

House On The Rock Life Group Study outline 2022

April: Praying to Breakthrough

Week 2 – The price of prayer

Introduction

Consider anything of value that you have ever owned. What price was paid for it, either by you or someone else? When we are children, we often think everything is free because someone else has paid for it and given it to us for free. But when we become adults, we quickly realise the profound truth in the statement that “there is no free lunch anywhere”. We become mature when we don’t just understand, but accept that statement. We become truly wise when we recognise that cost is not just about money, but time, effort, commitment and other non-material resources.

The same principle applies to prayer. There is no sense in praying if there are no results from doing so. We also know that for anything of value, in this case effectiveness in prayer, there is a price to pay. Clearly, this is not about the price of access to God, which has been paid once and for all by Christ. This is about what we need to do in order to ensure that we are getting the value that God has stored for us in the place of prayer.

So, what is the price of effective prayer?

Pilot text

1 John 5:14 [AMP] - 14This is the [remarkable degree of] confidence which we [as believers are entitled to] have before Him: that if we ask anything according to His will, [that is, consistent with His plan and purpose] He hears us.

Eph 6:18 [NLT] - Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

- Thinking of the *first pilot scripture*, what is the price we have to pay in order to guarantee that God hears our prayer?
- Now consider *the second pilot text*. What other price must we pay for our prayer to be effective?
- What challenges do we face in praying effectively, and how can we overcome them?

Take home actions

- Commit to implementing a solution given you this week from your group members and share how you got on with your fellow team members next week