

# THE ROOM IN SCOTT HALL 217

*Sunday, June 4, 2017*

## I. Introduction to Prayer

*A. It's important that we have a **time**, a **place**, and **determination** as we pursue a lifestyle of prayer.*

1. Where there is an absence of prayer, there will be an absence of presence.
2. Where there is an absence of prayer, there will be an absence of purpose.
3. Where there is an absence of prayer, there will be an absence of power.

*B. There is no greater subject than the subject of prayer.*

**Acts 1:14a** They all joined together constantly in prayer...

**Acts 2:42** They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

**Acts 4:31** After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

*"Separated until the veil was torn  
The moment that hope was born  
And guilt was pardoned once and for all." – All of Creation by Mercy Me*

**Matthew 27:50-51** And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split.

1. The tearing of the curtain signified that a way was now open into the presence of God.

**Exodus 26:31-33** Make a curtain of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen, with cherubim worked into it by a skilled craftsman. Hang it with gold hooks on four posts of acacia wood overlaid with gold and standing on four silver bases. Hang the curtain from the clasps and place the ark of the Testimony behind the curtain. The curtain will separate the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place.

2. All who believe in Christ now have direct access into God's presence.

**Hebrews 10:19-22** Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts

sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

**C. Definition of Prayer:** *Prayer is two-way communication with God. It is the contact of a living soul with a living God.*

- When we honor God with our time, He will honor us with His presence.

## II. Developing a Lifestyle of Prayer

### 1. *Be desperate in prayer.*

A. Without a prayer life, we will have an emotional life.

B. What we receive from the Lord is directly proportional to the time we spend alone with Him in prayer.

- If we seldom talk with God, it indicates He plays a secondary role in my life.
- Prayer begins with a passion to know Him, so that we can learn to become like Him.

**Ephesians 5:1** Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children.

### 2. *Be persistent in prayer*

- If you are desperate and passionate enough, it is possible to make time for prayer.

**1 Thessalonians 5:17** Pray continually!

### 3. *Be a student in prayer*

- Prayer is something to be learned and developed.

**Luke 11:1** One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

*"O Lord, teach me to pray."*

### 4. *Connect with others in prayer.*

- What were the results of the early church when connecting with each other in prayer?

**Acts 2:47** "...And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

### 5. *Practice in prayer*

- Prayer is not a system, but the development of a relationship between you and God. The highest goal of prayer is to strengthen this relationship.

### III. The ACTS Strategy of Prayer

#### 1. A - DORATION

- Adoration is vocal praise to God.

**Psalm 63:3** Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.

#### 2. C - ONFESSION

- Confession is the act of personal examination.

**Psalm 139:23-24a** Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me...

#### 3. T - HANKSGIVING

- Thanksgiving is the act of expressing specific gratitude to God for blessings He has given us.

**1 Thessalonians 5:18** Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

#### 4. S - UPPLICATION

- This means to ask for, earnestly and humbly. This is the part of your prayer life where you make your requests known to God.

**1 John 5:14** This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

### IV. Lifestyle Strategy

1. *The best time for me to connect with God is...*

2. *The best place for me to connect with God is...*

3. *My challenge in connecting with God is...*

4. *Because my time with God is so important, I will take the following steps in advance to deal with the challenge...*