



Calvary of Albuquerque

How to Send Knee-Mail - John 16:23-28

From the Series, Believe:879

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

Today you can be anywhere in the world and send or receive messages digitally via email. Sending email has eclipsed traditional mail for years now. Sending knee-mail is similar (you can be anywhere)—but with better results! You don't need wifi or a modem; you don't need an electronic device or a computer. Before Jesus left His disciples, He wanted them to get "online" with the Father and stay connected through the simple yet powerful means of prayer.

OUTLINE

- I. Be Confident (vv. 23-24)
 - A. Confident in the Activity of Prayer
 - B. Confident in the Approach of Prayer
- II. Be Intelligent (vv. 25-26)
- III. Be Compliant
 - A. In Your Relationship with God (vv. 27-28)
 - B. In the Name of Jesus (vv. 23, 24, 26)
- IV. Be Expectant (vv. 23-24)
 - A. There Will be Answers
 - B. There Will be Joy



Improve Your Connection:

1. Think before you pray. Whom are you addressing? What do you really want to say?
2. Pray while taking a walk. You may even want to try singing your prayer (how about in the shower?)
3. How much do you experience joy as a part of your prayer life?

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. Jerusalem's Western Wall (wailing wall) (כותל; Kotel)
 1. People write prayers, stuff papers in the cracks
 2. Email or tweet and others place prayers for you
 3. iPhone app: Send a Prayer: "The only iPhone app that gets you directly in touch with God"
 - B. Prayer: honest, real, heartfelt communication between earth (our lives) and heaven
 - C. Average person spends 49 minutes a day managing email compared to 3-4 minutes in prayer
 - D. Typical reaction when prayer is mentioned

1. Guilt
 2. Fear (fear of praying in public)
 3. Bored:
 - a. Haven't seen many results
 - b. Not fun
 - c. Use commonly used phrases; rerun rather than spontaneous expression
 - d. Solution: pray with new Christians
 - i. Haven't learned Christianese
 - ii. No baggage
 - e. "I dare you to pray without using words like 'bless' or 'lead, guide, and direct' or 'help so-and-so' or 'Thy will' or 'each and every' or any number of those institutionalized galvanized terms. I dare you!"—Charles Swindoll
 - E. Jesus repeats this message twice in the same night: knows human nature
 1. We require frequent reminders
 2. Everything was about to change for the disciples
 - a. Jesus would not be with them
 - b. They needed a new dynamic relationship with the Father in heaven
- II. Be Confident (vv. 23-24)
- A. Confident in the Activity of Prayer
 1. Pray to God as a child of God
 2. Invited to ask
 - a. 5 times "ask" is repeated in this passage
 - b. Ask: to inquire about something; to request something from a superior
 3. "Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance but laying hold of God's willingness." —George Mueller
 - B. Confident in the Approach of Prayer
 1. Ask the Father directly
 - a. Not thru Jesus, but in His name
 - b. Jewish tradition: God would listen more to pious teachers or rabbis than to others
 2. "Ask me nothing":
 - a. Jesus would no longer be physically with them
 - b. They could go directly to the Father as they had gone to Jesus
 3. Access
 - a. In the ancient world, access of mankind to deity was unheard of
 - b. Greeks: viewed gods as jealous, hostile, or indifferent toward man (i.e., Prometheus)
 - c. Judaism: access through priests; separated by walls, courtyard
 - d. Jesus tore the veil, gave access to come
 - e. "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:16)
 - f. "Prayer pulls the rope below, and the great bell rings above in the ears of God. Some scarcely stir the bell, for they pray so languidly; others give but an occasional pluck at the rope; but he who wins with heaven is the man who grasps the rope boldly and pulls continuously, with all his might."—C. H. Spurgeon
- III. Be Intelligent (vv. 25-26)
- A. Engage the mind
 - B. Use the wisdom God gave you
 - C. Jesus knew his disciples didn't understand all He was talking about
 1. Anticipates the day they will understand
 2. Disciples understand more after the resurrection when they are filled with the Holy Spirit
 - D. Prayer must never become a mindless activity
 1. We don't write meaningless letters or hold incoherent conversations
 2. "When you pray, don't babble on and on as people of other religions do. They think their prayers are answered only by repeating their words again and again. Don't be like them, because your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!" (Matthew 6:7-8 NLT)
 - E. At the time, prayer was formalized
 1. Memorized
 2. Read
 3. Shema: שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל;
 4. Prescribed prayers
 5. Set times for prayer (9 am, 12 pm, 3 pm)
 6. Prescribed places to pray (synagogue, temple)
 - F. Believed the longer, the more flowery, the better (trying to impress one another)
 - G. Lord's prayer is a model (See Matthew 6:9-13)

IV. Be Compliant:

A. In Your Relationship with God (vv. 27-28)

1. Love Jesus
2. Believe He is Who He says He is
 - a. Incarnation
 - b. Humiliation
 - c. Resurrection
 - d. Ascension
3. Believers: "Lord, dismiss us now with your peace, except for those who don't know you; keep them miserable until they come to know the Prince of Peace."—Donald Grey Barnhouse

B. In the Name of Jesus (vv. 23, 24, 26)

1. Based on His Merit
2. According to His objective
 - a. What Jesus Himself would want
 - b. "Jesus gave his followers authority to draw checks on the power bank of heaven. Clearly, however, the checks may only be drawn when the purpose of the check conforms with heavenly policy. It is only when I am acting as Christ's agent that I may pray 'in his name.'" John White

V. Be Expectant (vv. 23-24)

A. There Will be Answers

1. We know God will answer
2. Prayer for Peter's release from jail (See Acts 12)

B. There Will be Joy

1. When God answers, we know He is at work
2. We have a higher level of life, connected directly to God

VI. Application:

- A. "You can do more than pray, after you have prayed. But, you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed."—John Bunyan
- B. Prayer is not a last resort

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Hebrew Terms: כּוֹתֵל; Kotel--western wall; Shema: שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל ;

Publications referenced: "The Fight: A Practical Handbook for Christian Living," by John White

Figures referenced: Charles Swindoll; George Müller; C.H. Spurgeon; Donald Grey Barnhouse; Tony Evans; John Bunyan

Cross References: Matthew 6:7-8; Matthew 6:9-13; Acts 12; Hebrews 4:16