



SIMPLE PRAYER PRINCIPLES

Prayer is simple, but it's not easy.
Today we learn the simple & significant principles of prayer:
Pray Persistently. Pray Believing. Pray for People.

teachingnotes

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* All Scripture is from CSB (Christian Standard Bible) unless otherwise noted.

Today we conclude our **People of Prayer** teaching series. While we could spend much more time on this subject, we have covered a great deal on the significance of prayer. If you missed any of the teachings, make sure to visit our website at **FOM.life** for video & audio teachings.

Jesus taught His disciples to pray to the Father, but is it okay to pray to Jesus (the Son) or the Holy Spirit?

John 14:13-14 Whatever you ask in My Name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **If you ask Me** anything in My Name, I will do it.

Jesus told His disciples they could pray in His Name & pray to Him! And they did. In fact, we see prayer TO JESUS when Stephen is being stoned to death. Look at his prayer.

Acts 7:59 While they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "**Lord Jesus**, receive my spirit!"

GOD is TRINITY. Jesus taught His disciples to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, & Spirit (Matthew 28:19) demonstrating the authority & equality of our Triune God. So, *what about the Holy Spirit and prayer? Do we PRAY to Him? The Scripture says we pray THROUGH Him.*

Ephesians 6:18 **Pray** at all times **in the Spirit** with every prayer and request, and stay alert with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints.

Romans 8:26-27 ²⁶ In the same way the Spirit also helps us in our weakness, because we do not know what to pray for as we should, but **the Spirit himself intercedes for us** with inexpressible groanings. ²⁷ And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

If we pray to GOD...and the Father, Son, and Spirit are God...then we can pray to any PERSON of the Trinity and be praying to God. The New Testament norm is praying to the Father, in the Name of the Son (by His authority and for His glory), with the help of the Holy Spirit.

* You might consider this simple prayer outline: **ACTS** = **A**doration, **C**onfession, **T**hanksgiving, **S**upplication.

TAKE YOUR OWN NOTES HERE

SIMPLE PRAYER PRINCIPLES

PRAY PERSISTENTLY

Luke 18:1-8 (NET) ¹ Then Jesus told them a parable to show them they should **always pray** and **not lose heart**.² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected people.³ There was also a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.'⁴ For a while he refused, but later on he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor have regard for people,⁵ yet because this widow keeps on bothering me, I will give her justice, or in the end she will wear me out by her unending pleas.'⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unrighteous judge says!⁷ **Won't God give justice to his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night?** Will he delay long to help them?⁸ I tell you, **He will give them justice speedily.** Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Some requests are not answered *how* you want nor *when* you want. If you have concluded that God doesn't hear or doesn't care, you need to hear what Jesus says on the subject. Jesus tells a story of a needy woman who had been mistreated by an enemy, likely impacting her livelihood. She relentlessly reminds the judge of her need for him to hear and rule on her case.

He eventually gives in, to keep her from *wearing him out with her persistence*. The Greek phrase here translated figuratively as '**wear me out**' (v. 5) literally means "strike under the eye, or give a black eye to".¹ She was giving his reputation 'a black eye.'

In contrast to the unjust judge who doesn't care about people, God *is* JUST and *DOES CARE* about people. God hears and cares about His **chosen ones...who cry out to him day and night**. If you keep praying & God has not yet responded, *DON'T confuse God's SILENCE with God's ABSENCE*. Just because He hasn't answered *when you want* *doesn't* mean He doesn't hear or doesn't care. *Our Father often allows tough times to drive us TO HIM*.

PRAY BELIEVING

Mark 11:22-24 (CSB) ²² Jesus replied to them, "**Have faith in God**.²³ Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and **does not doubt** in his heart, but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him.²⁴ Therefore I tell you, everything you pray and ask for—**believe that you have received it** and it will be yours.

Our FAITH is not in ourselves, our **faith is in God**. When we ask God to remove major barriers in our lives (if it's His will), and trust Him to do it, we can believe God for it, before we ever see it. We see an example of believers asking God to remove a '**mountain**', in the writing we call Acts. James (the apostle and brother of John) had been beheaded and Simon Peter was awaiting the likely death sentence as well.

Acts 12:5 So Peter was kept in prison, but **the church was praying fervently to God for him**.

God graciously and miraculously releases Peter from prison (read it for yourself in Acts 12:1-19), despite their surprise when God answered!

TAKE YOUR OWN NOTES HERE

¹ Walter L. Leifeld, "Luke," in The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Matthew, Mark, Luke, ed. Frank E. Gaebelin, vol. 8 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1984), 1000.

PRAY FOR PEOPLE

1 Timothy 2:1-4 ¹ First of all, then, I urge that petitions, **prayers**, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made **for everyone**, ² for kings and all those who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is good, and it pleases **God our Savior**, ⁴ who **wants everyone to be saved** and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Christians are to pray for **everyone** (all groups of people = family, friends, people of different ethnicities) and includes our....ENEMIES. Remember when Jesus said, "**Pray for those who persecute you.**" (Mt 5:44)?

Petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings include *praying for physical needs, spiritual needs, and thanking God for His provision* for all these folks. Further, Paul makes sure to include some people that Christians might not WANT to pray for - some who might be considered enemies in their day - **kings and all those who are in authority.**

Regardless of whether you like your governing leaders and others who have authority over you.

❓ *Are you PRAYING for your governing leaders (**kings**) and others in authority over you? Are you asking God to convict sin, bless obedience, & give them wisdom in their decision-making? Are you praying that God would use them to promote peace & further the Gospel message?*

God wants everyone to be saved - not just the rich or the poor, not just the Jew, but the Gentile (like you and me), not just the highly educated, but the simple-minded; not just the peasants, but the kings. **Are you praying for everyone to be saved**, for everyone **to come to the knowledge of the truth** in Jesus? *Even your enemies?*

❓ *Are you praying for PEOPLE? If you had written down all your prayers over the last month in this JOURNAL, how many OTHER PEOPLE would you have prayed for? And how much of this would be filled with the names of others compared to your own personal needs?*

FEET 2 FAITH

- ➡ **Make Time to Pray Everyday.** Get up earlier, find a quiet place, and TALK to your Father in heaven!
- ➡ **Keep a Prayer Journal.** Write down THANKS and REQUESTS. When God answers - note the date and HOW He answered.
- ➡ **Ask Others to Pray For You.** You can also ask others how you can pray for them. **Have a prayer need?** Write it down and drop it in a PRAYER BOX or share it with STAFF, DEACONS (numbers at bottom of page), or a Christian friend.
- ➡ **PRAY for our Nation to turn from sin & turn to Jesus.** Pray for God to save our leaders & send out workers - like us - to share the Gospel.

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Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- * Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- * Or call our **deacons & wives**: Steve & Debbie Bass (673-7952), Freddy & Joyce Howard (973-0047), Jere & Darlene Burnette (673-1888), Fain & Linda Poppell (464-1282), Jim & Derita Pinkard (464-6188), or Boss & Amelia Mulkey (464-6717).

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