THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH IN YOUR LIFE

Text: I John 5:1-5

Intro: From the verses that I read to you, the faith the text is talking about is the faith we put in the Lord. Faith in the Lord means to rely upon, depend upon, and trust the Lord. The word believe in these verses means faith. We are saved by faith. Eph. 2:8,9 We become children of God by faith. Gal. 3:26 We are justified by faith. Romans 5:1 You cannot be saved without faith. As a saved person, you cannot please God without faith. Faith is vital to those who are saved.

I. FAITH OVERCOMES THE WORLD.

A. Victory over Satan.
1. The greatest victory we have ever won is the victory over Satan and the world.
2. Satan had blinded us and tried to keep us blind to the truth of the gospel. II Corinthians 4:3,4
3. He only has the power over saved people who allow him to have power over them.
4. We are to resist Satan in the faith. I Peter 5:8,9 He will try to shut us down for God. He will try to get us running on fear and the flesh. We can win this victory.

B. Victory over sin.
1. We are sinners by nature, choice, and practice. Romans 3:23 I John was written to saved people. I John 1:6-10
2. We are not to let sin have dominion over us. Romans 6:14 We have a say in this struggle.
3. We are not to let sin reign in our mortal bodies. Romans 6:12 We can by God's help prevent it from reign in our bodies.
4. We can choose to be instruments of righteousness or unrighteousness. Romans 6:3 We will make a deliberate choice in our lives.

C. Victory over self.
1. In Romans 7:14-25 Paul talked about the struggle in his own life with sin.
2. His life is a picture of our lives and the struggle with sin that we deal with.
3. The way to overcome sin in our lives is to put our faith in the Lord and believe His holy Word.
4. Paul talked about a conflict in Galatians 5:17. Every saved person will go through this conflict. Some will lose, but some will win.

II. FAITH IS NEEDED TO PLEASE GOD. Hebrews 11:6

A. The fact of His person
1. Jesus Christ is the holy divine Son of almighty God. He is the Lord of all.
2. In order to be saved, we had to believe or trust Jesus to be saved. This is what Paul told the Philippian jailor in Acts 16:31
3. The saved must acknowledge the presence and the power of the Son of God in our daily lives. The Word teaches us that He that is in us is greater than the Devil.
4. You are never alone. The Lord is with you. Read His promise in Hebrews 13:5,6. This is a very precious promise in God's Word that we need to hold on to.

B. The faith in His person
1. Jesus is able to do what He says He can do. You have no reason to doubt Him.
2. Jesus will do what He says He can do. You have no reason to doubt Him. The Lord will never let you down. He will never give you occasion to doubt Him.
3. You can have faith in your money, position, youth, etc., but you do not have these things very long.
4. You must trust Jesus and put your absolute
faith in Him. Study Proverbs 3:5,6. We are to trust Him with all the heart.

C. The faith in His promises
1. Those who come to Him must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Text
2. He has made us a lot of precious promises that we need to hold dear to our hearts. The Lord is good for His Word. He will always do what He says He will do.
3. You should study and know many of these promises by heart. Philippians 4:13,19 relate two of these promises to us.
4. He makes us a promise in Matthew 6:33. If we seek His kingdom and righteousness first, He will supply our daily needs.

III. FAITH COMES BY HEARING GOD’S WORD. Romans 10:17

A. The reading of God’s Word
1. The Bible is the divine revelation of God to mankind. The Bible reveals His will, way, and work.
2. Study of God’s Word involves reading it diligently. II Timothy 2:15 Put some time and effort into God’s Word.
3. God’s Word is inspired and profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. II Timothy 3:16,17
4. Read it silently or out loud. Reading helps us get the Word into our minds and study helps us get it into our hearts.

B. The receiving of God’s Word
1. As we read God’s Word, we are to receive it as the Word of God. Receiving God’s Word involves accepting it as the Word of God.
2. We are to allow it to lodge in our hearts and minds. We are to meditate on it. This demands that we give our attention and mental and heart concern.
3. Through or by faith we understand some things. Hebrews 11:3 We receive Bible truth by faith as well.
4. There should never be a problem with receiving God’s Word. We may not understand it fully, but we can understand enough to be saved and to serve the Lord.

