

Prayer

Outline

1. What is Prayer?
2. Why Should I Pray?
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Prayer

According to Acts 2:42, the young Christians, along with other believers, “continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, **and in prayers.**” These believers had developed from the very beginning of their new life in Christ some definite habits – including prayer. Through His Word, the Bible, God speaks to the Christian. IN PRAYER, the Christian talks to God. Yet in this busy, bustling world, both Bible study, and prayer are neglected by so many.

1. What is Prayer? See Lesson 4 – Daily Walk

- A. The word prayer means to “**ASK**”
- B. Give a scripture reference showing this to be so: Matthew 7:7a ⁷ **Ask**, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:
- C. Read I John 5:13: These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. 14: And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: 15: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him,... Prayer is asking for **anything** according to his will.
- D. Read Philippians 4:6 6: Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.
Prayer is asking for **everything**.

2. Why Should I Pray?

The Bible teaches us that prayer is both a command and a privilege.

A. We are commanded to pray

- 1) Luke 18:1 1: And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that **men ought always to pray**, and not to faint;
- 2) Colossians 4:2 2: **Continue in prayer**, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;
- 3) I Thessalonians 5:17 17: **Pray without ceasing.**
- 4) Matthew 7:7 : **Ask**, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

B. We are privileged to pray

- 1) John 16:24 24: Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, **that your joy may be full. Prayer brings fullness of joy because it confirms our relationship with God!**
- 2) Hebrews 4:16 16: Let **us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace**, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

3. How Do I Pray?

In Luke 11:1, the disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ asked of Him a noble thing when they said “Lord, teach us to pray.” In response, Jesus gave them the MODEL PRAYER (the Lord’s Prayer). Some of the essentials of prayer are:

A. What physical **posture** should I adopt when praying? **(IT DOES NOT MATTER!)**

- 1) Mark 11:25 25: And when ye **stand** praying, **forgive**, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.
- 2) I Kings 8:54 54: And it was so, that when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from **kneeling** on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven.
- 3) Acts 16:13 13: And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we **sat down**, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.
- 4) Matthew 26:39 39: And he went a little further, and **fell on his face**, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

B. To whom do I **address** my prayers?

- 1) Matthew 6:9 9: After this manner therefore pray ye: **Our Father** which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

- 2) John 16:23 23: And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask **the Father** in my name, he will give it you.
- 3) Acts 12:5 5: Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church **unto God** for him.
- 4) John 15:16 16: Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask **of the Father** in my name, he may give it you.

C. I whose name (authority) do I pray?

- 1) John 14:14 14: **If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.**
- 2) John 16:24 24: **Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.**

When we present a check a teller, the teller verifies it's authenticity by looking at the signature. If we sign our checks with our own name (instead of the name of Jesus, the check would be a fraud. Read Esphesians 3:8 8: Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

D. In whose power am I to pray?

I am to pray in (the power of) the Holy Spirit – the helper

- 1) Ephesians 6:18 18: Praying always with all prayer and supplication **in the Spirit**, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

- 2) Jude 20 20: But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

E. The right attitudes in prayer

- **Reverence:** Matthew 6:9 9: After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
- **Boldness:** Hebrews 4:16 ¹⁶Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.
- **Faith:** Hebrews 11:6 ⁶But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.
- **Thanksgiving:** I Thessalonians 5:18 ¹⁸In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.
- **Persistence:** Philippians 4:6 ⁶Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.
- **Dependence:** Luke 11:3 ³Give us day by day our daily bread.
- **Earnestness:** Romans 15:30 ³⁰Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me;
- **Confidence:** Psalm 62:8 8: Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us.
- **Openness:** Matthew 6:10 10: Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

4. When Should I Pray?

- A.** I am to pray without ceasing! I Thessalonians 5:17 ¹⁷Pray without ceasing. This means that we are to be in the attitude of prayer, ready to pray at all time. There is NO TIME when we cannot pray.
- B.** I am to have definite set times of prayer:
- 1) Daniel prayed 3 times a day. Daniel 6:10 ¹⁰Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.
 - 2) David prayed each morning. Psalm 5:3 ³My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.
 - 3) The Lord Jesus prayed in the morning also. Mark 1:35 ³⁵And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.
 - 4) The apostles practiced set times of prayer. Act 3:1 ¹Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

It is vital to develop a pattern of regular prayer. Always begin the day with prayer.

