

PRAYER – ALL KINDS OF PRAYER (LESSON 6)

PART A

Eph 6:18

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.(NIV)

In Ephesians 6:18, Paul requests that the Ephesians pray with all kinds of prayers. 10 different kinds of prayers are mentioned below. Provide scriptural examples and explanations for these different kinds of prayers.

KINDS OF PRAYER:

INSTANT

NUISANCE(HARASSING,PERSISTENT,RECURRING,REPETITIVE)

THANKSGIVING

EARNEST(SINCERE,DESPERATE,SERIOUS)

REVELATORY(praying the revealed will of God)

COOPERATIVE(AGREEMENT)

EXPECTANT(PRAYER OF FAITH)

DECLARATION(PROCLAMMATION,SPEAKING FORTH,DECREEING)

EXALTATION(prayer in the context of praise)

SPIRIT(praying with the spirit, prayer of the Holy Spirit)

PART B

James 5:16

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.(NKJ)

It is not prayer that avails much, but the state of the individual that determines the outcome of prayer.

Support this with evidence from scripture.

What are the elements of righteousness?

What are the benefits of righteousness?

ANSWERS - ALL KINDS OF PRAYER LESSON 6 - PART A

Eph 6:18

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. (NIV)

MNEMONIC – INTERCEDES

KINDS OF PRAYER:

I - INSTANT

N - NUISANCE

T - THANKSGIVING

E - EARNEST

R - REVELATORY

C - COOPERATIVE

E - EXPECTANT

D - DECLARATION

E - EXALTATION

S - SPIRIT

AMPLIFICATION

I – INSTANT

Praying at the same time as the need arises. This is praying on the spot.

Neh. 2:2-5

2 Therefore the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This is nothing but sorrow of heart." So I became dreadfully afraid,
3 and said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire?"
4 Then the king said to me, "What do you request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven.
5 And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it."(NKJ)

Nehemiah was dreadfully afraid because the king witnessed his sad countenance. This reflected negatively about the king's reign and jeopardized Nehemiah's life. When the king requested a reason for his sadness, Nehemiah prayed to God and answered. He did not retire to his room to pray. He prayed on the spot, in his crisis.

II Ki 20:1-2

1 In those days Hezeki'ah became sick and was at the point of death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came to him, and said to him, "Thus says the LORD, 'Set your house in order; for you shall die, you shall not recover.'"
2 Then Hezeki'ah turned his face to the wall, and prayed to the LORD, saying,(RSV)

Hezekiah prayed immediately after hearing Isaiah's prophetic declaration.

The psalmist prayed in his distress.

Ps 118:5

I called on the LORD in distress; the LORD answered me and set me in a broad place.
(NKJ)

N – NUISANCE

This is the kind of prayer that harasses God. It is characterized by monotonous persistence.

Luke 18:1-7

1 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,
2 saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man.
3 "Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.'
4 "And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man,
5 'yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.'"
6 Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said.
7 "And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?"(NKJ)

Jesus uses the case of a widow and an unjust judge to illustrate this kind of prayer. An inconsequential widow succeeded in her petition to an unjust judge, not because of justice or compassion of the judge, but because of her irritant perseverance. Thus Jesus is saying, in other words, "can you imagine a just God's response to the persistent prayers of his own elect."

Acts 12:5

Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. (NKJ)

The church prayed persistently for Peter for more than 6 days. When Peter was miraculously released through the prayers of the church, He went to the house of Rhoda where prayers were in session.

Acts 12:13-16

13 And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a girl named Rhoda came to answer.
14 When she recognized Peter's voice, because of her gladness she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter stood before the gate.
15 But they said to her, "You are beside yourself!" Yet she kept insisting that it was so. So they said, "It is his angel."
16 Now Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished.
(NKJ)

The underlined verses indicate that this was a faithless prayer session – yet God answered – reason: THE PRAYER WAS PERSISTENT AND HARASSING.

1Thes 5:17
pray without ceasing, (NKJ)

1 Sam 12:23
"Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way.(NKJ)

JACOB REFUSED TO LET GO UNTIL THE LORD BLESSED HIM.