C. The reasoning of God’s Word
1. We are to read it. We are to also study the Word. We are to give all diligence to its truth. II Timothy 2:15
2. The Holy Spirit of God will show us the things of God. John 16:14,15 He will cause us to understand the truth and move us to respond to the truth.
3. The Holy Spirit is our teacher. I Corinthians 2:13 Apart from the Holy Spirit we could never arrive at the truth. We would never receive the truth. Isa. 1:18

4. God wants us to reason with Him in light of His Word. Study carefully I John 1:6,7. We are to walk in the light as He is in the light.

IV. FAITH IS THE WAY TO WALK. II Corinthians 5:7

A. Walk by faith
1. We are to walk by faith, not by sight. We are to conduct our lives and behavior trusting the Lord. II Corinthians 5:7
2. We are to walk in the Lord as we have received Him. Colossians 2:6 We receive Him by faith and we are to walk by faith.
3. We are to depend upon the Lord daily for those things that we stand in need of. We stand in need of physical, mental, material, emotional, and spiritual things.
4. We are to trust the Lord with all of our hearts. Proverbs 3:5,6 We are to look to Him for what we stand in need of.

B. Work by faith
1. J. A. James went into detail trying to get us to understand that faith without works is dead. James 2:17
2. If you have faith in the Lord, it will be reflected in some works. When the Lord saves a soul, the evidence of the salvation is good works.
3. We do not work to be saved. We work because we are saved. We were saved unto good works. Ephesians 2:10
4. Study the promise He made concerning His holy Word. Isaiah 55:11 His Word will accomplish what He pleases and prosper where He sends it. The Lord will bless our work for Him.
5. Some plant. Some water what has been planted. God gives the increase I Cor. 3:5-9

C. Win by faith
1. Paul was talking about the resurrection of the body and thanked God for the victory in Christ Jesus. I Corinthians 15:57
2. Our faith overcame the world. Text Faith will always bring about the victory in your life.
3. Hebrews 11 is a chapter of God’s word that shows us what people did by faith in Him.
4. Faith is trusting in the Lord and His Word for the victory. His plan always works. You may fail to work the plan, but the plan works.

V. FAITH PRODUCES PEACE IN OUR LIVES. Rom. 5:1

A. Peace with God
1. Peace with God is the result of being justified by faith. Romans 5:1 Paul described this peace as passing understanding. Philippians 4:7
2. We were reconciled to God by trusting His dear Son. II Corinthians 5:18,19
3. The saved have wonderful peace with God. We do not have to worry about where we are going when we die.
4. We settled the sin question. We are no longer enemies of God. Romans 5:8-10 We have become the children of God. Galatians 3:26
B. Peace of God
1. We are to let the peace of God rule in our hearts. Colossians 3:15 This is the instruction that Paul gave to the Ephesians.
2. The peace of God is optional. Let means to allow the peace of God to rule in your hearts. You may not allow it to rule.
3. We may so live as to not experience the peace of God. Jesus left us His peace. John 16:33
4. God’s peace can guard our hearts and minds. Philippians 4:7 The way to this peace is to think on these things. Philippians 4:8

C. Peace with man
1. The peace with and of God leads us to have peace with others. Jesus is the Prince of peace and He instills within us a desire to have peace with others.
2. We are to live in peace with others as much as possible. Romans 12:18 Some will not allow you to have peace with them. This is even true of church people who say they know the Lord.
3. Jesus is the Prince of Peace and when He controls our lives, we will live in peace with others.
4. Listen to the Lord in Matthew 5:43,44. "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you. Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you."
5. If we can obey the Lord in this passage, we will find that we will be changed and not allow our flesh to dominate our feelings toward others.
6. It is sad to see God’s people acting and reacting like the people of the world.

Conclusion: Faith is very important in our daily lives. We are to have faith in God. We are to hear God’s Word in order to increase our faith in Him. Faith will drive away fear and fear will drive away faith.

