

PRAYER IN EVANGELIZATION REPORT

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1. List the points relating to the subject on which most of the study group agrees.

Both English speaking study groups agreed wholeheartedly on the paper. In the French speaking group the same points of disagreement were mentioned.

2. List significant disagreements.

- a. There is no clear definition of what prayer is.
- b. According to the text we cannot say that prayer has absolute priority in the life of Jesus.
- c. Prayer is linked to the major points in the life of Christ.
- d. Jesus had time for everything he did and prayer was included in this.

3. Compile a list of major questions being asked inside and outside the church related to this subject. Seek between five and fifteen questions most encountered and put them in order of relative importance.

- a. If Jesus was God why did he pray? To whom and for whom did he pray?
- b. How can we be sure that the thing we are asking for is according to the will of God?
- c. What is the relationship between prayer and fasting?
- d. How long shall we pray for a specific need?
- e. What is meant by "pray without ceasing"?

4. Compile answers to major questions being asked.

There are various aspects of influencing God in our prayers. It seems that prayer might be used to change God's decision. We have the following examples in Scripture:

- a. unjust judge (Luke 18:1-5)
- b. importunate friend (Luke 11:5)
- c. Abraham's prayer for Sodom (Genesis 18:23-33)

The fact that we are children of God and we can ask the Father to change his mind was not the opinion of the whole group but of some individuals. The paper had stressed the opposite.

Answer to question 3b

If we ask it, if we begin to pray for it, we receive the answer (II Sam. 12:22).

If we are the temple of the Holy Spirit we do not need to ask ourselves if the thing we are praying is according to the will of God. It will be revealed to us as we pray (Rom. 8:26-27). In that sense we are in a situation which is quite different from that of David.

Answer to question 3c

Biblical teaching regarding fasting, Acts 13:1-3, indicates that in the early Church fasting was part of the ministry and was especially employed with prayer and sending out of missionaries (Matt. 17:21).

Another example of fasting is Jesus who fasted for forty days in the wilderness.

Paul's example can be found in II Cor. 11:27.

Answer to question 3d

We should pray till the Lord fulfills his promise and meets the need. The Lord can give us the assurance of the fulfillment of his promise (I John 5:14-15).

Matt. 9:37-38 seeing the great need and possibilities in the world (Whitefield) and the lack of workers the Lord commands us to pray for laborers in the harvest.

Answer to question 3e

To Pray without ceasing is only possible when prayer becomes an attitude, not just conversation.

5. Draw up a list of specific attitudes and activities which seem to be necessary as an outgrowth of this theological position, showing the theological support for listing each item.

- a. Praying without ceasing can be accomplished in a community by 24 hour chains of prayer.
- b. The women's world Day of Prayer: observed on the first day of March every year.
- c. Nights of prayer for world revival. These are held on the first of every month throughout the world.
- d. Telephone prayer chains.
- e. Special days of prayer.
- f. Prayer conferences.
- g. Daily family altars.
- h. Daily prayer groups in churches or other Christian bodies.
- i. Prayer lists — providing sufficient and specific prayer items (written or printed for all participants).
- j. Illustrated prayer calendars for missionaries.