Gen 32:26

26 And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!"(NKJ)

Also see 1 Kings 18:42,43

T – THANKSGIVING

Prayer in the context of thanksgiving. The prevailing atmosphere of this kind of prayer is thanksgiving.

John 11:41

Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. (NKJ)

Jonah 2:9

But I will sacrifice to You with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD."(NKJ)

First Jonah confessed his error - Jon.1:12 [NIV]

Result: Jon.1:15 - He was thrown overboard

Second he prayed - Jon.2:2[NIV]

Result: vs 2:3a - He sank into the depths of the sea.

Third he repented - Jon.2:4c[NIV] Yet I will look again toward your holy temple.

Result: Jon.2:5c - seaweed was wrapped around his head
Jonah's problem worsened.

Fourth he began to thank God - Jon.2:9 [NIV] " But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you....

Result: Jon.2:10 " And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land."

As his life was " ebbing away", he offered " a song of thanksgiving".

This act of thanksgiving in his prayer made the fish sick, effecting his deliverance.

E – EARNEST

This prayer involves sincerity, depth, fervency, desperation.

Earnestness may be demonstrated in some of the following ways:

1. PHYSIOLOGICALLY e.g. SWEATING

Luke 22:44

And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.(NKJ)

2. TEARS

Heb 5:7

who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear,(NKJ)

1 Sam 1:9-10

9 So Hannah arose after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the tabernacle of the LORD.

10 And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish.(NKJ)

3. CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

James 5:16

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.(NKJ)

Dan 9:3

3 Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.(NKJ)

Dan 9:5

5 "we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments.(NKJ)

Ezra 9:5-6

5 And at the evening sacrifice I arose up from my heaviness; and having rent my garment and my mantle, I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto the LORD my God,

6 And said, O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens.(KJV)

Neh 9:33-34

33 However You are just in all that has befallen us; for You have dealt faithfully, but we have done wickedly.

Neither our kings nor our princes, our priests nor our fathers, have kept Your law, nor heeded Your commandments and Your testimonies, with which You testified against them.(NKJ)

Also see Psalm 51, Luke 18:13

FASTING

2 Sam 12:16

David therefore pleaded with God for the child, and David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground.(NKJ)

LOUD VOICE

Ezek 11:13

Now it happened, while I was prophesying, that Pelatiah the son of Benaiah died. Then I fell on my face and cried with a loud voice, and said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Will You make a complete end of the remnant of Israel?"(NKJ)

6. PERSEVERANCE IN ADVERSITY - SYROPHOENCIAN WOMAN (Matt. 15:22-28)

She overcame the selfishness of the disciples.

Matt 15:23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. (KJV)

She overcame prejudice.

Matt 15:24

But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. (KJV)

She worshiped even though she was rejected.

Matt 15:25 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. (KJV)

She overcame insult.

Matt 15:27

And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. (KJV)

Jesus commended her FAITH – her earnest persistence.

R – REVELATORY

There are 2 aspects to this prayer:

Prophetic and observation.

PROPHETIC

Prayer following the revelation of the will of God.

1King 18:36-37

36 And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word.

37 "Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again."(NKJ)

Dan 9:2-4

2 in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the

word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

3 Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.

4 And I prayed to the LORD my God, and made confession, and said, "O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments,(NKJ)

Ananias prayed for Paul after revelation of the will of God. (Acts 9:10-18)

PRAYER OF OBSERVATION

This is a state of continual vigilance – watching for temptation points and devices of the enemy, and praying accordingly.

Matt 26:41

"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."(NKJ)
1 Pet 5:8

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.(NKJ)

C – COOPERATIVE

This is the prayer of agreement.

Matt 18:19

"Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.(NKJ)

Hezekiah was a righteous king. He waged war against idolatry. After his deeds of faithfulness, he was attacked by Sennacherib the Assyrian king, an enemy that was beyond his military capabilities. The Assyrian boasted of unbroken success, stripped him of his wealth, undermined his authority and tempted the people of Judah with better prospects. Hezekiah responds with the prayer of agreement:

2 Chr 32:20-21

20 Now because of this King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah, the son of Amoz, prayed and cried out to heaven.

