

# TEACH US TO PRAY

*“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”*

**Ephesians 6:18**

*“And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.”*

**Luke 11:1**

*“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”*

**Philippians 4:6**

There are two basic areas of Christian living that will greatly promote spiritual growth. The first one is the reading and studying of the Scriptures, and the second one is the development of a prayer life. Those two areas must never be understood as rituals that we must perform, but rather as a relationship that must be cultivated.

We find that the first century churches were wholeheartedly given to the ministry of prayer. Please note the following summary of the first century church:

**Acts 2:41-42**, *“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”*

There are more than 500 references to prayer in the Bible. Our Lord Jesus Christ placed a great emphasis on praying. Christ not only lived out an exemplary prayer life, but He also taught His disciples to pray.

It is significant to consider that the beginning of Christ’s public ministry was coupled with prayer and the demonstration of the Holy Spirit, and that the first century church advancement was coupled with prayer and the demonstration of the Holy Spirit.

The disciples came to Christ after He had done praying with one request, *“Lord, teach us to pray.”* Through this lesson we will learn some important truths concerning prayer.

**Chadwick** said, *“Though a man shall have all knowledge about prayer, and though he understands all mysteries about prayer, unless he prays, he will never learn to pray.”*

# I. THE REASON FOR PRAYER

According to **Acts 2:42**, we understand that new believers developed a prayer life early in their Christian life.

## A. We Pray Because We Are Asked

What would Christ expect his disciples to do after instructing them on prayer?

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**Matthew 6:9**, *"After this manner therefore pray ye..."*

Men ought \_\_\_\_\_ to pray, and not faint.

**Luke 18:1**, *"And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint..."*

The believer is to \_\_\_\_\_ in prayer.

**Colossians 4:2**, *"Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving..."*

The believer is to pray without \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 Thessalonians 5:17**, *"Pray without ceasing..."*

## B. We Pray Because We Have Access

By Christ the believer has \_\_\_\_\_ to God by faith.

**Romans 5:1-2**, *"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."*

The believe can come boldly unto the \_\_\_\_\_ of grace.

**Hebrews 4:16**, *"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."*

## C. We Pray Because We Need Answers

Answered prayers gives the believer fullness of \_\_\_\_\_.

**John 16:24**, *"Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."*

The believer has confidence that God \_\_\_\_\_ his prayer.

**1 John 5:14**, *"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."*

## II. THE REVERENCE OF PRAYER

In our Lord's instruction to the disciples on the subject of prayer, He clearly instructed them to come to their heavenly Father reverently. **Matthew 6:9**, *"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name."*

The word "hallowed" means "to be made holy, revered, sanctified, set apart, honored, glorified."

The believer is to desire for God to be made holy in his life. God must clearly be set apart in our lives, He must be glorified, honored, and revered.

**He that comes to God must believe that He \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Hebrews 11:6**, *"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."*

### A. We Consider Our Provider (To the Father)

Prayers are only to be offered up to God our Father. We are not instructed to pray to anything or anyone else. **Romans 8:14-17** teaches us that since the believer has received the Spirit of God, he thereby can cry, *"Abba, Father."* Prayer should never be a time when we come loosely, it should be a time when we come reverently.

**The believer is instructed to address his \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven.**

**Matthew 6:9**, *"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name."*

**The believer is to ask the \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Matthew 16:23**, *"And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you."*

**The church in Jerusalem prayed unto \_\_\_\_\_ for Peter.**

**Acts 12:5**, *"Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him."*

The believer comes to his heavenly Father in prayer knowing that God remains undisturbed by the affairs of men. God remains unchanging, unwavering, and undisturbed.

## B. We Consider Our Propitiation (Through the Son)

Our adoption as children of God had only been made possible through Jesus Christ. **1 Timothy 2:5** tells us, “...there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;” Every time we come to God in prayer we should always be reminded that we are not coming based upon our own merit. Access to the Father is solely based upon the merit of Jesus Christ.

**The believer is to ask the Father in the name of \_\_\_\_\_.**  
**John 14:14**, “If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.”

**Christ said, “ask of the Father in \_\_\_\_\_ name.”**  
**John 15:16**, “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.”

**By whose name do we pray to God the Father? \_\_\_\_\_.**  
**John 16:24**, “Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.”

## C. We Consider Our Power (In the Holy Ghost)

The Holy Ghost is also involved in our praying. **Romans 8:26 and 27** declares, “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.” The Holy Spirit comes alongside the believer to also make intercession for us.

Paul explained the Holy Spirit’s involvement in **2 Corinthians 12:8, and 9**, “For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” The Holy Ghost is actively working within us and speaking to us as we pray.

**The believer is to pray in the \_\_\_\_\_.**  
**Ephesians 6:18**, “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints...”

**The believer is to pray in the \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Jude 20**, *"But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,"*

### III. THE RUDIMENTS OF PRAYER

We must ask an important question regarding prayer. What should be contained in our prayers? We are referring to those things as the "rudiments" of prayer. Rudiment means "the first principles."