Proverbs 8:17 ¹⁷I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.

5. Where Should I Pray?

A. Personal private matter. Matthew 6:6 ⁶But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

- 1) Jesus calls the place for this kind of praying a closet, which means we can pray with out interruption.
- 2) Jesus assures us God hears and answers our SECRET prayers.

B. Public prayer Read:

1) **Acts 4:24** ²⁴And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

2) Acts 12:5,12

- ⁵Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him
- ¹²And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.

3) **Ephesians 5:19-20** ¹⁹Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; ²⁰Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

4) Public Prayer Notes:

- This kind of praying is usually done in church meetings and gatherings of believers.
- In such meetings, the public prayer is worded by ONE person at a time – I Corinthians 14:23, 40
 - ²³If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?
 - ⁴⁰Let all things be done decently and in order.
- When one leads the congregation to prayer, everyone participates in the prayer saying AMEN (so be it) at its conclusion. I Corinthians 14:16 ¹⁶Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?
- In mixed company, public prayers are offered by men.
 - I Corinthians 14:34 ³⁴Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience as also saith the law.
 - I Timothy 2:8 ⁸I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

C. Partnership prayer Matthew 18:19 – 20: ¹⁹Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

It will become a blessing in your life if you seek out another believer in the Church to become “prayer partners”. **Ask God to lead you to someone with whom you can spend time in prayer together. Great things can happen through this kind of praying. Acts 3:1**

¹Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

²And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;

³Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.

⁴And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

⁵And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.

⁶Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

⁷And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

⁸And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

⁹And all the people saw him walking and praising God:

6. Will My Prayers Always Be Answered?

A. There are two conditions for prayer to be answered.

1) I John 5:14¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing **according to his will**, he heareth us:

...and we know God's will by John 15:7⁷ If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

2) Matthew 21:22²² And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

It is necessary to exercise faith when we prayer:

- Hebrew 11:6⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.
- James 1:6⁶ But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. [continue reading this scripture for more insight!]

7. What Are Some Hindrances To Answered Prayer?

A. Unconfessed sin

- 1) Psalm 66:18 ¹⁸If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:
- 2) Isaiah 59:1-2 ¹Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: ²But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

B. **Selfish motives** James 4:3 ³Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

C. **Failure to forgive others.** Mark 11:24-25 ²⁴Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. ²⁵And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

D. **Poor relationships in marriage.** I Peter 3:7 ⁷Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

E. **Failure to listen to God's Word:** Proverbs 28:9 ⁹He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.

F. **Lack of compassion.** Proverbs 21:13 ¹³Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.

G. Stubbornness. Zechariah 7:8-14 8And the word of the LORD came unto Zechariah, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother: And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart. But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear. Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts. Therefore it is come to pass, that as he cried, and they would not hear; so they cried, and I would not hear, saith the LORD of hosts: But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations whom they knew not. Thus the land was desolate after them, that no man passed through nor returned: for they laid the pleasant land desolate.

How do get these hinderances removed?

Read I John 1:9 ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

8. What Things Should I Pray For?

A. Read Romans 10:11 ¹Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

1) For whom was Paul concerned? Israel

2) What was his prayer for them? That they might be saved.

B. Read I Timothy 2:1-4 ¹I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; ²For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. ³For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; ⁴Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

- **Pray for all men**
- **Pray for the leadership**
- **Pray for the salvation of all men**

C. What does the Lord want us to pray for in Matthew 9:37-38 ³⁷Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; ³⁸Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

D. According to Ephesians 6:19-20, **for those in the ministry**, we should pray for:

1) ¹⁹And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, **that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,**

2) ²⁰For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

- E. Pray for your Enemies** - Matthew 5:44 ⁴⁴But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;
- F.** According to I Samuel 12:23, failure to pray for others is **sin**.