21 Then the LORD sent an angel who cut down every mighty man of valor, leader, and captain in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned shamefaced to his own land. And when he had gone into the temple of his god, some of his own offspring struck him down with the sword there.(NKJ)

God honours the prayer with a swift destruction of the Assyrian camp.

E – EXPECTANT

Believing that you will receive.

Mark 11:24

"Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.(NKJ)

Expectant prayers are prayers of faith.

James 5:15

And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.(NKJ)

This kind of prayer demands a demonstration of expectancy which may be seen in 3 areas:

ATTITUDE

BOLDNESS

David boldly confronted Goliath because he expected God to deliver him.

REJOICING IN TRIBULATION

Acts 16:25

But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.(NKJ)

SPEECH

Positivity and thanksgiving demonstrate that you believe that your prayer will be answered. Thus the prayer of thanksgiving will also fit into this category.

SIGNS

There are physical signs that demonstrate expectancy.

Abram(exalted father) to Abraham(father of multitudes). Abram accepted this name change at a time when he had no children.

Jacob's striped branches in expectancy of striped cattle.

Jeremiah's purchase of land at the inception of captivity, because he expected the nation to return 70

years later.

Buying a cot because you expect a successful outcome in your pregnancy.

Building a garage when you are praying for God to bless you with a car.

How about carrying an umbrella, in the season of drought when you are praying for rain.

Elijah posted his servant to look, for he expected rain, when he prayed.

I King 18:41-43

41 Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain."

42 So Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees,

43 and said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." So he went up and looked, and said, "There is nothing." And seven times he said, "Go again."(NKJ)

D – DECLARATION

This is saying/declaring the solution before asking God or without asking God.

Mark 11:13-14

13 And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. And when He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs.

14 In response Jesus said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again." And His disciples heard it. (NKJ)

Mark 11:20-26

20 Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.

21 And Peter, remembering, said to Him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away."

22 So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God.

23 "For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will come to pass, he will have whatever he says.

24 "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

25 "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.

26 "But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."(NKJ)

Peter marveled that Jesus' declaration dried up the fig tree. Jesus taught declaration in the context of prayer(vs 24,25). Jesus reveals 3 conditions for anyone who wants to operate at this level:- HAVE FAITH IN GOD.

DO NOT DOUBT BUT BELIEVE THAT THOSE THINGS YOU SAY WILL COME TO PASS.

IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING AGAINST ANYONE, FORGIVE.

If God gave the power of declaration to anyone walking in unforgiveness, many folk will find themselves in the sea.

We are a royal priesthood - king priests. The issuing of decrees is a kingly prerogative.

The following scriptures also validate a believer's authority to make declarations.

Matt 18:18

"Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.(NKJ)

Prov 18:21

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.(NKJ)

Job 22:28

You will also declare a thing, and it will be established for you; so light will shine on your ways.(NKJ)

EXAMPLES:

1. THE SHUNAMMITE WOMAN

II Ki 4:23

So he said, "Why are you going to him today? It is neither the New Moon nor the Sabbath." And she said, "It is well."(NKJ)

II Ki 4:25-26

25 And so she departed, and went to the man of God at Mount Carmel. So it was, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to his servant Gehazi, "Look, the Shunammite woman!"

26 "Please run now to meet her, and say to her, 'Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?'" And she answered, "It is well."(NKJ)

Although her son was dead, she declared "it is well", because she believed that Elisha was a true man of God.

2. THE APOSTLE PAUL

Acts 13:8-12

8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

9 Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him

10 and said, "O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord?

11 "And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time." And immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand.

12 Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had been done, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord.(NKJ)

Paul declared blindness over Elymas the sorcerer for hindering him in his ministry to the proconsul. Declaration was believed to be the teaching of the Lord (vs 12).

3. THE APOSTLE PETER

Acts 3:6-9

6 Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

7 And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

8 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them-- walking, leaping, and praising God.

