

Word-Based Prayer Versus Emotion-Based Prayer

Exodus 14:9-12

Introduction: Verse 10 says, “and they were sore afraid: the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD.” The Contemporary English Version reads, “they were frightened and begged the LORD for help.” Their prayer was not faith-based with a foundation on God’s Word but it was emotion based, full of fear and unbelief. We must move from emotion-based to Word-based prayer.

1. Word-based prayer brings results:

- a. Moses shows us the difference between begging God out of fear and acting on His Word:
- b. Exodus 14:13-16
- c. It was only after Moses obeyed what God spoke to him that Israel was rescued from the Egyptian oppressors (Ex. 14:21-31)
- d. Just like the Israelites of Moses’ time, God’s people today mistakenly believe that results may possibly come from begging God out of fear.
- e. The Israelites got no results from it then and we will not get results from it now.

2. Why emotion-based prayer does not work.

- a. People believe that crying and shedding tears will move God to work on their behalf. But this is a mistake:
- b. Hebrews 12:16-17
- c. Emotion-based prayer has its foundations in laziness. It is prayed by desperate people who refuse to take time in God’s Word:
- d. Proverbs 1:23-30; Zec. 7:11-13
- e. There is a false security in emotion-based praying. Those who pray this way believe that they can live as they pleased but when they get in trouble, all they have to do is cry out to God. However, they will be disappointed:

- f. Joshua 7:5-12; James 4:3; Psalm 18:41; 66:18; Isa. 1:15; 59:1-2; Jer. 11:10-12; Jer. 14:12; Eze. 8:17-18; Micah 3:4; 1 Pet. 3:12

3. Why Word-based prayer is effective:

- a. When King Jehoshaphat and his people were facing several armies, he prayed citing God's Word:
- b. 2 Chron. 20:4-9, 22
- c. God's Word is effective because God is committed to doing what He promised:
- d. Psalm 138:2; Ezekiel 36:36-37; Num. 23:19
- e. God is committed to His Word and the performance of it (Jeremiah 1:12).

Conclusion: There is nothing at all wrong with using emotion in prayer. As a matter of fact, God Himself is an emotional God. However, emotional prayer divorced from God's Word is fruitless praying. Christians must move away from emotions-based prayer over to Word-based praying.