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DISTINGUISHING MARKS OF BAPTISTS
Text: Jude 1:1-3

Intro: Baptist people are different. They have always been different. The reason is they have believed the Bible. Their message has always been different from that of the religious world. There is certainly a difference between the Baptist Church and the churches of the religious world. The church is in the world carrying out the work of the Lord and I believe there are some distinguishing marks she has, whereby she can be identified as the Lord’s church. These marks set her far apart and far above the false churches. Here are some of those identifying marks.

I. THE VERBAL INSPIRATION OF THE SCRIPTURES
II Timothy 3:16,17; I Peter 1:21
A. We believe it was divinely recorded.
B. We believe it is divinely right.
C. We believe it is the divine rule and practice.

II. THE VICTORIOUS CREATION STORY Genesis 1:1
A. God’s greatness was demonstrated.
B. God’s glory was displayed.
C. God’s grace was declared.

A. The promise of it. Isaiah 7:14
B. The purpose of it. Matthew 1:21
C. The power of it.

IV. THE VIRTUOUS LIFE OF THE SOVEREIGN II Corinthians 5:21
A. His life filled with great miracles.
B. His life filled with gospel messages.
C. His life filled with glorious memories.

V. THE VICARIOUS DEATH OF THE SACRIFICE
Hebrews 2:9
A. His death satisfied God. Isaiah 53:11
B. His death can sanctify the sinner. John 3:16
C. His death suffered the Devil a great defeat.

A. The Saviour promised it.
B. The scriptures proclaim it.

VII. THE VIOLENT PUNISHMENT OF THE SEPARATED
Luke 16:19-31  
A. Separated from the fellowship of God.  
B. Separated from the favor of God.  
C. Separated from the future with God.  
D. Separated from the family of God.  

This is a sermon from the book CLARK'S COUNSEL TO CORINTH. The Sounding Out the Word ministry offers this book to you free of charge.

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ALL ROADS DO NOT LEAD TO HEAVEN  
Text: Matthew 7:13,14

Intro: One should never travel without a map.  
A. Friends on a trip were following Route 66 west, yet awoke miles off course following Phillips 66!  
B. Many will awake in that day and discover they traveled the wrong road; the one they thought to heaven, but proved to be that bottomless gulf.  
C. Many substitute routes are selected.  
D. One is "pave the road with good works" or "reformation," one of the oldest trails known to man and probably most traveled. Some foolishly say "follow the crowd" while others advocate "I'll do it my way" while a few follow the well marked way of the old rugged cross.  
E. Understand, all roads do not lead to heaven.

i. THE BROAD ROAD LEADS TO DESTRUCTION.  
A. This road appeals to the flesh; many are not able to turn from it; men wrestle with the pleasures of sin.  
B. "There is a way that seemeth right unto man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Proverbs 16:25
C. Some travelers follow a well lighted road called reformation.  
1. This could be called a "do it yourself program."  
2. That plan is noble, but fatal.  
3. All need a religion to live by and die by.  
4. Consider a Bible quote on reformation. Matthew 12:43-45
D. Another road is one marked by good works.  
1. This plan began with Adam. Genesis 3:7  
2. The first family disobeyed God and fell into sin; it did not work; never has.  
3. Adam's son Cain decided he would show him how.  
   a. He brought fruit of his labor.  
   b. He became angry and jealous when God rejected it; in his anger, he killed his brother.
4. The highway, marked "good works" was traveled by another good, upright young man. Mark 10:17-22  
   a. He came to Jesus seeking eternal life.  
   b. He was sincere, reverent, honorable, rich.  
   c. He inquired concerning eternal life.  
   d. This man had observed the law from his youth.  
   e. Jesus said, "Sell all you have, give to the poor, and follow me."  
      1. He went away sorrowfully.  
      2. His actions said that's asking too much.  
      3. This is the course many take today.  
      4. "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight...." Romans 3:20,6:23

E. Still another road is marked by the foolish who say: "I'll do it my way."  
1. Egypt's Pharaoh was such a man. Exodus 5:2  
2. He denied God and died in the Red Sea.  
3. This way leads to destruction.  

