1. To press on - Rom 8:28-30; Acts 20:24; 1 Cor 15:51-52
 - a. To take hold of His God-ordained purpose

2. To remain focused on the goal by: - Ps 27:4

- a. Forgetting what is behind - Prov 24:16; Lk 9:62

What past things should you be forgetting?

Our reconciled sin of the past and our successes of the past!

- b. Straining toward what is ahead - Heb 12:1-3

Illustration: Tarzan, King of the Jungle

“Letting go and reaching forward”!!

- c. Pressing on toward the goal to win prize - 1 Cor 9:24
 1. For which God had called him - 2 Tim 4:7-8

Prayer #1:

1. What are the “chains” in your life that God can harness for the advancement of the Gospel? Pray for that!
2. What is harder for you -- letting go of the past or reaching to the future? What do you need to let go of today? What future challenges do you need to commit to God?

II A Life Marked by Peace: 4:6-7

Quote: “Worry is like a rocking chair, it keeps you busy, but it doesn't get you anywhere!”

Quote: “Nothing brings Christ nearer or drives the devil away faster than a genuinely thankful heart!”

- A. Do not be anxious about anything - Mt 6:25-34

1. But in everything

- a. By prayer - Phil 3:13-14; Ps 27:4

Proseuchomai = “To prostrate one’s self in worship”

- b. By petition - Matt 7:7-8

- c. With thanksgiving - Eph 5:19-20; 1 Thess 5:16-18

2. Present your requests to God and the peace of God:

- a. Will guard your hearts - Rom 5:1; 1Tim 1:2; Jn 14:27
- b. Will guard your minds in Christ Jesus

1. Hearts = Susceptible to wrong feelings
2. Minds = Susceptible to wrong thinking

Illustration: Round the world flight threatened by a rat!

Solution: Increase your elevation

“Worry is like a rat in your heart and in your mind. If left alone, it will gnaw at you until it destroys your life and until it steals away all your joy, power and energy. But, the rodent of worry cannot live in the secret place of the Most High. It cannot breathe in an atmosphere that is steeped in prayer and influenced by the Word of God. Worry dies when we ascend to the Lord through prayer and His Word.”

Prayer #2:

1. Share one thing that you are anxious about.
2. Take your anxiety to God with your partner using Philippians 4:4-7 as the basis for your prayer.

III A Life Marked by Modeling

A. Paul wanted them to put into practice - 1 Cor 4:16; 11:1

1. Whatever they had **learned**
2. Whatever they had received
3. Whatever they had **heard** from Paul
4. Whatever they had seen in Paul

B. Paul encouraged the believers to follow his example:

1. 1 Cor 4:16 “Therefore I urge you to **imitate** me.”
2. 1 Cor 11:1 “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”

Application: You are already an example -- good or bad!

1 Tim 4:12 “Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an **example** for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”

Prayer #3:

1. What one thing needs to change in your life for you to be a reliable model of Christ for others?
2. Ask God to give your prayer partner the courage, wisdom and love to be able to intentionally and effectively model the Christian life for others.

IV Closing Prayer

- A. Pray for one another's personal prayer concerns
- B. Pray for God's blessing on one another

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