



Chris's Mission Church

PRAYER

INTRODUCTION:

The first mention of prayer in the Bible is in _____, "Then men began to call upon the name of the LORD." There is no mention of God telling men they should start doing this; it just seems to have begun freely and spontaneously. Men felt the need for God and began to call upon Him. Prayer should be as natural as a child talking to his father and mother. When men come to know, understand and love God, they will want to talk to Him.

It is difficult to give a definition of prayer in just a few words but essentially one might define prayer as a close, personal and respectful conversation between man and God. It is important to understand this point before examining the various aspects of prayer.

I. REASONS TO PRAY:

A. There are many reasons why Christians should pray, listed below are just some found in the Bible.

- 1. Jesus tells us we _____ to pray.
Read Luke 18:1
- 2. Jesus set the perfect _____ for us with His Prayer life
Read Matthew 14:23
Read Mark 6:46
Read Luke 5:16
Read Luke 6:12
- 3. It is through prayer that our _____

Read James 4:2

DISCOVERING SERIES

- a. F. B. Meyer says, “God only works through His people in answer to their prayers.”
- 4. Prayer brings _____.
Read John 16:24
- 5. Prayer is a cure for _____.
Read Matthew 6:33
Read Philippians 4:6
- 6. Prayer brings _____ into the life of the immersed believer.
Read Acts 4:31
- 7. Prayer is a practical and tangible way of _____ (both physically and spiritually)
Read Matthew 26:41
Read James 5:13 and 16
- 8. Most importantly, it is the main way we _____ with the Father
Read Matthew 6:5-15
Read Matthew 7:7-11

II. LESSONS ON HOW TO PRAY:

Every Christian should have the attitude of the early disciples when one of them said, “*Lord, teach us to pray*” (Luke 11:1).

- A. Jesus did a lot of teaching on prayer through the telling of parables such as in Luke 18 where He tells two parables back-to-back on prayer.
 - 1. The first parable is about a persistent little widow who keeps petitioning a wicked Judge who neither fears God nor respects men but because of her persistence, gives into her request.
 - a. There are at least three lessons on prayer from this parable:
 - 1. Christians need to be _____ in their prayers.
 - 2. God _____ and _____ prayers.
 - 3. If a worthless Judge will grant a widow’s request whom he cares little for, how much more will a loving God react to His children.

2. The second parable deals with our attitude and prayer. It is about a Pharisee and a tax-gatherer that went up to the temple to pray.
 - a. The Pharisee's prayer was _____ and God rejected it.
 - b. The tax collector's prayer was _____ and God accepted it.

B. One of the greatest teachings Jesus did on prayer was in the Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew 6.

1. There He tells us that our personal prayers are not to be for show but should be kept private.
2. We are also told not to use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do to their gods.
 - a. The One Personal God of the universe cannot be manipulated like a genie's lamp by chanting a bunch of pagan incantations.
3. It is also in this passage that Jesus gives the Model Prayer (more commonly known as the Lord's Prayer although this is a misnomer).
 - a. Let's take a look at this prayer found in Matthew 6:9-13:

"Our Father who is in heaven..." - acknowledges a _____.

"Holy is Your name..." - acknowledges His greatness and purity.

"Your kingdom come..." - acknowledges God's _____.

"Your will be done..." - acknowledges His purpose and will.

"On earth as it is in heaven..." - acknowledges His _____.

"Give us this day our daily bread..." - acknowledges His physical provisions.

"And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors..." - acknowledges His _____.

"And do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from evil..." - acknowledges the need for His guidance, leading, and care.

"For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever..."
 - acknowledges the _____ of God as you end the prayer.

4. Please note that in verse 9 Jesus did not say, "Pray this prayer" but "*Pray then, in this way*".

- a. This is not a prayer that has to be continually repeated although there is nothing wrong with saying it if it is sincere and genuine.
- b. It was given to us to show us the different elements that should be contained in our own personal prayers to God.
- c. As you study different prayers in the Bible you will see that there are many elements that should be included in prayer. Listed below are a few:

_____ to God for who He is;
 _____ to God for what He has done;
 _____ for what we have done;
 _____ for what we need;
 _____ for what others need;
 _____ for God to answer the prayer as He sees fit.

When all of these factors are present in our personal prayer life then we will truly have communion and fellowship with the Father and the Son.

III. CONDITIONS TO HAVE PRAYERS ANSWERED:

- A. The following scriptures make it clear that there are certain “conditions” that must be met if God is to hear and answer our prayers:
 - 1. We must pray with pure hearts and clean hands (Psalms 66:18; Isaiah 59:1-2; I Timothy 2:8; I Peter 3:12).
 - 2. We must pray with _____ and according to His will (James 4:3; I John 5:14).
 - 3. We must forgive others in order to come to God (Matthew 5:23-24; 6:12-15; Mark 11:25-26).
 - 4. We must be free from _____ (Ezekiel 14:1-3; Colossians 3:5).
 - 5. We must be merciful towards people (Proverbs 21:13).
 - 6. We must treat our _____ properly (I Peter 3:7).
 - 7. We must hear and obey God’s will (Deuteronomy 1:42-46; Proverbs 28:9; John 15:7; I John 3:22).
 - 8. We must pray _____ (Proverbs 1:24-33; Zechariah 7:11-13; Luke 18:9-14).

9. We must pray in faith (Mark 11:24; Hebrews 11:6; James 1:5-6).
10. We must pray in _____ (John 14:13-14; 16:24).