

“The Value of Prayer”

James 5:16

Tuesday Bible Lunch

Introduction: You never know the value of some things immediately. I read an article in the January-February AARP Bulletin that reminded me of this. Albert Einstein was on a lecture tour in Japan in 1922. A bellhop delivered a message to his room and the story said that Einstein had no coins to give him so he wrote two notes on hotel stationary. On one piece of stationary he wrote: “A calm and modest life brings more happiness than the pursuit of success combined with constant restlessness” and signed his name. On the other piece of stationary he wrote “Where there’s a will, there is a way” and signed his name. The relative of the bellhop brought the notes with Einstein’s signature to an auction in Jerusalem and sold them for \$1.8 million. You never know the value of something.

One thing we do know the value is prayer. We have God’s promise that our prayers make a difference.

Text: James 5:16

T.S. The Bible is filled with examples of the value of prayer.

1. Jacob’s prayer when he was about to meet his brother Esau (Genesis 32:9-12). In Genesis 33:4 we see the value of Jacob’s prayer.
2. Elijah’s prayer to revive the widow’s son (1 Kings 17:17-24).
3. Paul and Silas in the Philippian jail (Acts 16:25).

Another value of prayer are the opportunities that come because we pray. Had Peter and John not gone to the temple to pray they would not have encountered the lame man (Acts 3:1-10).

Another value of prayer is the change it makes in your life.

- David is a good example in Psalm 13.
- David is a good example is Psalm 32.

Conclusion: Keeping a prayer journal is worth the time and effort. There is something about writing your prayer requests that is helpful.