

Speaking to God

Introduction

In the previous study we noted the wonderful truth that the God of the Bible is a 'speaking God'. In this study, we learn another great truth about the God of the Bible, namely that God is a Father who listens. In the words of Psalm 65vs2: God is worthy of praise because He is the God who hears prayer. Together, these twin truths underline the fact that the God of the Bible is the Personal God, the One who has designed us to be in personal relationship with Him. On the one hand, God speaks and we are to listen, believe and obey; On the other hand, we speak and God has promised to listen and to respond to our prayers. What a privilege it is to know this God!

Because prayer is such a key part of the believers' relationship with God the Bible is full of exhortations to pray and full of promises that God will hear and answer our prayers for our good and for His glory. In a brief study like this, we are obviously not able to look at the majority of these exhortations or promises or deal with all the questions that one may have. We will however look at some key passages in the hope that these will encourage each one of us to be people of prayer.

Study Questions

Read Deuteronomy 4vs6-8. Answer the following questions from the text.

1. What two things are the distinctive privileges of believers?
2. In what way does Deuteronomy 4vs7 encourage us to be people of prayer?
3. How does this verse challenge your view of your own prayers?

Read Matthew 6vs5-13. Answer the following questions.

1. What do we learn from vs5-8 about the manner in which we pray?
2. What do we learn from vs9-13 about the content of our prayers?

Read Philippians 4vs6-7. Answer the following questions.

1. What can we pray about?
2. In what way does prayer help us to face anxiety?
3. What promise does God give to those who come to Him in prayer?

Think it Through

1. In the light of what you have learnt do you believe that God hears and answers prayer?
2. What steps do you need to take to ensure that you pray regularly?

(For help with the practicalities of prayer we recommend the Matthias Press book "Prayer and the Voice of God" written by Tony Payne and Philip Jensen. Remember that the key thing is to make a start – set a time and place and start to pray. Use the Lord's prayer as it is for a structure and then slowly fill in your own words of praise, thanksgiving and request. Remember that God delights in and welcomes our prayers, no matter how feeble they may seem to us)