Jesus Christ gave His disciples a pattern of what our prayers should contain. In **Matthew 6:9-13** we find a good pattern, *"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."* The following is a list of what our prayers should contain:

#### A. It Should Contain Adoration

The first declaration on this model prayer is adoration.

**Matthew 6:9**, *"Hallowed be thy name"*

**The believer is to give the Lord the glory due unto his \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Psalms 29:2**, *"Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."*

**The believer is to desire for the Father to be G\_\_\_\_\_.**

**John 17:1**, *"These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:"*

#### B. It Should Contain Submission

Christ moves to demonstrate the submission to God with which we should come. Prayer is not us trying get God to agree with our decisions. Prayer is us seeking to agree with God's will.

**Matthew 6:10**, *"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."*

**Was Isaiah submissive in his prayer to the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Isaiah 6:8**, *"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me."*

### C. It Should Contain Supplication to God

The believer has an opportunity to declare his dependence upon God. The most basic things of life are often forgotten in our prayers.

**Matthew 6:11**, *"Give us this day our daily bread."*

**The believer is to let his \_\_\_\_\_ be made known unto God.**

Philippians 4:6, *"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."*

### D. It Should Contain Confession

We have already understood that our prayers will not be heard if we regard sin in our lives. **A life with unconfessed sin, is a life with unheard prayers.**

**The believer is to seek F \_\_\_\_\_ from the Lord.**

**Matthew 6:12**, *"And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."*

**The believer is to \_\_\_\_\_ his iniquity.**

**Psalms 38:18**, *"For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin."*

**The believer is to \_\_\_\_\_ his sins.**

**1 John 1:9**, *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

### E. It Should Contain Appreciation

Prayer should not just contain requests, but they should also recognize, praise, appreciate, and give thanks for our God.

**Matthew 6:13**, *"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."*

**The believer is to enter into God's presence with \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Psalms 100:4**, *"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name."*

**The believer's prayer must contain \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Colossians 4:2**, *"Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving."*

## IV. THE RESTRAINT AGAINST PRAYER

### UNCONFESSED SINS

If we regard \_\_\_\_\_ in our heart, the Lord will not hear us.

**Psalm 66:18**, *"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:"*

**Isaiah 59:1-2**, *"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear."*

### UNFORGIVENESS TOWARD OTHERS

If we are to receive forgiveness in prayer, then we should first \_\_\_\_\_ those we are at odds with.

**Mark 11:24-25**, *"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."*

### UNHOLY DESIRES

The believer is not to ask for something of God in order to satisfy his \_\_\_\_\_.

**James 4:3**, *"Ye ask, and receive not, because he ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."*

### UNGODLY RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR SPOUSE

If a husband fails in his duty to his wife, then his prayers will be \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 Peter 3:7**, *"Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."*

### UNINTERESTED IN THE THINGS OF GOD

The person that does not regard God's law, his prayer is an \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

**Proverbs 28:9**, *"He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination."*

## V. THE REALITY OF PRAYER

### A. The Place of Prayer

THERE SHOULD BE PERSONAL PRAYER

The believer is to pray to his Father which is in \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matthew 6:6**, "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."

THERE SHOULD BE **PUBLIC** PRAYER

**The believers all continued with one accord in \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Acts 1:13-14**, "And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren."

THERE SHOULD BE **PARTNERED** PRAYER

**Matthew 18:19**, "Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven."

## **B. The Posture of Prayer**

**We can pray S \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Mark 11:25**, "And when ye stand praying, forgive..."

**We can pray K \_\_\_\_\_.**

**1 Kings 8:54**, "And it was so, that when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the Lord, he arose from before the altar of the Lord, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven."

**We can pray S \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Acts 16:13**, "And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither."

**We can pray F \_\_\_\_\_ on our F \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Matthew 26:39**, "And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed..."

## **C. The Plan of Prayer**

Paul told the believer in Thessalonica to prayer without ceasing in **1 Thessalonians 5:17**. There is certainly a spirit of prayer that must not be confined to a set place and time. There is never a bad time or place to pray.

**How many times in a day did Daniel pray on his knees? \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Daniel 6:10**, *“Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.”*

**During what part of the day did David pray? \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Psalms 5:3**, *“My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.”*

**Jesus Christ prayed in the morning, rising before \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Mark 1:35**, *“And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.”*

**Did the apostles observe set times of prayer? \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Acts 3:1**, *“Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.”*

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

Did all believers in the first century church pray? YES / NO

Why should we pray? (page 110)

Because we have been A\_\_\_\_\_.

Because we have A\_\_\_\_\_.

Because we need A\_\_\_\_\_.

What does it mean to you that you have access to God through Christ?

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What does the word "hallowed" mean?

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To whom do we pray to? \_\_\_\_\_

Through whom do we pray? \_\_\_\_\_

In whom should be pray? \_\_\_\_\_

What should our praying contain?

A\_\_\_\_\_

S\_\_\_\_\_

S\_\_\_\_\_

C\_\_\_\_\_

A\_\_\_\_\_

What things in our lives can keep our prayers from being heard or answered?

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Should a Christian ever pray in public? \_\_\_\_\_

Should a Christian develop a habitual time for prayer? \_\_\_\_\_