II. THE ONLY WAY TO HEAVEN IS THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW.  
A. Jesus Christ was crucified on Golgotha, a place of skulls.  
1. They placed a crown of thorns on His head.  
2. They smote Him, beat Him, and mocked Him.  
3. They gave Him vinegar mingled with gall to drink.  
4. He died this for lost, rebellious men.
B. To try any other way for salvation is to spurn the sufferings of Jesus. Galatians 2:21  
1. Listen to the words of Jesus:  
   a. "I am the way, the truth, and the life."  
   b. "No man cometh unto the Father but by me." John 14:67  
   c. "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved." John 10:9
2. There is danger ahead; the broad road is certain destruction.  
3. But exit to the straight and narrow today.  
   a. It's a little rougher.  
   b. Fewer people travel it.  
   c. But it leads to safety.

Gordon P. Shaffer—with the Lord in glory!!!
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THE PRIZE OF PREACHING
Text: I Peter 5:2-4

Purpose of the message: Since most of us are follow pastors, we need each other. Our work is unique in responsibility, demand, heartache, and joy. This message will seek to encourage and challenge us.

As preachers, we have the highest calling of all vocations. Becoming a preacher is not a matter of looking at an assortment of professions and deciding to be a preacher. This work involves God's call and a surrendered man saying "yes." A pastor doesn't preach because he has to say something; he preaches because he has something to say. There is a great difference between pouring out one's heart and getting something off one's chest!

There are perhaps some here who are weary from the work. Others may have grown disillusioned, disappointed in men they once trusted; or have become cynical over the inconsistencies of church life. Perhaps a younger man started with great expectations, but freshness grew dim in the rut race of religious politics. What many of us need is a fresh encounter and a deeper experience with Jesus Christ.

Please consider some things about the work of the pastor.
I. THE PRIVILEGE OF PASTORING

To serve the Lord in any capacity is a great honor; Psalm 64:10 To be able to share the Word of God is a special honor. I Peter 5:2,3 gives us 3 things the pastor must do.

A. Feed the flock. What a privilege to stand before our people with a fresh message from God!

I Cor. 9:16 The words of Vance Havner seem fitting: "Woe to the preacher who gets accustomed to facing needy hearts and starving souls on Sunday morning! There is enough drama packed in any Sunday congregation; to fill a shelf of books. What headaches and heartaches are hidden in Sunday clothes! Preaching is thrilling business. There may be a Samuel or a Daniel in the congregation, or a John the Baptist getting ready to be a voice in the wilderness. Never take your congregation lightly, even though it be small and unimpressive."

Feed the flock! II Tim. 4:2 "Preach the word." Dr. John Hall said, "No minister shall have lived in vain if it can be written over his grave, "He made the people understand the Scriptures."

A good definition of preaching is found in Nehemiah 8:8, "They read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading."

John Ruskin described the task of preaching: "That hour when men and women come in, breathless and weary with the week's labor, and a man sent with a message, which is a matter of life and death has but 30 minutes to get at the separate hearts...to convince them of all their weaknesses, to shame them for all their sins, to warn them of all their dangers...30 minutes to raise the dead."

B. Shepherd the flock - I Peter 5:2 "Taking the oversight..." (as a shepherd over a flock of sheep).

The privilege of pastoring allows us to know our people intimately. We share in the joy of new life at childbirth; the joy of love as weddings are planned; the joy of new birth. When problems arise, we have the privilege of helping folks find solutions.

When trauma or death comes we are among the first to be called. (We're there when they are hatched, matched, and dispatched.)

C. Be an example to the flock - I Peter 5:3

Paul in I Cor. 11:1: "Follow me as I follow Christ." Churches need leaders who serve and servants who lead. The constant plea of Scripture is for the people of God to have the mindset of Christ. Christ had a heart for people! When He looked on a crowd, He saw more than their facade or mask they wore. He saw the hurts, frustrations, fears, and needs of people. For us to become more like Christ, we must begin with greater compassion, caring and understanding of our people. John 13:35, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

A pastor can have great knowledge, ability, and finesse; have his study walls lined with diplomas; even preach stirring sermons, but still be ineffective without love in his heart for people.

