

Teach Us How to Pray

Stop Praying

(Exodus 14:15)

- Introduction:
1. This may be an odd lesson with which to close out our series on prayer, but I think it is appropriate.
 2. As you know, we are commanded to pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17).
 3. But what you might not have thought about is that there are times when we need to stop praying.
 4. In this lesson, I want to give you some examples and then make some practical applications.

I. Times to Stop Praying

- A. (Exodus 14:1-15).
 1. The children of Israel had been delivered from bondage, but they were up against the Red Sea and crying out to God.
 2. God told Moses to tell them to stop crying out and go forward.
- B. (Acts 22:16).
 1. Saul is praying after learning he had been mistaken about Jesus.
 2. When Ananias arrived, he told Saul to stop praying and get baptized.

II. Lessons We Can Learn

- A. Realize that sometimes our prayers anger God (Psalm 80:4; 66:18).
- B. Sometimes we need to stop talking and listen (James 1:19; Psalm 130:5).
 1. Many of the answers we're looking for are revealed in Scripture.
 2. God speaks to us through His word. Could it be we're doing all the talking and not "listening?"
- C. Sometimes we need to be content with the answers we have received (2 Corinthians 12:8-9).
- D. Sometimes we need to stop using prayer as a substitute for obedience (Luke 6:46; Matthew 7:21).
 1. You want the poor to be fed? Stop praying about it and feed them.
 2. You want the lost to come to Jesus. Stop praying and evangelize them.
 3. You want your faith to grow? Stop praying and read your Bible.
 4. You want God to use you? Stop praying and make yourself available.

- Conclusion:
1. As you have seen, the title is a bit of a play on words.
 2. While it is always appropriate to pray, there are times when prayer "alone" needs to cease and be coupled with acceptance or obedience.