9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God.(NKJ)
Peter declared healing of the lame man.

E – EXALTATION

Prayer in the context of exaltation.

(2Chron. 20:1-22)

Jehoshaphat was a righteous king. He instituted righteous reforms in Judah. He demanded integrity in his judges. After these deeds of faithfulness, he was surrounded by enemies much greater than his military prowess. He sought the Lord and declared a fast throughout Judah. In the midst of the congregation, he declared God's dominion and the nation's dependence on Him. Following the prophetic promise of victory, he appointed singers to praise the Lord as they went into the battle field. In the atmosphere of praise God defeated the enemy - Jehoshaphat's prayer was answered.

2 Chr 20:21-22

21 And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the LORD, for His mercy endures forever."

22 Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.(NKJ)

Paul and Silas were delivered from prison following prayer with praise.

Acts 16:25-26

25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.(KJV)

S – SPIRIT

PRAYING WITH THE SPIRIT

1 Cor 14:14-15

14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.

15 What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.

(NKJ)

This kind of prayer entails praying in tongues - an exercise of the gift of the Spirit. This prayer does not involve the mind.

Jude 1:20

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,(NKJ)

THE HOLY SPIRIT PRAYING

Rom 8:26-27

26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.(NKJ)

Here the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

PART B (ANSWERS - ALL KINDS OF PRAYER)

THE PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN

THE PRAYER OF DAVID

(see 2 Sam.22)

2 Sam 22:1

Then David spoke to the LORD the words of this song, on the day when the LORD had delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul.

(NKJ)

When David was surrounded by his enemies, he offered 4 kinds of prayers:

EXALTATION PRAYER

Sam 22:4-7

4I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised;

EXPECTANT PRAYER

so shall I be saved from my enemies.

5 'When the waves of death surrounded me, the floods of ungodliness made me afraid.

6 The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me; the snares of death confronted me.

INSTANT PRAYER

7In my distress I called upon the LORD, and

EARNEST PRAYER

cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, and my cry entered His ears. (NKJ)

David's prayer was followed by an unusual demonstration of power:-

earthquake vs. 8

rainstorm vs. 12,13

thundering and lightning vs.14 and 15

2 Sam 22:20

He also brought me out into a broad place; he delivered me because He delighted in me.(NKJ)

In vs. 20 David reveals the reason for this flamboyant demonstration of power in his deliverance – God delivered him because God delighted in him. The Lord delighted in David because of his righteousness.

2 Sam 22:21-25

21 "The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands he has recompensed me.
22 For I have kept the ways of the LORD, And have not wickedly departed from my God.
23 For all His judgments were before me; and as for His statutes, I did not depart from them.
24 I was also blameless before Him, and I kept myself from my iniquity.
25 Therefore the LORD has recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to my cleanness in His eyes.(NKJ)

David's righteousness included:-

- 1) CLEAN HANDS - according to the cleanness of my hands he has recompensed me.
- 2) CLEAN FEET - For I have kept the ways of the LORD
- 3) CLEAN HEART - I was also blameless before Him, and I kept myself from my iniquity.

2 Sam 22: 25

Therefore the LORD has recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to my cleanness in His eyes.

James 5:16

... The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.(NKJ)

THE PRAYER OF JABEZ

1 Chr 4:9-10

9 Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, "Because I bore him in pain."
10 And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!" So God granted him what he requested.(NKJ)

God answered Jabez' prayer because he was more honourable than his brothers - not because of his pain or the fact that he prayed. The issue was his standing before God.

James 5:16

... The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.(NKJ)

CHALDEE... "And Jabs also, he is Othniel, honourable and skilled in the law beyond his brethren, whose mother called his name Jabs, because she had borne him with sorrow. And Jabs prayed to the God of Israel, saying, O that in blessing thou wouldest bless me with children, and enlarge my borders with disciples; and that thy hand may be with me in business, that thou mayest make me like to my companions, that evil concupiscence may the less grieve me! And the Lord granted that which he prayed for."

