

Sermon Notes

Sunday, July 6, 2008

Use this space for taking notes on this morning's sermon by Dr. Bill Johnson

"THE POWER OF A PRAYERFUL LIFE"

Psalm 45:10-17; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Theme: Prayer is to the spiritual life as breath is to the physical body. But, how often do we pray except for emergencies? Someone once compared the using of our cell phones to praying - and cell phones won hands down. The theme for today, as we prepare to come to our Lord's Table, is all about both our attitude toward prayer and our practice of prayer and our expectations coming from prayer.

I.) **FIRST, What is it that cause us to do things we do not want to do?**

A. We constantly struggle with doing that which we know we should not do and that which we know we should do; what role does prayer play in keeping this struggle in a Christ-centered perspective?

II.) **SECOND, In what ways does God lift the burdens we experience and gives us rest?**

A. Christ promised to make our burdens light; in what ways have you experienced the fulfillment of this promise?

B. How would you explain or demonstrate God's faithfulness to a skeptic?

III.) **THIRD, In what ways do we show thanks to God for our new life?**

A. If a friend, family member or skeptic observed your life, what would they see about your attitude of thankfulness for God's presence?

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28 NRSV