



# **What can we learn about *Prayer?***

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Independent Bible Church!**

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**Special Guest Speaker:  
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## Here are some observations about the importance of prayer...

- 1) God invites us to. Jeremiah 33:3, Psalm 27:8, 1 Chronicles 16:11
- 2) Because Jesus modeled it. Luke 5:16
- 3) God's Word promises that "He rewards those who earnestly seek Him" Heb 11:6
- 4) Prayer is a form of serving and obeying God. Luke 2:36-38
- 5) Prayer is a means of getting God's will done on earth (not our own). 1 John 5:14-15
- 6) Prayer can help steer us out of temptation. Luke 11:4
- 7) God has said that we often go without because we do not ask. James 4:2
- 8) A lack of prayer demonstrates a lack of faith & of trust in God's Word. Ephesians 3:20
- 9) Fervent prayer of a righteous man accomplishes much. James 5:16-18
- 10) Pray for our enemies....In doing so, we keep our own hearts free from bitterness. Heb 12:15

# The Lord's Prayer

## Matthew 6:9-13

### About God

<sup>9</sup>Pray, then, in this way:

Our Father who is in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

...may your name be acknowledged and honored as holy. A request that ALL of us will recognize that He is holy

...praying for His kingdom

<sup>10</sup>Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

...Help us to want what you want

<sup>11</sup>Give us this day our daily bread.

...a prayer about our everyday needs

### About Us

<sup>12</sup>And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

...think of people we need to forgive. We can't do it ourselves, we need to ask God for help

<sup>13</sup>And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

...a request for God to help us do what is right

# How do we pray when we struggle with what to say?

Rom 8:26-27 = In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for *us* with groanings too deep for words; 27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to *the will of God*. .....this should give us a lot of confidence!

Real prayer to God has nothing to do with our ability to string words together.

- **Be yourself.** Be real and just talk to Him, and when you do, you will be blessed for it. Keep it honest, keep it simple, keep it up. More praying moves us closer to God and increases our hope and strength, even if our situation does not change.
- **Let God's Word help you.** Turn the scriptures into prayer. If you want to learn how to praise God, go to the Psalms and start reading. If you want to learn how to pray for others, look at some of Paul's prayers for others in Colosians and Ephesians. When we struggle with sin, we can pray with David in Psalm 51:10. Learning key bible verses can help us when we struggle.
- **Remember that God hears you with love because of Jesus.** Because of Jesus and what He has done on the cross, we can approach God with confidence, Heb 4:16. Jesus is seated at the right hand of God and is interceding for us. Rom 8:34

# Obstacles to prayer

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We simply get too busy.

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We are feeling unworthy.

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Sin becomes an idol in our heart.

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We get discouraged over previous prayers.

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We have a lack of faith.

# Praying for others

1. **Greater awareness of Jesus' presence in our lives.** James 4:8 “come near to God and He will come near to you” God loves it when we pray for others and as we follow His lead, we will receive more of His peace and a deeper awareness of His presence in our lives.
2. **A more caring heart** – example, have you ever noticed how God reminds us of a special need in our own lives while praying for others?
3. **Encouraged faith** – few things are more encouraging than seeing prayers answered, people healed, etc.
4. **More of God's comfort** – God's comfort can come in surprising ways & God's Spirit will minister to our personal needs as we pray for others.

## Praying with others

Praying together with someone is an OPPORTUNITY that we don't want to miss, but we often don't see it that way. It moves people from seeking their own purposes to desiring God's purposes. You can grow your own faith by listening to the prayers of others.

Take a look at the Lord's Prayer again, Matt 6:9-13. We see the word "us" used (4) times, which seems to suggest that we are encouraged to pray with others, not just by ourselves.

# What is the connection between fasting and praying?

Nowhere in scripture is there any indication that the Lord is more likely to answer prayers if they are accompanied by fasting. Rather, fasting along with prayer seems to indicate the sincerity of the people praying and the critical nature of the situations in which they find themselves.

Jesus did sometimes fast (Matthew 4:2), and He assumed that His followers would also fast on occasion (Matthew 6:16–18; Mark 2:20).

\*\* The emphasis shouldn't be what we are giving up, it should be what we are seeking, more of God's wisdom/strength/love. \*\*



# What about “Unanswered” Prayer?

God answers prayers that are according to His will. How do we know what is in God’s will? A good place to start is [1 Thessalonians 5:12-24](#), which outlines many things that are God’s will for us. The better we understand God’s Word, the better we will know what to pray for ([John 15:7](#)). The better we know what to pray for, the more often God will answer “yes” to our requests.

We could also pray for wisdom. Refer to [James 1:5](#) “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”

When facing unanswered prayer in our own lives, what's a fair question to ask?

- a) Have I prayed as hard as I can?
- b) Does God exist?
- c) Does God really care about me?
- d) Do I expect all of my prayers to be answered the way I would like them to be?