(from Adam Clarke Commentary)

THE PRAYER OF SAMUEL

SAMUEL CAME TO GOD

1 Sam 2:18

But Samuel ministered before the LORD, even as a child, wearing a linen ephod.(NKJ)

THE WORD OF GOD CAME TO SAMUEL.

1 Sam 3:21

Then the LORD appeared again in Shiloh. For the LORD revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.(NKJ)

THE WORD OF SAMUEL CAME TO ISRAEL.

1 Sam 3:19

So Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. (NKJ)

1 Sam 4:1

And the word of Samuel came to all Israel. Now Israel went out to battle against the Philistines, and encamped beside Ebenezer; and the Philistines encamped in Aphek.(NKJ)

1 Sam 2:26

And the child Samuel grew in stature, and in favor both with the LORD and men.(NKJ)

In the midst of an evil and adulterous generation, in the house of Eli, Samuel drew close to God. The

perverse environment did not affect his relationship with God. He grew in favour both with God and men. He soon possessed the WORD OF THE LORD. None of HIS WORDS fell to the ground.

1 Sam 7:8-10

8 So the children of Israel said to Samuel, "Do not cease to cry out to the LORD our God for us, that He may save us from the hand of the Philistines."

9 And Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. Then Samuel cried out to the LORD for Israel, and the LORD answered him.

10 Now as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. But the LORD thundered with a loud thunder upon the Philistines that day, and so confused them that they were overcome before Israel.(NKJ)

The children of Israel urged Samuel to intercede on their behalf because they recognized Samuel's righteous standing before God.

NOTICE SAMUEL'S CLEAN HANDS:

1 Sam 12:2-5

am old and grayheaded, and look, my sons are with you. I have walked before you from my childhood to this day.

3 "Here I am. Witness against me before the LORD and before His anointed: Whose ox have I taken, or whose donkey have I taken, or whom have I cheated? Whom have I oppressed, or from whose hand have I received any bribe with which to blind my eyes? I will restore it to you."

4 And they said, "You have not cheated us or oppressed us, nor have you taken anything from any man's hand."

5 Then he said to them, "The LORD is witness against you, and His anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand." And they answered, "He is witness."(NKJ)

Samuel neither cheated nor used his position to oppress anyone. His righteousness was confirmed by the nation of Israel. It was Samuel's righteousness that influenced God to intervene when the nation was in crisis.

James 5:16

..... prayer of a righteous man avails much.(NKJ)

1 Sam 7:13

So the Philistines were subdued, and they did not come anymore into the territory of Israel. And the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.(NKJ)

THE ELEMENTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

RIGHTEOUSNESS

Righteousness is conformity to God's moral character - doing that which is right and just in God's eyes. It is "cleanliness" in the eyes of God.

1 Jn 2:29

If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.(NKJ)

DIKAIOSUNE ^1343^(GREEK)the character or quality of being right or just"; it was formerly spelled "rightwiseness," which clearly expresses the meaning.

^(from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words)

Ezek 18:5-9

5 But if a man is just and does what is lawful and right;

6 If he has not eaten on the mountains, nor lifted up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, nor defiled his neighbor's wife, nor approached a woman during her impurity;

7 If he has not oppressed anyone, but has restored to the debtor his pledge; has robbed no one by violence, but has given his bread to the hungry and covered the naked with clothing;

8 If he has not exacted usury nor taken any increase, but has withdrawn his hand from iniquity and executed true judgment between man and man;

9 If he has walked in My statutes and kept My judgments faithfully-- he is just; he shall surely live!" Says the Lord GOD.(NKJ)

SOME RIGHT ACTIONS ARE LISTED BELOW:

A. REVERENTIAL SPEECH (CLEAN MOUTH)

Prov 16:13

Righteous lips are the delight of kings; and they love him that speaketh right.(KJV)

Reverential speech is righteous speech and it has the following characteristics:-

SCRIPTURAL

Phil 1:14

and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.(NKJ)

Col 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.(NKJ)

Josh 1:8

"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.(NKJ)

Deut 11:19

"You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.(NKJ)

Titus 2:8

sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.(NKJ)

(SOUND - TRUE IN DOCTRINE – STRONGS 5199)

