PRAYER – A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD (PART 1)

**(Matthew 7: 11)**

# **Introduction:**

# I. (Matt. 7:13-14) ***“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”***

 II. Idea of few being saved!

 A. Times of Noah, Joshua & Caleb and it continues to this day.

 B. Everyone here wants to be part of the few, but the numbers are on Satan’s side

**Discussion:**

**I. Our Journey**

A. God wants us to succeed (1Tim 2:4) – Satan wants us to fail!

B. God did not promise us an easy life, *(narrow &* *difficult is the way*). But God has promised us a smooth landing, if we are found faithful. (Rev 2:10)

C. God has equipped us with many things for this journey that we are to endeavor.

1. The church & congregation.

2. The Bible.

3. The armor of God.

D. Look at (1Cor. 10:13) God is in control, & puts us in control.

**E. PRAYER**

**II. God Can Do All Things.**

A. We can see the “Power of Prayer”

1. (Jas 5:16)

2. We have many examples of this throughout the scriptures.

B. God’s almighty power can do magnificent things, (things we cannot even imagine)!

1. (Gen 17:17)) ***“Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, “Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?”***

2. Cont’d (Gen 18:12-14) ***“Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, “After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?*** ***And the Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, saying, ‘Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?’ Is anything too hard for the Lord?”***

3. (1 Kings 3:6-14) Solomon’s prayer for wisdom

4. (James 5:17-18)

5. (Acts 12:5-7) Read

 C. Nothing is out of the question when submitting your petitions to God!

**III. Prayer Is the Way We Build and Nurture Our Relationship with God.**

A. Pray often.

1. Like any other relationship, there needs to be consistent contact.

2. It should be natural for us, because of how often we pray.

3. Set time aside, and any other time it strikes you (Acts 6:4)

B. Pray with feelings, conviction & faith!

1. Put your heart into it - How often Jesus prayed (1 Thess. 5:17) ***“pray without ceasing.”***

2. Jesus in the garden (Luke 22:39-44 Read)

2. Have you ever really prayed for something? Can you tell the difference in your emotions and how your body felt?

3. We never need to be alone (John 16:32)

**Conclusion:**

 **I. Prayer Is an Important Part of Our Journey to Heaven,**

A. (Mark 14:18)

 B. (1 Peter 4:7)