

A Life of Prayer

Introduction-

Prayer is essential to our lives in Christ.

“How to Pray, a simple guide for normal people” By Pete Greig

“The Autobiography of George Muller” Whitaker House Publishing

What prayer is to me- “I want to sit at your feet, drink from the cup in your hands, lay back against you and breathe, and feel your heartbeat.”

Luke 11:1 (ESV)- Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray.”

Prayer, Freedom, Being Filled, Intimacy, Intercession, Action

Prayer- Individually/ in Community

Prayer is the vehicle to relationship with our Heavenly Father

“You cannot grow in prayer without some measure of effort and discomfort, self-discipline and self-denial”

Ex. “Jesus who didn’t need to pray, went away to pray regularly.”

The Lord’s Prayer- Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours

now and forever. Amen.

The Blue Print to all prayer, Jesus taught them to pray this as a community first.

Individual

“Prayer is an art only the Holy Spirit can teach” “Pray until you can really pray” -Charles Spurgeon

Quiet Time- No agenda, just spend time with Him

Simplicity, Honesty, Perseverance- “Keep it Simple, Keep it Real, Keep it up” Pete Greig

There are so many examples in the gospels, of Jesus getting away to pray, He prioritized time with His Father.

Community

Lifegroup

Matthew 18:19-20 (ESV)

¹⁹ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

It’s about agreeing with one another in prayer- AMEN “So be it”

Upper Room- (church gathering, standing together, being filled)

Acts 1:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer

When we gather together, in unity, praying in agreement, in worship, we are filled. That is why being here on Sundays and doing life together throughout the week is so important.

Challenge ourselves to be people who say “Can I pray for you right now?” versus being people that say “I’ll be praying for you” and then never do it.

Testimony at the Bank, at Kohl’s

Freedom- Individually/ in Community

Confession, Repentance, Deliverance, Reconciliation

Individual-

Confessing your sin to God, receiving grace, forgiveness

Community

James 5:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Reconciliation- “when we forgive those who hurt us, The Father’s name is hallowed, His Kingdom comes, and we ourselves are forgiven” -Pete Greig
Reference Sermon “Discerning the Body” by Jake

After being set free from something you must be filled with something, i.e being filled with the Holy Spirit

Being filled with the Holy Spirit- Individually/ in Community

Individual

Galatians 5:16-17 (ESV)

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

Hearing God more clearly

Praying more effectively

Fruit of the Spirit

Gifts of the Spirit

Community

Fruit of the Spirit

Gifts of the Spirit

Intimacy with the Lord- Individually/ in Community

The enemy hates this, and he makes it seem harder than it really is.

30 years Jesus developed intimacy with the Father before He was launched into ministry

Getting to know Him- Who He is, How He acts, What he sounds like, What pleases Him, What makes Him happy,

Learning to Hear His voice- In scripture, Audibly, visions, dreams, other people, numbers (322 testimony), thoughts (testimony of woman at restaurant),

Expect to Hear specifics-“my sheep know me by my voice”

John 15:1-11 (ESV)- Abiding is all about relationship, not a formula

Testimony of God not being a vending machine- Not Caring to know me, but always wanting something from me. “that is how I feel when my children do not abide in me.”

Identity as a Son or Daughter of the King- Not an orphan.

Romans 8:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

Intercession- Individually/ in Community

Romans 8:34 (ESV)

³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

Standing in the Gap- Partnering with Jesus, going to the Father on their behalf. (Bearing each other's burdens)

Spiritual Warfare- There is a war going on around us.

We pray from victory-It is important to pray with that perspective. We are seated in Heavenly places, so don't take the posture or position of being under the issue even though it may feel like it.

Share Testimonies and Celebrate prayers answered, no matter how big or small. (stay childlike)

Action- Individually/ in Community

Relationship comes before Authority

Our life in prayer cannot just stop at simply intercession, it must spur you into action.

Learn to pray with authority, not as timid servants pleading with a master.

Prayer in Action- Be the prayer

Spiritual Authority

Matthew 10:1 (ESV)

And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.

Matthew 10:7-8 (ESV)

⁷ And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers,⁹ cast out demons.

Conclusion

The take away is to simply pray, sit with the Lord, listen and ask Him to guide you into a deeper life of prayer.