

Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia

Bible Study - May 5, 2022

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Title: "Prayer: The Channel To God"

Scripture Reference: Luke 18:1

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

I. Introduction

A. If God is in control of the world (and He is), and if He already knows all things (and He does), why should we bother to pray?

B. Prayer is one of the greatest mysteries of the spiritual life, and yet, there is no getting around the fact that God commands us to pray. Our Scripture reference verse for this study affirms this truth.

C. Prayer primarily involves two parts:

1. First - The recognition of who God is and the acknowledgment of what He can do.

2. Second - Petitions of the one praying, whether they be for blessings, forgiveness, personal needs, or the needs of others.

D. Ultimately, prayer deepens our personal dependence on God and our faith in Him.

E. There are many Scripture passages that provide guidelines and reminders for prayer:

- **Pray with faith** - "Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" (Mark 11:24).

- **Pray relentlessly** (Luke 18:1)
- **Pray in the name of Jesus Christ** (i.e., the kinds of prayers Jesus would pray (see John 14:13).
- **Pray in community** (i.e., when you are assembled with others of like precious faith) [Acts 2:42]
- **Pray with reliance on the Holy Spirit** (Romans 8:26).
- **Pray continually** (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
- **Pray boldly** (Hebrews 4:16).
- **Pray in accordance with the will of God** (1 John 5:14-15).

F. Although God knows our needs, He asks us to bring them to Him in prayer. He can "move mountains," and He often does so in response to our prayers.

II. Exposition [Part I] - What Is Prayer?

A. The sacrifice of Jesus Christ at Calvary has made a true and meaningful connection with God possible for everyone.

B. God invites the followers of Christ to boldly approach Him with their praises, thoughts, needs, hurts, hopes, and requests.

C. Therefore, prayer is the channel through which we communicate with God to express and/or request the things identified above.

III. Exposition [Part II] - The Purpose of Prayer

A. The purpose of prayer has several meaningful and beneficial components, and through prayer, we:

- Worship God for who He is, and we thank Him for what He has done, is doing, and will do in our life.
- Through prayer we cultivate a personal relationship with God.
- Through prayer we reflect on daily actions.
- We make requests and ask for guidance.
- We express faith in God, and
- We repent and receive forgiveness of our sins.

IV. Exposition [Part III] - How To Pray

A. Many years ago, I provided a very simple outline based on the Scriptures of just how we can approach our God through the channel of prayer. Here is that outline, using the acronym A C T S:

- Adoration
- Confession
- Thanksgiving
- Supplication

B. I would also like to provide you with the following additional information on how to pray.

- Follow Jesus' example. Honor and acknowledge God in a spirit of love before making any requests. This is what is involved in Adoration.
- Display (both inward and outward) an attitude of love and mercy toward others.
- Approach God with confidence.

V. Exposition [Part IV] - Hindrances To Prayer

A. Each week when we are assembled together, I provide the Scriptural admonition that informs us of what will not only hinder our prayers but when God will not hear our prayers.

C. Psalm 66:18 says - "If I regard (i.e., harbor) iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me."

D. Next, every person is encouraged to confess their sins to God in order to receive His forgiveness. The Word of God says: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

E. You are then encouraged to pray according to God's will. "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 (asked) of him." (1 John 5: 14-15)

F. Approaching God in opposition to the clear instructions of His Word will result in a hindrance to our prayers.

VI. Summary

A. Don't neglect prayer in your daily life. Prayer is essential in the life of a Christian. Where there is no prayer, there is no power. Where there is a little prayer, there will be little power. But where there is much prayer, there will be much power in the life of a Christian.

B. The prophet Jeremiah recorded the following encouraging words concerning communicating with God - "Call unto me and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." (Jeremiah 33:3)

ARE YOU PRAYING??

It is now once again, interactive time. Please complete the passages below by filling in the blank spaces. All Scripture passages have been taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible.

"And it came to pass, that, as he was _____ in a certain place, when he _____, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to _____, as John also taught his disciples. And he said unto them, When ye _____, say, Our _____, which are in _____. Hallowed be thy _____. Thy _____ come, Thy _____ be done, as in _____, so in _____."

[Luke 11:1-2]

"Confess your faults one to another, and _____ one for another, that ye may be _____. The _____ fervent _____ of a _____ man _____ much."

[James 5:16]

"And when the people _____, it _____ the Lord, and the Lord _____ it; and his anger was _____; and the fire of the Lord burnt among them, and _____ them that were in the _____ parts of the camp. And the people _____ unto Moses, and when Moses _____ unto the Lord, the _____ was quenched."

[Numbers 11:1-2]

"Now when Solomon had made an end of _____, the fire came down from _____, and _____ the burnt offering and the _____; and the _____ of he Lord _____ the house."

[2 Chronicles 7:1]

"And when thou _____, thou shalt not be as the _____ are; for they _____ to _____ standing in the _____ and in the _____ of the streets, that they may be _____ of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their _____."

[Matthew 6:5]

Thank you for joining in this study session and remember this: One week without prayer will make you weak along this Christian journey.

The Apostle Paul said - "**Pray without ceasing**" (1 Thess. 5:17). In other words, remain in an attitude of prayer.

Jude 3

Pastor Austin