PROPHETIC

1 Pet 4:11

If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. (NKJ)

EXEMPLARY

1 Tim 4:12

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.(NKJ)

EDIFYING

Prov 10:11

The mouth of the righteous is a well of life, but violence covers the mouth of the wicked.(NKJ)

James 4:11

Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.(NKJ)

Eph 4:29

Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.(NKJ)

Prov 10:21

The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of wisdom.(NKJ)

Ps 15:1-3

1 LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill?

2 He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart;

3 He who does not backbite with his tongue, nor does evil to his neighbor, nor does he take up a reproach against his friend;(NKJ)

COURTEOUS

Prov 10:32

The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked speaketh frowardness.(KJV)

Prov 15:28

The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.(NKJ)

Col 4:6

Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.(NKJ)

Eph 5:4

neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.(NKJ)

Phil 2:14

Do all things without complaining and disputing,(NKJ)

HONEST

Eph 4:25

Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.(NKJ)

INTERNAL PURITY(CLEAN HEART)

Ps 24:4-5

4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully.

5 He shall receive blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.(NKJ)

Characterized by:-

BLAMELESSNESS/INNOCENCE

Phil 1:10

so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ,(NIV)

Phil 2:15

that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

2 Sam 22:24

I was also blameless before Him, and I kept myself from my iniquity.(NKJ)

Ps 17:3

You have tested my heart; you have visited me in the night; you have tried me and have found nothing; I have purposed that my mouth shall not transgress.(NKJ)

Num 16:15

Then Moses was very angry, and said to the LORD, "Do not respect their offering. I have not taken one donkey from them, nor have I hurt one of them."(NKJ)

2 Cor 4:2

Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.(NIV)

RIGHT THOUGHTS

Prov 12:5

The thoughts of the righteous are right, but the counsels of the wicked are deceitful.(NKJ)

SECRET ACTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

JACOB

Gen 31:39

"That which was torn by beasts I did not bring to you; I bore the loss of it. You required it from my hand, whether stolen by day or stolen by night.NKJ

JOSEPH

Gen 39:8-9

8 But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand.

9 "There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"(NKJ)

NEHEMIAH

Neh 5:14-15

14 Moreover, from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year until the thirty-second year of King Artaxerxes, twelve years, neither I nor my brothers ate the governor's provisions.

15 But the former governors who were before me laid burdens on the people, and took from them bread and wine, besides forty shekels of silver. Yes, even their servants bore rule over the people, but I did not do so, because of the fear of God.NKJ

STRONG PERSONAL CONVICTION

1 Sam 24:5-6

5 Now it happened afterward that David's heart troubled him because he had cut Saul's robe.

6 And he said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD."(NKJ)

GOOD DESIRES

Prov 11:23

The desire of the righteous is only good, but the expectation of the wicked is wrath.(NKJ)

GOOD WORKS(CLEAN HANDS) SERVING YOUR ENEMY

Rom 12:17-21

- 17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.
- 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.
- 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.
- 20 Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."
- 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.(NKJ)

REFUSING BRIBES

Exod 23:8

"And you shall take no bribe, for a bribe blinds the discerning and perverts the words of the righteous.(NKJ)

Ps 15:1-5

- 1 LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill?
- 2 He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart;

5 He who does not put out his money at usury, nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved.(NKJ)

CARING FOR THE NEEDY

Isa 58:7-8

- 7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; when you see the naked, that you cover him, and not hide yourself from your own flesh?
- 8 Then your light shall break forth like the morning, your healing shall spring forth speedily, and your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.(NKJ)

Ezek 18:5-9

- 5 But if a man is just and does what is lawful and right;
- 7 If he has not oppressed anyone, but has restored to the debtor his pledge; has robbed no one by violence, but has given his bread to the hungry and covered the naked with clothing;
- 8 If he has not exacted usury nor taken any increase, but has withdrawn his hand from iniquity and executed true judgment between man and man;
- 9 If he has walked in My statutes and kept My judgments faithfully-- he is just; he shall surely live!" Says the Lord GOD.(NKJ)

