

October 2007 Prayer

There is a clear and challenging statement in I Peter 4, verses 7-11...but for our purposes right now, verse 7 is significant. The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. What does this mean to each of us personally? About what are we to be clear minded and self-controlled and how is this connected to prayer?

The only way we can truly be clear minded is to have the mind of Christ. The Bible says, Now we have the mind of Christ (I Cor. 2:16) A search of the New Testament reveals the importance of the mind of the Christian...we are to be renewed in the mind, to be of one mind with other believers and we are given the spirit of a sound mind, according to II Tim. 1:7. Self-control is using the renewed mind in understanding and obedience to our Lord.

These truths are essentials for our prayer life which is why we are told to be clear minded and self controlled 'so that you can pray'.

There are principles of prayer given us in the Word of God that we will consider in future months. When God's principles are understood and followed we have every reason to expect answers to our prayers, but if they are not, God can and does 'not hear us' so it is critical that we search the Scriptures and hear from Him what we need to know.

May I suggest that our first step be to bow before God, to confess any known sin, to ask Him to create a clean heart and renew a right spirit in us. This first month, let us humbly research the Word of God in a personal time with Him daily or several times a day. Tell Him your heart and your longings to know Him in a new way. Ask Him to make Himself known to you as you open yourself to Him for His personal teaching to you as a woman. Tell Him you desire to be obedient in every challenge He gives you...ask Him to help you as you embark on a new understanding and experience of prayer. Use this first month purely as a time of renewed dedication of your life...withdraw often into the secret place of His Presence...talk to Him about your life with Him. Express your sorrows and disappointments and fears and be ready to listen to Him from His Word and His heart to yours. Then tell Him you want to enter into His world of concerns, into His heart for such a lost world as ours and that you want your prayer life to be wrapped up in His will to such an extent that you know His Presence and His Power in a new way. Use this first month to draw closer to Him...because He tells us that if we will draw close to Him, He will draw close to us. Talk to Him from your heart...He is your Father and He loves you.