

# Systematic Theology: Prayer – April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022

---

## **SECTION 1) WHY DOES GOD WANT US TO PRAY?**

## **SECTION 2) HOW CAN WE PRAY EFFECTIVELY?**

### **Why Does God Want Us to Pray? (Trust / Dependence / Faith)**

- Prayer expresses our trust in God (Mat 6:8)
- Prayer expresses our acknowledgment of dependence upon God as a loving and wise
- Prayer brings us into deeper fellowship w/ God
- Prayer allows us to be involved in activities that are eternally important

### **The Effectiveness of Prayer**

#### **1) Does prayer change the way God acts?**

- (Exo 32:9-14; Luk 11:9-10; 2Ch 7:14; 1Jo 1:9; Jas. 4:2)

*Grudem – If we pray little, it's probably because we do not really believe that prayer accomplishes much at all.*

#### **2) Prayer that interacts personally with God**

- Mat. 26:36-46, note vs. 44
- Heb. 4:16: drawing near to throne of grace w/ confidence
- James 5:16 (“confess your sins...pray for one another”)
- Hebrews 5:7 (example of Jesus in prayer)

#### **3) Prayer that asks for what is pleasing to God (1 Jo 5:14-15)**

- Effective prayer is made possible by our mediator, Jesus Christ (1 Tim. 2:5; Hebrew 9-10)
- What is praying "in Jesus' name"? (John 14:13-14)

- Should we pray to Jesus and to the Holy Spirit? (Acts 7:59; Acts 1:24; 1Co 16:22; Rev 22:20; 2Co 12:8; Joh 14:26; Joh 14:17)
- The role of the Holy Spirit in our praying (Rom 8:26-27; Luk 10:40; Eph 6:18; Jud 1:20)

### **Some Important Considerations in Effective Prayer**

- 1) **Praying according to God's will:** (1Jn 5:14-15; Mat 6:10; Mat 26:39; Act 4:25; Jam 1:5-8; 2Co 12:9-10)
- 2) **Praying with Faith:** (Mat 21:22; Heb 11:1; Jas 1:6; Mark 11:24: Compare: Joshua 8:1)
- 3) **Obedience:** (Ps 66:18; Prov 15:8; 1 Pe 3:12; 1Jo 3:21; Eph 2:13)
- 4) **Confession of sins:** (Mat 6:12; 1Jo 1:9; Ps 19:12; Jas 5:16)
- 5) **Forgiving others:** (Mat 6:12; Mat 6:14-15; Isa 59:1-2)
- 6) **Humility:** (Jas 4:6; 1Pe 5:5; Mat 6:5; Luk 20:46-47)
- 7) **Continuing in prayer over time:** (Luke 6:12; Luke 5:16; Mark 14:39; 2Co 12:8 Mar 14:36; Mar 14:39; Mat 6:7; 1Th 5:17; Col 4:2; Act 6:4)
- 8) **Praying earnestly:** (Heb 5:7; Dan 9:19)
- 9) **Waiting on the Lord:** (Ps 27:14; Ps 38:15; Ps 130:5-6)

**10) Praying in private:** (Dan 6:10; Luke 5:16; Mat 6:6; Act 12:5; Act 12:11-12)

**11) Praying with others:** (Mat 18:19-20; Acts 4:24; Mat 6:11-13)

**12) Fasting:** (Ne 1:4; Joel 2:12; Act 13:2-3; Acts 14:23)

**What about unanswered prayer?**

- God keeps hidden his own wise plans for the future
- We do not always know how to pray as we ought (Rom 8:26)
- We do not pray according to God's will (Jas 4:3)
- We do not always ask in faith (Jas 1:6-8)
- We think that one solution is best, but God has a better plan (Gen 37:23-36; Gen 50:20)
- We must continue to pray (Rom 8:28; 1Pe 5:7; Heb 13:5; 1Sa 1:19; 2Cor. 12:8)

**Praise and Thanksgiving:** (Phil 4:6; Col 4:2; 1Th 5:18)

**Questions for personal application:**

- 1) Do you often have difficulty with prayer? In what ways can you increase your time in prayer?
- 2) When have you had the most effective prayers? What factors contributed?
- 3) How does it help and encourage you when you pray with other Christians?
- 4) Have you ever tried waiting quietly before the Lord after making an earnest prayer request? If so, what has been the result?
- 5) Do you have a regular time of prayer and bible reading each day? If not what distractions are keeping you from spending time with the Lord?
- 6) Do you enjoy praying? Why or why not?

**Material resources:**

<https://www.biblicaltraining.org/library/prayer-wayne-grudem> (Prayer - chapter 18 Grudem Systematic Theology)

<http://www.waynegrudem.com/category/audio/systematic-theology> (Grudem - Audio sessions of each chapter on Systematic Theology)