

## "The Encouragement of Prayer"

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## Outline

Prayer Definition

Why does God want us to pray?

Shows we trust God

Fellowship

Kingdom work

To pray with Effectiveness

Pray with Humility

Pray according to His will

Pray with Faith

To Whom do we pray?

Praying in Jesus' Authority

Wait on the Lord

"Unanswered" Prayer

Take Encouragement

<INSERT PICTURE – TEMPTATION OF SIR PERCIVAL>

2 Kings 6:15-20 When the servant of the man of God (Elisha) got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?" the servant asked [Elisha].

16 "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

17 And Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see." Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha

## What is Prayer?

Prayer is personal communication with God.

prayers of request for ourselves;

Judges 15:18-20 "Samson prayed to God, and God showed him a well where he quenched his burning thirst, and so lived to judge Israel

For others;

1 Timothy 2:1 First of all, then, I urge that requests, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made in behalf of all people

Confession of sin;

Psalms 51 1-1: Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

### Adoration;

1 Chronicles 29:10-11 David said, "Blessed are You, Lord God of Israel our father, forever and ever. Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and on the earth;

### And praise and thanksgiving;

Jonah 2:9 But I will sacrifice to You with a voice of thanksgiving.

### Why does God want us to pray?

Matt 6:8b "... your Father knows what you need before you ask Him".

Psalms 139:1-6 O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thoughts from afar. You scrutinize my path and my lying down, and are intimately acquainted with all my ways. Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O Lord, You know it all.

#### 1) Prayer shows we trust God.

James 1:6 but he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord.

#### 2) God wants us to love Him.

Matthew 22:37 Jesus in speaking of the greatest commandment "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind".

3) Prayer is kingdom work. We are fulfilling our role as those made in the image of God. Involved in things much bigger than we are, advancing the kingdom.

Matthew 6:10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

## Pray with effectiveness

### Pray with Humility

Hebrews 10:19-23 “Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the Holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh,

### Pray according to His will

James 4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with the wrong motives,

John 15:7 If you remain in Me, and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

James 1:5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

### Pray with Faith

Mark 11:24 : Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Romans 8:26,27 the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words;

### To Whom do we pray?

Matthew 6:9 "Our Father, who is in heaven, .."

Acts 7:59 "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit".

Hebrews 4:15 in that "we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses,"

John 14:26 the **Helper**, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He will **teach** you all things, and remind you of all that I said to you.

### Praying in Jesus' authority

John 14:13-14 Christ taught "...whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it."

### Wait on the Lord

Psalm 37:7 Be still before the lord and wait patiently for Him

### "Unanswered" Prayer

First check ourselves

Psalm 66:18 (Amplified Bible) If I regard sin and baseness in my heart [that is, if I know it is there and do nothing about it], The Lord will not hear [me];

Take encouragement

***Know that God will never leave us***

Hebrews 13:5b “I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,”

***God’s perfect timing*** could mean the answer is “no” for now, or God has a more perfect answer.

Galatians 4:4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son

Gen 50:20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about [a]this present result, to preserve many people alive

Luke 22:42 “Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done.”

***Be encouraged that Obedience to God is pleasing,***  
our prayers are pleasing

1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

***Our prayers Reach God in heaven***

Psalms 141:2 May my prayer be counted as incense before You;  
The raising of my hands as the evening offering.

Acts 10:4 Now there was a man in Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort, a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, and made many charitable contributions to the Jewish people and prayed to God continually.

About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had just come in and said to him, "Cornelius!" And he looked at him intently and became terrified, and said, "What is it, lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and charitable gifts have ascended as a memorial offering before God.

We talked about the importance of tithes and offerings to God recently, but look at what's first; prayers. When we're praying, being faithful, they are offerings to God. He hears.

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- Fellowship

- Kingdom work

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- Pray with Humility

- Pray according to His will

- Pray with Faith

- To Whom do we pray?

- Praying in Jesus' Authority

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