Daily Dose of Power Pastor Sherry Gregory August 26 Part 1

## The Grace to Pray What, When, How and Where

Prayer - What is Prayer?

Prayer is talking with God (your Creator)! Today, I want to help you to become more comfortable with talking with God. This is one of the best things that can happen to you as a born-again person! No matter what your age, you can talk with God. In fact, if you've ever been around a baby human and they're starting to "jibber/jabber", I believe they are so freshly out of the heavenly realm, that they are still talking with God! I can't prove that by scripture, so that's not something I teach, but it's a personal experience I have had that the Lord has given me a sense of peace and approval when I have thought on that concept. My own experience with babies tells me that is a valid pretense in the purest heart toward our Loving Heavenly Father and His love for His family.

I believe there is grace for us to be drawn to communing with God by way of our human spirits, and to teach our children about communing with Him from the beginning of their time in the earth. Jesus wanted all people, adults and children alike, to know Him and His Father in heaven and to worship God in spirit and in truth. The definition of worship is to focus on and pay favored attention to. That is how we begin to pray, by focusing our attention on God Himself as the Spirit that He is.

## <u>John 4:24</u> (KJV) "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

Jesus wanted all the parents in His day to bring their children to Him so that He could bless them and love on them. That speaks! That is a witness as to how much He thinks of both adults and children in His presence! So, I'm going to start by saying, no matter what your age, God loves talking with you, exchanging conversation with you, and being with you! God is nearer than your breath and closer to you than your best friend. God is in fact, the best friend you'll ever know.

<u>Hebrews 4:16</u> (AMPC) "Let us then fearlessly *and* confidently *and* boldly draw near to the throne of grace (the throne of God's unmerited favor to us sinners), that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find grace to help in good time for every need [appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it]."

<u>John 14:6</u> (AMPC) 6 Jesus said to him, I am the Way and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except by (through) Me.

So today I want to answer the question of what <u>prayer is</u>, and what <u>prayer is not</u>. There are several points to that question, but I'm only going to discuss one of those points today. In this series, we're going to go deep into the questions of what prayer is and what it is not, as well as why we pray, how we pray, when, and where we pray. We will discuss this in detail in days to come. This series is to help in defining the difference between rote repetition (memorizing of poetic phrases or even other prayer authored by other people) commonly called prayer but not always genuine prayer, and actual genuine prayer fellowship with the Lord as a Spirit.

1. Prayer is simply communicating/communing with God, in the spirit by Holy Spirit. Speaking to Him affectionately through your born again regenerated spirit, with His Love and His Goodness for you at the forefront-adoring Him & thanking Him.

Here are some more vital scripture references to qualify what I am teaching you:

Mark 1:35 (AMP) And in the morning, long before daylight, He got up and went out to a [a]deserted place, and there He prayed.

<u>Luke 5:16</u> (AMP) But He Himself withdrew [in retirement] to the wilderness (desert) and prayed.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (MSG) 16-18 Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live. 19-22 Don't suppress the Spirit, and don't stifle those who have a word from the Master. On the other hand, don't be gullible. Check out everything, and keep only what's good. Throw out anything tainted with evil. 23-24 May God himself, the God who makes everything holy and whole, make you holy and whole, put you together—spirit, soul, and body—and keep you fit for the coming of our Master, Jesus Christ. The One who called you is completely dependable. If he said it, he'll do it!

<u>Philippians 4:6-7</u> (NKJV) "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Mark 11:24 NKJV "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

<u>John 15:16</u> (KJV) "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."

<u>I Timothy 2:1-6</u> NKJV "Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time

<u>James 5:16b</u> (AMPC) ...and pray [also] for one another, that you may be healed *and* restored [to a spiritual tone of mind and heart]. The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working]."

Hebrews 4:14-16 (AMPC) 14 Inasmuch then as we have a great High Priest Who has [already] ascended and passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession [of faith in Him]. 15 For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to understand and sympathize and have a shared feeling with our weaknesses and infirmities and liability to the assaults of temptation, but One Who has been tempted in every respect as we are, yet without sinning. 16 Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace (the throne of God's unmerited favor to us sinners), that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find grace to help in good time for every need [appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it].

We can see in these scripture references above that The Lord loves to commune with His family!

I want to encourage you today to take the time-just like Jesus did, to contact Father God. For us as believers, according to Jesus, you can go individually or as a corporate assembly to the Father in Jesus' name and talk with Him, and each person or a corporate group or assembly also can listen through your born-again spirit for His confirmation, affirmation, His admonishment and His approval of fellowship with Him.

Have a blessed time communing with Your heavenly Father, by way of the door Jesus has provided you, through the veil of His flesh, and into the Holy of Holies to talk with the Lord in earnest, heartfelt prayer!

Pastor Sherry Gregory