GIVING

Prov 21:26

He covets greedily all day long, but the righteous gives and does not spare.(NKJ)

CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION

Prov 12:10

A righteous man regards the life of his animal, but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.(NKJ)

HUMILITY

Luke 18:13-14

- 13 "And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'
- 14 "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."(NKJ)

TEMPERANCE

Dan 1:8

But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.(NKJ)

Rom 13:14

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.(NKJ)

1 Cor 9:27

But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.(NKJ)

Titus 2:12

teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age.(NKJ)

EQUITY(FAIRNESS)(CLEAN EYES)

2 Chr 19:6-7

6 and said to the judges, "Take heed to what you are doing, for you do not judge for man but for the LORD, who is with you in the judgment.

7 "Now therefore, let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take care and do it, for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, no partiality, nor taking of bribes."(NKJ)

Prov 28:21-22

21 To show partiality is not good, because for a piece of bread a man will transgress.

22 A man with an evil eye hastens after riches, and does not consider that poverty will come upon him.(NKJ)

Ezek 18:5-9

5 But if a man is just and does what is lawful and right;

8 If he has not exacted usury nor taken any increase, but has withdrawn his hand from iniquity and executed true judgment between man and man;

9 If he has walked in My statutes and kept My judgments faithfully-- he is just; he shall surely live!" Says the Lord GOD.(NKJ)

John 7:24

"Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."(NKJ)

OBEDIENCE(CLEAN FEET)

Luke 1:6

And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. (NKJ)

Prov 13:6

Righteousness keepeth him that is upright in the way: but wickedness overthroweth the sinner.(KJV)

1 Cor 15:34

Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.(NKJ)

Ps 18:20-22

20 The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands he has recompensed me.

21 For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God.

22 For all His judgments were before me, and I did not put away His statutes from me.(NKJ)

UNCOMPROMISING(CLEAN KNEES)

Job 17:9

Yet the righteous will hold to his way, and he who has clean hands will be stronger and stronger.(NKJ)

II Ki 22:2

And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.(NKJ)

Dan 3:18

"But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."(NKJ)

Acts 4:19-20

19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.

20 "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."(NKJ)

SINCERITY(CLEAN LOINS)

Lev 19:35-36

35 'You shall do no injustice in judgment, in measurement of length, weight, or volume.

36 'You shall have honest scales, honest weights, an honest ephah, and an honest hin: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.(NKJ)

Deut 25:15-16

15 "You shall have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure, that your days may be lengthened in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.
16 "For all who do such things, and all who behave unrighteously, are an abomination to the LORD your God.(NKJ)

Prov 11:1

Dishonest scales are an abomination to the LORD, but a just weight is His delight.
(NKJ)

2 Cor 1:12

Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, in the holiness and sincerity that are from God. We have done so not according to worldly wisdom but according to God's grace.(NIV)

John 1:47

Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!"(NKJ)

1Thes 2:3-4

3 For our exhortation did not come from error or uncleanness, nor was it in deceit.
4 But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.(NKJ)

J. BELIEVING GOD

Gal 3:6

just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."(NKJ)

3. THE BENEFITS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Isa 3:10

"Say to the righteous that it shall be well with them, for they shall eat the fruit of their doings.(NKJ)

Prov 11:31

If the righteous will be recompensed on the earth, how much more the ungodly and the sinner.(NKJ)

RIGHTEOUSNESS

whatever conforms to the revealed will of God.

right action

whatever is right or just in the eyes of God.

THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS APPLY TO THE RIGHTEOUS:-

1. DELIVERANCE

Ps 34:19

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

(NKJ)

Ps 37:39-40

39 But the salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; he is their strength in the time of trouble.

40 And the LORD shall help them and deliver them; he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in Him.(NKJ)

Prov 11:8

The righteous is delivered from trouble, and it comes to the wicked instead.(NKJ)

EVEN HIS POSTERITY WILL BE DELIVERED.

Prov 11:21

Though they join forces, the wicked will not go unpunished; but the posterity of the righteous will be delivered.(NKJ)

e.g. ABIJAM

1King 15:3-5

3 And he walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him; his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David.

