

YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUP I

Text: Philippians 1

18 January 2013

THE UPWARD CALL OF GOD: PRAYERFULNESS

1. Prayer

- a) A natural response to God as His children Romans 8:15
 - i) Natural for a child to relate to his parents
 - ii) Natural for a child to say "Abba"
- b) A learned response with reference to our faith in God
 - i) Taught by the Lord Jesus Christ Matthew 6:9-13
 - ii) Exemplified by the Lord Jesus Mark 1:35; John 17

2. A Meaningful Practice of Prayer

- a) Example of the prophets
- b) Example of the psalmists
- c) Example of the apostles

3. The Example of one who is Prayerful- the apostle Paul

- a) He prays with a heart of thanksgiving Philippians 1:3
- b) He makes requests with joy Philippians 1:4
- c) He prays with great depth of understanding and insight
 - i) Prayer that Christian love may abound more and more Philippians 1:9
 - ii) Prayer for deeper knowledge Philippians 1:9
 - iii) Prayer for greater discernment Philippians 1:9
 - iv) Prayer for ability to approve that which is excellent Philippians 1:10a
 - v) Prayer for sincerity Philippians 1:10b
 - vi) Prayer to be inoffensive Philippians 1:10c
 - vi) Prayer to be filled with the fruits of righteousness Philippians 1:11a
 - vii) Prayer that all of the above would be fulfilled through Christ Philippians 1:11b

viii) Prayer that all glory may be given to the Lord

Philippians 1:11c

4. A challenge to examine our prayer life

- a) How real is it?
- b) How meaningful is it?
- c) How consistent is it?
- d) How significant is it?

5. A further challenge to cultivate prayerfulness

- a) Through a deeper faith
- b) Through practice
- c) Through responding to the Holy Spirit teaching us
- d) Through a heart of love of communion with God the Father
- e) Through a love for the Church
- f) Through a love for the brethren

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

1 Thessalonians 5:17
Pray without ceasing.