

Working On Our Knees

Nehemiah 1:1-11

Prayer jumps off the pages Nehemiah

I. Prayer is the most important _____ of the church

Note how the church began: "They all joined together constantly in prayer"

We must consider prayer because it vital and because it is easy to _____

A. There are problems with any communication that matters

Over time, conversational reticence hardens into communicative _____

"How we pray is as important a question as we can ever face" [J.I. Packer]

B. Common _____ with prayer

1. We are too _____

"Our prayer life is the most eloquent expression of our _____" [R. Brown]

2. We are easily _____

"What trifles are capable of shutting God out of our thoughts" [John Newton]

3. Prayer may seem _____. We have trouble sitting still.

4. It seems like we are not _____ when we pray

5. Our _____ is dim

6. We are _____

7. We are _____

"Sleeping from _____" when we should have been awake, praying [Luke 22:45]

8. We are insecure – we fear we are not _____ at prayer

9. We don't give prayer a real _____

C. Make prayer a _____

Nehemiah – man of remarkable _____ --prays first! For four months!

Prayer is Nehemiah's _____ work--"I pray before you day and night" [6a]

II. What is prayer?

A. Prayer is _____

The truth is: we are all _____ in need

B. Prayer is _____ speech – a conversation that God initiates

Nehemiah prays well because He has _____ well--marinated in the Scriptures

The Lord gives us language for prayer

C. Prayer is _____ work

1. Prayer is an intentional _____ --a primary devotion of the Christian life

2. Prayer is _____ --"I now pray before you day and night" [6a]

D. Prayer is a way of life: the _____ of dependent faith

E. Prayer emerges from our _____ affections

F. Prayer is the pathway to _____

III. Through prayer we come into _____ with Jesus

A. Our Lord made prayer a _____

B. Our Lord prayed before His greatest work

C. Our Lord prayed the Scriptures from the _____

D. Our Lord continues to pray for _____