4 Nevertheless for David's sake the LORD his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, by setting up his son after him and by establishing Jerusalem;

5 because David did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.(NKJ)

2. IMMOVABILITY(STABILITY/SECURITY)

Ps 37:17

For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, but the LORD upholds the righteous.(NKJ)

Prov 24:16

For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again, but the wicked shall fall by calamity.(NKJ)

Ps 55:22

Cast your burden on the LORD, and He shall sustain you; he shall never permit the righteous to be moved.(NKJ)

Prov 10:30

The righteous will never be removed, but the wicked will not inhabit the earth.(NKJ)

Prov 12:3

A man is not established by wickedness, but the root of the righteous cannot be moved. (NKJ)

Prov 12:7

The wicked are overthrown and are no more, but the house of the righteous will stand.(NKJ)

3. KINGDOM OF GOD

Matt 25:33-34

33 "And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

34 "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:(NKJ)

I Jn 2:29

29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him. (NKJ)

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS FOR THOSE WHO PRACTICE RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Eph 5:5

For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.(NKJ)

Gal 5:21

envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.(NKJ)

Rev 22:14-15

14 Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

15 But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.(NKJ)

4. ANSWERED PRAYER

James 5:16

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. (NIV)

James 5:16

Admit your faults to one another and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous man has great power and wonderful results.(TLB)

Ps 34:15

The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry.(NKJ)

Ps 34:17

The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles.(NKJ)

Prov 10:24

The fear of the wicked will come upon him, and the desire of the righteous will be granted.(NKJ)

Prov 15:29

29 The LORD is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous(NKJ)

5. ILLUMINATION

Prov 3:32

For the perverse person is an abomination to the LORD, but His secret counsel is with the upright. (NKJ)

6. OVERSIGHT

Ps 34:15

The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry.(NKJ)

7. SUCCESS/SATISFACTION

Isa 33:15-16

15 He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, he who despises the gain of oppressions, who gestures with his hands, refusing bribes, who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed, and shuts his eyes from seeing evil:

16 He will dwell on high; his place of defense will be the fortress of rocks; bread will be given him, his water will be sure.(NKJ)

Ps 92:12

12 The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. (NKJ)

Prov 15:6

The house of the righteous contains great treasure, but the income of the wicked brings them trouble.(NIV)

Prov 11:28

He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like foliage.(NKJ)

Ps 37:17-19

17 For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, but the LORD upholds the righteous.

18 The LORD knows the days of the upright, and their inheritance shall be forever.

19 They shall not be ashamed in the evil time, and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied. (NKJ)

Ps 37:25

I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread.(NKJ)

Prov 10:3

The LORD will not allow the righteous soul to famish, but He casts away the desire of the wicked.(NKJ)

UPGRADE

Ps 75:10

10 "I will cut off the strength of evil men," says the Lord, "and increase the power of good men in their place."(TLB)

Ps 75:10

'All the horns of the wicked I will also cut off, but the horns of the righteous shall be exalted."(NKJ)

2 Sam 3:1

Now there was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David. But David grew stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker.(NKJ)

Job 17:9

the righteous shall move onward and forward; those with pure hearts shall become stronger and stronger.(TLB)

Job 17:9

Yet the righteous will hold to his way, and he who has clean hands will be stronger and stronger.(NKJ)

9. NEPOTISM

Ps 5:12

For You, O LORD, will bless the righteous; with favor You will surround him as with a shield.(NKJ)

10. EXULTATION(JOY)

Ps 97:11-12

11 Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart.

12 Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.(NKJ)

Prov 29:6

6 In the transgression of an evil man there is a snare: but the righteous doth sing and rejoice. (KJV)

Prov 10:28

The hope of the righteous will be gladness, but the expectation of the wicked will perish.(NKJ)

Ps 64:10

The righteous shall be glad in the LORD, and trust in Him. And all the upright in heart shall glory.(NKJ)

Ps 118:15

The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tents of the righteous; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.(NKJ)