II. THE PRICE OF PASTORING - Hebrews 13:17

A. The pastor is accountable.

One day he must give account of himself and his work. It is not always easy to keep a loving and kind spirit. We must deal with many kinds of folk:

- Barbie Busby is committed to keeping something stirred up.

- Sammy Societie is as committed to the Lord's work as a kamikaze pilot on his 19th mission.

- Tracy Tightwad is always ready to oppose any new idea.

- Sally Sarcasm is praying, "Lord, if there should be a spark of fire in this meeting, please water that spark."

B. The pastor is vulnerable.

Anytime we open ourselves up to love, we also open the possibility of hurt. A classic example for us is in I Samuel 30:1-6. David and his men returned from a military campaign to find their camp burned and their wives and children taken captive. David and the men were overcome with sorrow; "Greatly distressed." The men then spoke of stoning David! David did what we need to do: he "encouraged himself in the Lord." We must always remember that God has not forgotten or forsaken us.

C. The pastor is susceptible.

Never forget that you are frail humanity. Paul's fear in I Cor. 9:27 was of failure. Jer. 17:9: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked." II Cor. 4:7 "We have this treasure in earthen vessels."

III. THE PAIN OF PASTORING

If the literal shepherd had problems with sheep, the spiritual shepherd must have even more as he deals with humans. II Cor. 11:27,28 gives a glimpse of some of the pain Paul experienced.

- Acts 20:19, "Serving the Lord with humility and with many tears."
- Acts 20:31, "I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears."
- II Cor. 2:4, "Out of much affliction and anguish of heart I
wrote unto you with many tears." Phil. 3:18, "I tell you, even weeping..."

It is a pain to see our counsel treated with contempt. It is painful to see those gone astray; or those who insist on never taking a stand on anything (we know the middle of the road is a place for yellow lines and dead possums). But we must keep loving them. Its always too soon to quit. God's commission for us is world-wide and age-long.

Let's never forget that our primary objective is to win the lost to Jesus Christ. Our business is not to build better highways in the far country, but to get the prodigal back home to God.

The story is told of General Stonewall Jackson finding it necessary to get his army across a river one night. He gave orders to the engineers to make a way for the artillery and wagons to go over.

He also called his wagonmaster, who was a blacksmith, and gave him instructions to get the wagon train across the river as fast as possible.

The engineers went to work in their usual, expert manner to devise a bridge. The blacksmith only knew that something had to be done. He got some men and impoverished a bridge with rocks, rails, and logs.

He woke the General in the wee hours of the morning. "Sir, we've got all the wagons across the river." Surprised, the General asked: "Where are the engineers?" The blacksmith replied, "they are over there in a tent still drawing pictures and planning a bridge."

Let's just do the work!

IV. THE PRIZE OF PASTORING - Peter 5:4

One day the man who has been God's man in God's place, under God's circumstances, doing God's work, will be given an unfading reward by Jesus Christ, our Chief Shepherd.

But even now there are joys as we serve Him and experience His presence and help. There is:

Joy...when a child points you out and proudly says, "There's my preacher!"

...when former young people thank you for helping them through bad times.

...when older people thank you for helping them with their children.

...when we see people we've worked with and prayed for for years, get saved.

...to experience the contentment of knowing you are in God's hand in God's place.

When you've got that, you don't need to politic or pull strings or make contacts or ask people to put your name in the pot for a bigger or better position. If you are where God wants you, doing what God wants, what more could you want?

Oh the joy of that day when we see Jesus and step into His presence! Pastor, keep looking up! Joy comes in the morning! Titus 2:13

Consider the words of Charles Gabriel:

When all my labors and trials are o'er, and I am safe on that beautiful shore,

Just to be near the dear Lord I adore, will through the ages be glory for me.

When by His grace I shall look on His face,
That will be glory, be glory for me!

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This sermon is one of the seven in THE 44 ANNUAL PASTORS AND MISSIONARIES CONFERENCE book of March 1998. Send in for your free copy or copies today.

Series: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF WORDS
Subject: JUSTIFICATION
Text: Job 9:2: "I know it is so of a truth: but how should man be just with God?" (Right with God.)

