

“Did You Think To Pray?”

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction: (A sermon in song)

- A. There are many passages in the Bible that address our need to speak to God in prayer.
 - 1. We need to do more than just listen to the word of God; we must talk with its Author.
 - 2. Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16 - tonight we will teach one another through song about the great blessing in prayer.
- B. **Song 62** is our outline for tonight's lesson: “Did You Think to Pray?”
 - 1. Prayer: A Shield for the Day
 - 2. Prayer: A Guide and Stay
 - 3. Prayer: A Reminder to Be Forgiving
 - 4. Prayer: The Balm of Gilead
- C. When you leave the house in the morning, what did you do to prepare and why did you do it?
 - 1. Shower and dress - fundamental to hygiene and appearance.
 - 2. Eat breakfast - necessary for health and alertness.
 - 3. Gather materials for work or school - essential for a productive day.
 - 4. Bid goodbye to family - important to maintain close family relationships.
 - 5. Make certain the keys are in hand - without them, you can't use the car and can't get back into the house.
- D. As part of the preparation for the day, did you think to pray?
 - 1. Why? (See points B 1-4)
 - 2. It is vital for our spiritual well-being.
 - 3. It influences our entire day.

I. A SHIELD FOR THE DAY

- A. How can prayer influence our whole day?
- B. Psalm 34:15, 17 - We invoke His watch and protection over us.
 - 1. Do we believe He will care for us if we ask?
 - 2. If not, then why do we ask Him?
- C. No, we will pray in faith, believing He will answer.
 - 1. **Song 59**
 - 2. Psalm 55:16-17
- D. Our prayer for the shield of God speaks to our other needs as well.
 - 1. Psalm 145:18-19
 - 2. But do we feel our need for Him and His care intensely?
- E. **Song 72** speaks of the longing we have for the shield of the Lord.

II. A GUIDE AND STAY

- A. Do you ever feel a sense of directionless-ness in your life?
 - 1. Jeremiah said, “It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.”
 - 2. We feel very secure in having the guidance of God's will; we are not so self-confident that we think we can go it alone.

3. Those who think they can are headed for a fall.
 4. Incidentally, many prayers have been made into in song.
 5. **Song 117**
- B. Psalm 25:4-5, 31:3-5
- C. Can you think of a time when we do not need the guidance of the Lord?
1. Do some wish that the Lord would help them when they want, and leave them alone at other times?
 2. Psalm 139:9-10 - We must commit ourselves to Him in order to have the expectation of an answer to our prayers when in need.
 3. **Song 63**

III. TO BE FORGIVING

- A. Do we ask in prayer for the Lord to help us to become more like Him?
- B. Matt. 6:9-15
1. As humans living in an environment with many other humans, we will be constantly subjected to a barrage of thoughtlessness, selfishness, and even malice from others. We will have need of great patience and an even greater capacity for forgiveness.
- C. "Jesus knows our every weakness, take it to the Lord in Prayer."
1. **Song 69**
- D. What is your particular weakness, need, or hindrance?
1. Can you admit it first to yourself, and then to God in prayer?
 2. Have you tried to go it alone? Ask for His assistance.
 3. **Song 150**

IV. OUR BALM OF GILEAD

- A. An anguish of heart that knows no earthly expression.
1. Hannah - 1Sam. 1:9-16; Rom. 8:26
- B. Sometimes a difficulty is beyond any help of our own, and our grief over it is deeper than our language can describe. It is then that we cast it upon the Lord and trust in Him.
1. **Song 104**
 2. Eph. 6:18; Phil. 4:6-7
- C. We should consider how comforting it is to know that the Lord is ultimately in charge and that His faithful children will persevere with His help.
1. A hymn of rejoicing, **song 407**

Conclusion:

- A. Knowing how absolutely essential daily prayer is to our spirit and soul, how could we even consider rising and departing in the morning without a prayer on our lips and in our hearts?
- B. Through prayer, vigilance, and the Lord's help we will make it through today and every day until the end.
- C. Invitation - **Song 630**