

“Where Do Your Prayers Originate?”

2 Samuel 7:27

Sunday, August 21, 2016

Introduction: All of us pray. Many of us were taught to pray as a child saying bedtime and meal prayers. Those prayers originated from our parents and were ingrained into our minds. I still remember my bedtime and meal prayers. We should still say bedtime and meal prayers, but they should not originate from our parents. They should originate in our hearts. We see this in the prayer that David prayed recorded in second Samuel chapter seven.

Text: 2 Samuel 7

1. Your prayers should originate in your heart.

- This is where David’s prayer came from (7:27).
- David knew his heart.

Illustration: Many people know a thousand other people, but do not know their own selves.

Application: Let your prayers originate in your heart.

- They should not originate in a book.
- They should not originate in your head.
- They should not originate on your tongue.

Illustration: The prayer that is answered from heaven is the prayer that begins in heaven.

2. The effectiveness of your prayers is dependent on the spiritual health of your heart.

- Just like there are tests to know the health of your physical heart, there are tests to know the health of your spiritual heart.
- Let's call them the "David Heart Tests."
- Three different test are involved in the "David Heart Tests."

1. Spiritually healthy hearts are believing hearts.

- David would not have prayed to God if he had not believed that God exists.
- David had a believing heart.

Illustration: The Bible says, "He who comes to God must believe that He is" (Hebrews 11:6).

Application: When you pray, you must believe that God really exist and that God actually hears your prayers.

2. Spiritually healthy hearts are serious hearts.

- Read David's prayer seriously and it is obvious that David had a serious heart about God.
- Some people are not serious about anything.
- Even worse, some people are not serious about God.

3. Spiritually healthy hearts are humble hearts.

- You see this over and over in David's prayer.
- A humble heart is a must for effective praying.

Illustration: A man who is proud will not pray. He would see no reason to pray. But if a man is consciously humble of his souls needs he will pour out his heart to God.

Application: When you realize your sinfulness, you want to pray.

Conclusion: The Bible says that David found his prayer in his heart (2 Samuel 7:27). How did the prayer get in David's heart? God put it there. Only the prayers God gives you will God answer. God puts them on the floor of your heart and then inclines you to pray them.

God put on the floor of my heart and Jon's heart over three years ago about a radio program. We have prayed for the right station and the right time and then the opportunity came. When I shared that with the church obviously God put on the floor of many people's hearts to help pay for the program. God will do the same for other people. God put on the floor of my heart to get as many as I could to read the Bible and pray for thirty minutes each day. I shared that and to date 562 have let the church know they are on the "Joshua Team" reading God's Word and praying thirty minutes each day for forty days.

When God put a prayer on the floor of your heart He will incline you to pray that prayer. The prayer that is answered from heaven is the prayer that begins in heaven. This is how it works.