

**THE "HARP" SECRET**

- Why is it so important that we have a time of prayer each day?
- Name some ways that we can pray each day.
- How can we make a habit of prayer?

**Introduction:** Prayer should not be complicated or boring. Many of us were not taught how to pray. Others have not practiced daily prayer. And others have done it but not sure if they are doing it correctly or not. We will give you some guidelines to follow that will help to develop a dynamic prayer life. We will use the acronym HARP

1. **GRATITUDE**: *Psalm 103:2*.

- a. An easy way to start praying to God is giving thanks for all the benefits received from Him every day.
- b. Whether it's a wage increase, health or salvation of a family member. It can be spiritual or material things you have received. It can be anything from a new bike to a new car, or perhaps something as significant as the smile of a person who made your day, your children, friends, family or giving thanks for those things that you don't have yet.
- c. The important thing is not to come before God with a complaint, but with the attitude of the Psalmist with thanksgiving and praise. Psalm 100:4 (stop for a moment and take time to thank God for all of your blessings)

2. **RENDITION**. *Matthew 6:10*

- a. We must learn to tell God every day, Lord, help me to do your will today. Not what I want but what you desire. We must follow what it says in the Lord's Prayer "Thy will be done, as in heaven, so do with as well in my life, my home, my money, my time".
- b. You can say something like, "Lord, I have already made these plans for the day. But I will deliver them right now and surrender to you so that direct me in everything I do. My day is really your day. "
- c. When you give up your finances to God every day, he will give you the wisdom to make wealth. When you give your day to the Lord, then you will find that time will yield you more because you worked with focus and with the blessing of God.

d. **FORGIVENESS** *Matthew 6:12*

- a. We must take the time to ask forgiveness for our sins and failures and also a time to forgive those who have wronged us or hurt. Lack of forgiveness can lead to mental and physical illness, but by granting forgiveness daily it will give you a sense of healing and freedom to enjoy your day continuously.

**Example:** When someone is arrested by police two types of reactions. The first one simply recognizes that the police are the authority, goes to the side of the road and surrenders on the orders of the officer. The second type tries to escape and instead of stopping the vehicle will hit the accelerator creating chaos in the streets and forcing men in uniform to use force. Some end up with the vehicle in pieces and causing accidents. But the beauty of God is that he doesn't force us to surrender to his authority. He wants us to

- b. We must develop the habit of apologizing for everything that continuously breaks our fellowship with God
- c. .Some benefits of apologizing are:
  - It helps us to be aware of what our areas of weakness are.
  - It keeps us alert to not approach the fire, but to overcome the weakness.
  - We depend on God more. We recognize that we can not succeed in our own strength.
  - It keeps us humble, patient with others and we learn how to forgive
- e. **WORSHIP.**
  - a. God does not need our money, car, or house. He wants us to worship Him.
  - b. To worship is to meditate and declare the beauty and glory of the Lord Jesus. It is taking time to know him, your heart, your feelings, desires, dreams, etc.. When we worship we fall in love so deep that we no longer can or want to live without Him
  - c. We can learn to worship declaring some psalms for example *How beautiful are the places where You live, O Lord of all! My soul wants and even becomes weak from wanting to be in the house of the Lord. My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the bird has found a home. The swallow has found a nest for herself where she may lay her young at Your altars, O Lord of all, my King and my God Psalms 84:1-3*

#### ***KEYS TO CREATE THE HABIT OF WORSHIP***

- d. **Be natural, talk to God as you would with a friend or your wife (or husband).**
- e. **Does not matter where or how long you pray,** but the quality and sincerity of your prayer. You can pray kneeling, standing, walking or lying down.
- f. **Start small but start now.** You can use a Daily Devotional to keep record of what God speaks to you in your time each day of reading and prayer.
- g. **Pray all the time** keep you an attitude of prayer in everything you do in the day
- h. **Choose a time and place to pray every day.** It can be early in the morning or late in the day. It is advisable to give to **the Lord the best of the day.**

**Conclusion:** *We must not believe we are self sufficient, we must learn to depend on God and know that prayer unleashes supernatural power.* Jesus was the greatest leader of all time and began his morning with prayer and moved all day in the supernatural power.

**Today take time to practice each of the steps of the HARP secret**

**SINNER'S PRAYER** Lord Jesus  
I acknowledge that I have  
sinned and that you died for  
me, today I repent and ask  
forgiveness. I give you my life  
and heart so you could be my  
Lord and Savior, amen.

#### **Announcements:**

- **School for House of Peace Leaders :** School for house of peace leaders will start soon
- **Training for Ushers:** If you are a usher or if you want to serve in this ministry, we invite you to the training on Saturday, July 26 from 4 pm to 8 pm You will receive a certificate and pin.