# Experiment: Keep track of all your prayers.

Maybe create an Excel spreadsheet or something similar. Keep it updated with prayers & refer back often. Once you have an answered prayer, enter it in the tracker. Look back at your prayer list, and I think you will find that prayers get answered. Maybe not as soon as we think they should be answered.....It's a fun experiment I tried, just because I was curious.

Prayer	Initial Date of Prayer	Date Answered	Notes

## Persevering in Prayer

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 “Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

# Living a Prayer-Filled Life

Mark 3:14 tells us, “He [Jesus] appointed twelve that they might be with him.” Interpretation = Prayer is being with Jesus.

We need to ask ourselves if we want to follow Jesus and if so, we need to be setting aside time for prayer. Prayer is mentioned approximately 250 times in the Bible. Interpretation = It’s important!

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 “Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” – no other verse sums it up better than this....

# What prayer is NOT:

- bargaining with God.
- making demands of God.
- only asking God for things.
- a therapeutic, meditation-type exercise.
- bothering God and taking up His time.
- a way to control the Lord.
- a way to show off one's spirituality before others.
- prayer is not considered a spiritual gift (it's available to everyone).

# Closing Prayer

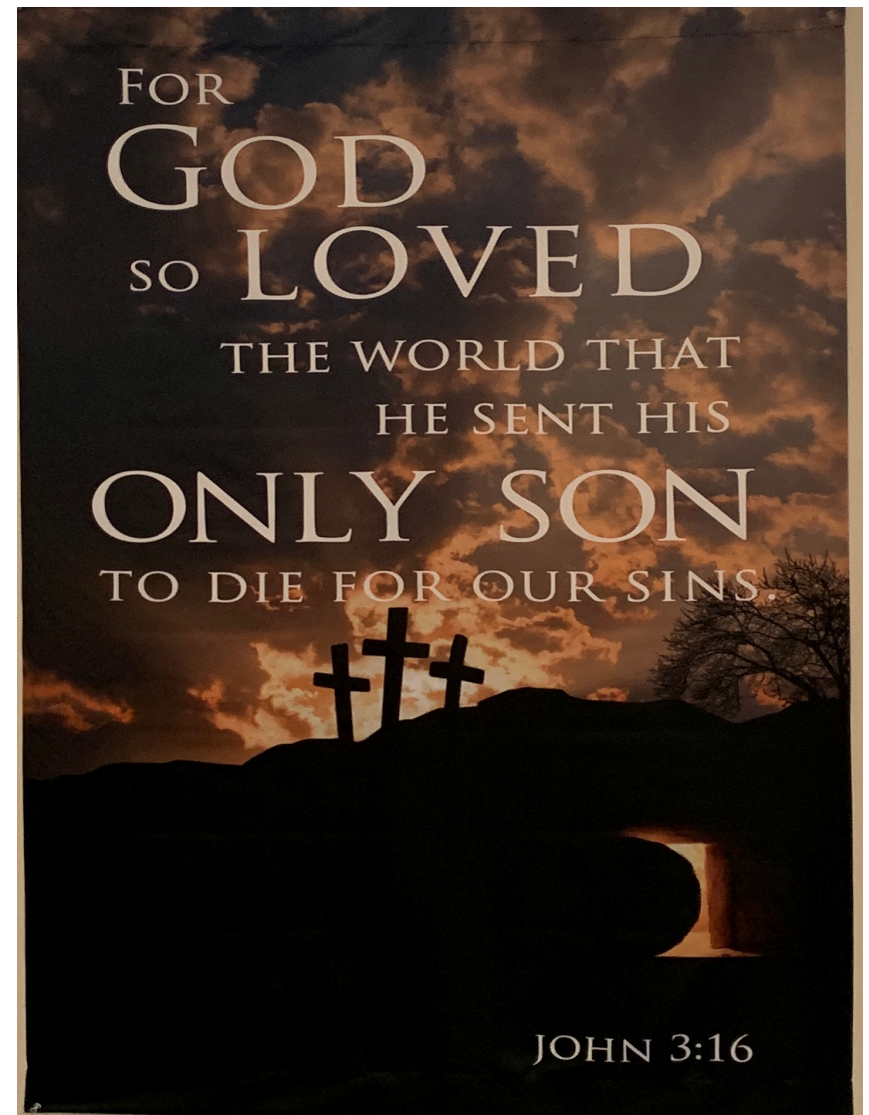
John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life.

## **What do I need to do to be saved?**

Acts 16:31 ...believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.... God has already done all the work. All you need to do is receive, in faith, the salvation God offers. Eph 2:8-9.

John 14:6 ...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.



For by grace you have  
been saved through  
faith, and that not of  
yourselves; *it is* the gift  
of God, not of works,  
lest anyone should  
boast.

Ephesians 2:8,9



**Thank You  
for joining  
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