Introduction:

A. SUMMARY

1. Through words we gain knowledge and communicate.

2. God's Word is light - the importance and significance of Spiritual perception. I Cor. 22:12,13

3. God's Word is Food for growth - Grow in Grace and Knowledge is vital for enrichment and equipment.

4. God's Word is a Tool for breaking down and building up.

5. God's Word is a Weapon.

B. The SIGNIFICANCE of Words and Spiritual perception.

C. The SCRIPTURES

1. Galatians 3:24 "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be JUSTIFIED by faith."

2. Romans 5:1 "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

3. Romans 5:18 "Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life."

4. Acts 13:39 "And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses."

I. THE MEANING OF JUSTIFICATION

A. Justification is that gracious act of God in declaring righteous a sinner who believes in Jesus Christ.

B. It carries with it the idea of having a right standing before God.

C. An act of God on the basis of your response to Jesus Christ.

1. This is something God does.

2. No amount of self effort or good works can accomplish this.

II. THE METHOD OF JUSTIFICATION

A. By Grace
1. Rom. 3:24 "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption, that is in Christ Jesus."
2. Rom. 4:5 "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."

B. By Faith
1. Rom. 3:28 "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law."

C. By His Blood
1. Rom. 5:8,9 "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. V9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."

D. Justified unto life
1. Rom. 5:18 "Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life."

III. THE MARKS OF JUSTIFICATION! Rom. 5:1-5
A. DEFINITE ACQUISITION of peace with God. Rom. 5:1 "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."
B. DIRECT ACCESS to God. Rom. 5:2a "By whom also we have access by faith unto this grace wherein we stand..."
C. DIVINE ASPIRATION of hope. Rom. 5:2b "...And rejoice in hope of the glory of God."
D. DIFFERENT ATTITUDE towards adversities. Rom. 5:3,4 "And not only so, but we glory in the tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope."
E. DIFFERENT AFFECTION is expressed. Rom. 5:5 "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."

Conclusion: You are either condemned before God or justified before God. John 3:18
Glen E. Tropp 402 Shenandoah, Benton, Arkansas 72015

A PLACE BY THE LORD UPON A ROCK
Text: Exodus 33:12-23

Intro:
A. God is ready for Moses to take Israel forward toward the land of promise. Exodus 33:1
B. Moses had prayed for three things:
   1. "Show me now thy way," Exodus 33:13
      a. "Right in own eyes."
      b. Proverbs 16:25 "seemeth right"
   2. "If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence." Exodus 33:15; John 15:5
   3. "Shew me thy glory." Exodus 33:11,18
C. God's answer:
   1. "Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me and live." V20
   2. "Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock:" V21
   3. I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with my hand while I pass by you will see my back.
D. There is a beautiful thought in verse 21 that I want to dwell on for a little time. "There is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock."

I. THERE IS A PLACE OF MERCY NEAR TO THE LORD!
A. Mercy is what everyone needs.
B. The Holy of Holies contained a mercyseat.
C. We are invited to the "Throne of mercy." Hebrews 4:16
D. Paul's testimony: "Obtained mercy." I Timothy 1:13
E. The publican obtained mercy. Luke 18:14
F. God saved us by His mercy. Titus 3:5

II. THERE IS A PLACE OF SOUL REST BY THE LORD.
A. V14 "I will give thee rest."
B. Matthew 11:28
C. Matthew 11:29,30
D. Rest in the Lord! Psalm 37:7 "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass."
E. A future rest awaits the believer!
   1. Hebrews 4:9
   2. Revelation 14:13

III. THERE IS A PLACE OF PEACE NEAR THE LORD.
A. Peace in Christ.
   1. Angelic host sang of it.
   2. Jesus assures us of it. John 16:33
B. Peace in believing. Rom. 5:1
C. Peace in trusting the Lord. Isaiah 26:3,4 "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the Lord forever: for the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength."
D. Peace in prayer. Philippians 4:6 "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."
E. Peace in knowing His Word. Psalm 119:165

IV. THERE IS A PLACE OF SAFETY NEAR TO THE LORD IN THE CLEFT OF THE ROCK! V21
A. V22
B. Psalm 32:7 "Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah."
C. John 10:28,29
D. A Refuge Psalm 40:1
E. The Rock that is higher than we! Psalm 61:1-3 "Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: Lead me to the rock that is
higher than I. For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy."
1. The Rock that is higher than our Sins.
2. The Rock that is higher than our fears.
3. The Rock that is higher than our faith.
4. The Rock that is higher than our hope.
5. The Rock that is higher than our joy.
6. The Rock that is higher than our storms.
F. The Shepherd of His own sheep. Psalm 23:4
"Thou art with me."

