New Life February 26

What is Prayer?

 Prayer is communion and communication with God.

 Seek the Lord – Turn to the Lord and pray to him, now that he is near. Isaiah 55:6.

 The Israelites in the Old Testament could not talk to the Lord directly, once a year the High Priest prayed for them in the Holy of Holies, but upon the death of Jesus – Then the curtain hanging in the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. Matthew 27:51a. The tearing of the curtain opened a direct line to God because now everyone could now talk to God directly.

 Prayer is the only way we have to talk to God. If we don’t talk to God, how can we have any kind of relationship with Him? We have a difficult time communicating if we are not talking to someone –PRAY TO GOD!!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Be persistent in prayer, and keep alert as you pray, giving thanks to God. Colossians 4:2.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Lead me to know and use prayer for myself and to help others, thank-you, O Lord, for giving us a way of direct communication with you.

New Life February 27

How to Pray

 The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray and through what we call “The Lord’s Prayer” the disciples were instructed on prayer and we have our template for prayer:

“Our Father” - suggests relationship to God. “Which art in heaven”- God’s physical home is in heaven. “Hallowed be Thy Name” - always showing respect and reverence for God. “Thy Kingdom come” - concern for God’s love to be spread through the world. “Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven” - turning control of our will over to God as he is in control of heaven and now that we have turned ourselves over to him we can ask for our daily needs - “Give us this day our daily bread”- we’ve turned over concern for our daily needs to Him – “And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors” - This is quite a statement we are asking God to forgive us as we forgive others, we must think about how we DO forgive others! – “Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil” – we of course do not want to be tempted, because temptation can lead to sin, but temptation does strengthen our faith and we must ask God to deliver us from this evil – “For thine is the kingdom, and power and the glory, forever Amen.” – praising the Lord and knowing he is indeed supreme. –

Within the quotes are from Matthew 6:9-13. KJV.

VERSE FOR TODAY: In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, always give thanks for everything to God the Father. Ephesians 5:20.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Lord, guide me in my prayers as you did the disciples that I may pray effectively.

New Life/Prayer February 28

Attitude of Prayer

 We should approach the throne of God in the attitude of humility and faith – “… If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.” Matthew 21:22.

 Our usual custom in prayer is with bowed head, suggesting humility and with closed eyes, shutting out the world so we can focus only on God.

-So let us come near to God with a sincere heart and a sure faith. Hebrews 10:22a. We must mean what we are saying, both in asking and praising in prayer.

Many times in our “Sunday religion” we pray only on Sunday, in church, because we feel closer to God in the church building, that may be true, but as Paul urges in his first letter to the Thessalonians – Pray at all times. 1 Thessalonians 5:17. The Spirit will move us to pray and we will have the correct attitude.

Talk to God with faith, humility and a true heart!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Don’t worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart. Philippians 4:6.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Let my attitude in prayer be in your will so that you will hear my prayers, O Lord, and answer them.

A Special Day February 29

Special People

 God’s “Chosen” people were the Jews, but when Jesus came to earth, as a Jewish person and was rejected by His people as the Messiah, then the message of Good News was given to the Gentiles. – Because they rejected the Good News, the Jews are God’s enemies for the sake of you Gentiles. But because of God’s choice, they are his friends because of their ancestors. Romans 11:28.

 So why are we the Gentiles so special? – We must thank God at all times for you, brothers and sisters, you whom the Lord loves. For God chose you as the first to be saved by the Spirit's power to make you his holy people and by your faith in the truth. 2 Thessalonians 2:13. If we choose to follow the Lord, we are special too. God chooses us even before we choose Him, but we also can reject Christ, God lets us make the choice.

 We are chosen by God if we don’t resist his call – But they would not obey; they were stubborn like their ancestors, who had not trusted in the Lord their God.

2 Kings 17:14.

 Don’t be stubborn of heart; accept the call of the Lord.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Our brothers and sisters, we know that God loves you and has chosen you to be his own.  1 Thessalonians 1:4.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you, O Lord, for choosing me that I may have your special love and salvation.