From verse 20:

²⁰And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart;

²¹And turn ye not aside: for then should ye go after vain things, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they are vain.

²²For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people.

²³**Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:**

²⁴Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.

²⁵But if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king.

- G.** Look up these scripture and make a prayer list of things we can ask for ourselves:

1) Matthew 6:11 ¹¹Give us this day **our daily bread**.

2) Matthew 26:41 ⁴¹Watch and pray, **that ye enter not into temptation**: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

3) James 1:5 ⁵If any of you lack **wisdom**, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

4) Psalm 19:14 ¹⁴Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, **be acceptable in thy sight**, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

5) Psalm 34:4 ⁴I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and **delivered me from all my fears.**

6) Psalm 37:5 (verses 1- 11)

¹Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.

²For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.

³Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

⁴Delight thyself also in the LORD: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

⁵Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

⁶And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.

⁷Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

⁸Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.

⁹For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.

¹⁰For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.

¹¹But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

7) Psalm 51:2, 10

- ²Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
- ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

- 8) Psalm 119:18 ¹⁸Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.
- 9) Psalm 119:34 ³⁴Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.
- 10) **Psalm 119:133 ¹³³Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.**

Commit to memory: John 16:24 ²⁴**Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.**

From Lesson 4 – Daily Walk with the Lord

Some Basic Teaching on Prayer.

In your daily quiet time with the Lord, you will want to pray. Study #16 will present a full lesson on this subject. But we'll just briefly discuss the basics here:

A. What is prayer?

- i) Look up: Matthew 6:5-7 ⁵ And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. ⁶ But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. ⁷ But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

Prayer is not: a chance to brag to God or to be seem by other men.

- ii) Look up: Matthew 7:7a ⁷ **Ask**, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

The word “pray” simply means to ask. Prayer is asking – it is the cry of a Christian unto God, a request of a child to his Father.

B. To whom do we pray (address our prayers to)? **(God the Father)**

Look up:

- John 15:16f ¹⁶ **Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.**
- John 16:23c ²³ **And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.**
- Luke 11:2 ² **And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.**

Note: This verse is not the Lord's prayer... it is an example (model) Jesus used to instruct the disciples. See Luke 11:1 ¹ And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

Handy way to remember the key elements of prayer:

- A Adoration – praising and worshiping God Psalm 107:8 ⁸ Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!
- C Confession – searching one's heart and life Psalm 51:10 ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

- T Thanksgiving – thanking God for all his blessings Hebrews 13:15 ¹⁵ By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.
- S Supplication – making requests known to God Ephesians 6:18 ¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

C. In whose name do we pray? **We pray in the name of Jesus.** Look up:

- John 14:14 ¹⁴ **If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.**
- John 16:24 ²⁴ **Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.**

D. What things may we ask for?

- Matthew 6:11 ¹¹ Give us this day our **daily bread.**
- James 1:5 ⁵ If any of you lack **wisdom**, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.
- II Thessalonians 3:1 ¹ Finally, brethren, pray for us, **that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified**, even as it is with you:
- Acts 4:29 ²⁹ And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all **boldness** they may speak thy word,
- Psalm 34:4 ⁴ I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and **delivered me from all my fears.**
- Psalm 119:18 ¹⁸ **Open thou mine eyes**, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.
- Psalm 119:133 ¹³³ **Order my steps** in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.

There are many things we can ask for. As a general rule:

- Begin your prayer by thanking God for blessings
- In the middle, pray for others and their needs
- At the end, pray for yourself and your needs

J – Jesus first, O – Others next, Y – Yourself last

E. Keep an on-going prayer list.

- i) Keep a prayer list with your Bible. On it write down definite requests you have:
 - (1) Special family needs
 - (2) Church needs
 - (3) Other Christians needs
- ii) Write down the answers as they come

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