V. THERE IS A PLACE OF SUFFICIENT GRACE FOR THE ROAD OF LIFE.
A. Great men who found grace in the eyes of the Lord.
1. Moses V17
2. Noah Genesis 6:8
3. Paul I Cor. 15:10
B. When the church at Antioch sent forth Paul and Barnabas they recommended them to God's grace. Acts 14:26 "And thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled."
C. There is available to one and all... grace sufficient.
1. II Corinthians 12:9
2. Hebrews 4:16

VI. THERE IS A PLACE OF NECESSARY PROVISIONS NEAR TO THE LORD.
A. Elijah was fed by the ravens in the wilderness. I Kings 17:3, 4 (Fed by angel: I Kings 19:4,5)
B. The prophet was cared for by the great woman of Shunem. II Kings 4:8-10
C. Paul
1. Lydia Acts 16:1
2. Aquila and Priscilla Acts 18:1-3 Corinth
D. The Lord's assurance
1. Proverbs 3:9,10
2. Malachi 3:10
3. Matt. 6:33
4. Philippians 4:19

D.B. Wright-home in glory with the Lord.

THE NEED FOR THIS PROTOTYPE
LESSON ONE: Luke 11:1, "...one of his disciples said unto him, teach us to pray..."

I. People forget to ADORE in their prayers:
So, the Lord teaches his disciples to adore their heavenly father by praying, "...Our Father which are in heaven, Hallowed be thy name." Matt. 6:9
Perhaps, the reason adoration for God is left out of the believer's prayers is because it is seldom vocalized at any time in their life.
In that case, we should adopt the psalmist's practice, as seen in Psalm 34:1, "I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth."

II. People forget to COOPERATE in their prayers:
So, the Lord teaches his disciples to cooperate with their heavenly father by praying, "...thy will be done..." Matt. 6:10
Perhaps, the reason cooperation with God is left out of the believer's prayer is because it is seldom practiced at any time in their life.
In that case, we should adopt the psalmist's practice, as seen in Psalm 119:10, "With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments."

III. People forget to REQUEST in their prayers:
So, the Lord teaches his disciples to make request of their heavenly father by praying, "Give us this day our daily bread." Matt. 6:11
Perhaps, the reason request of God is left out of the believer's prayers is because they forget that God will honor their requests.
In that case, we should remember the psalmist's report in Psalm 21:2, "Thou hast given him his heart's desire, and hast not withholden the request of his lips."

IV. People forget to REPENT in their prayers:
So, the Lord teaches his disciples to repent to their heavenly father by praying, "And forgive us our debts." Matt. 6:12
Perhaps, the reason repentance toward God is left out of the believer's prayers is because they're not willing to admit their sinfulness.
In that case, we should follow the psalmist's procedure, as seen in Psalm 51:3, "For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me."

V. People forget to SURRENDER in their prayers:
So, the Lord teaches his disciples to surrender to the authority of their heavenly father by praying, "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever." Matt. 6:13
Perhaps, the reason surrender to God's power and preeminence is left out of the believer's prayers is because they're not convinced of God's great attributes.
In that case, we should have an eye-opening experience like Isaiah, as seen in Isaiah 6:1-5, "Then said I, Woe is me! For I am undone...mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts."

This is one of the lessons in A PROTOTYPE OF A PROPER PRAYER by Muncy Harris. Bro. Harris sells this book on prayer for $5.00. You can contact him at 402 Shenandoah Dr., Benton, Arkansas 72015 or call him at 1-501-778-1538

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