

5-Day Prayer Challenge

Holiday Edition

Day Three Challenge

Welcome to Day Three of the challenge!

Today's lesson covered a lot of stuff.

We learned about specifically mentioning people in prayer.

We also learned to write a prayer of praise using Psalm 100 as our model.

Today, your challenge is to use Philippians 2:1-7 for your model.

This one is a little harder, because it is not written as a prayer to begin with. But Paul gives some instruction as to our behavior that we can certainly word in a prayer to God.

We've talked about how the holidays get crazy and people act crazier. People are rude and selfish. Sometimes, we may be too.

We want our day to go the way WE want it to go.

I believe something we really need to remember is how we are thinking of others as we go about our business.

Are we buying gifts that make a point or just buying what we know they will love?

Are we focusing on appearances rather than substance?

Are we putting our own interests ahead of someone else's?

Sometimes even in praying for really good things – like praying for someone to make the changes in their lives they need to make – we may still be praying more for ourselves than we are for them.

Are we praying that they not do A, B, or C because it is not good for them or because it inconveniences us?

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While it is possible for both things to be true – which one is our *motivation* for praying or desiring their change?

As we saw in the first two lessons, our heart is at the very crux of our prayer life. What we bring into it determines whether God will hear it. After all, He knows our hearts. The Spirit can make intercession when we don't know what to pray, but He won't make our motivations right for us if they weren't to begin with.

We have freewill. Our desiring good for others must be a choice on our part. Not a happenstance after thought.

So, take up the challenge.

Write Philippians 2:1-7, or whatever part of that context you choose. And then write a prayer using those words as your guide.

A petition on your own behalf that you not be selfish and that you put the interests of others before your own might be one place to begin.

Read the scripture and pay attention to what stands out to you. Then consider how that might be something you could express to God – either as a request for help, a thanksgiving for His sacrifice, an acknowledgement of the promise fulfilled because you have experienced the joy of being like minded with others, etc.

It's your prayer. Take it where you need to take it.

Enjoy!

With all diligence,

Angela – The Diligent Woman

PS – Check the email or post for details about connecting with others going through the challenge.

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