

ADVANCED BIBLICAL COURSE



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Prayer

I PRAYER

Jesus, the master teacher of prayer, revealed all that we really need to know about the power of prayer. Listen as He stands at the tomb of Lazarus who had been dead for four days, and watch while He lifts His eyes and prays: “*Father, I thank you that you have heard me ... and I know that you hear me always.*” (John 11:41-42) Then He turned towards the door of Lazarus’ grave and made the halls of Hades ring with His command, “*Lazarus come forth.*” Jesus’ kind of praying was not that of a feeble voice whispering weakling into His Father’s ears, but was a result of ... “*prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears ...*” (Hebrews 5:7)

Jesus’ life was one of praying. He was up early in the morning to pray, sometimes praying all night, fasting and praying, continually praying – His was a life of continual prayer. Great prayer people are people who walk with God and don’t expect God to walk with them and their plans. After Jesus’ death and resurrection, He became mediator-executor of His own testament. He has taken up the reins of authority. (Hebrews 1:3)

- ◆ Prayer is the highest form of communication.
- ◆ Prayer is the simplest act a creature of God can perform.
- ◆ It is divine communication with our Heavenly Father.
- ◆ It is the vision of the believer; it gives eyes to our faith.
- ◆ As in the Lord’s Prayer, “*Thy will be done,*” is the overture to all prayer.
- ◆ The impulse, which makes prayer effective, is the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:26)
- ◆ Prayer does not impose burdens – it lifts burdens.
- ◆ Prayer produces patience. It does not require advanced education.
- ◆ In prayer we see beyond ourselves and focus spiritual eyes on God’s infinite power.
- ◆ Prayer is not optional. Absence of prayer = absence of power.
- ◆ Genuine prayer is not asking for things, it is a relationship. “*Have faith in God*” not “*Have faith in prayer.*” (Mark 11:22)
- ◆ It starts with waiting on Him.
- ◆ The point of prayer is to get God, not ‘answers.’
- ◆ Prayer is most meaningful when God is thought of most.

- ◆ A man's concept of God determines the depth of his prayer life.
- ◆ Real prayer begins and ends with God enthroned.
- ◆ The name isn't a magic wand or formula e.g. Abracadabra, Shazam. Can't manipulate God. Praying in Jesus' Name means to pray *"by the authority of,"* sanctioned by Jesus Christ.
- ◆ To pray in the name of Jesus is to pray according to His will, with His approval, consistent with His nature, character and purpose. Therefore, it is as though Jesus Himself were making the request. That is our authority.
- ◆ God welcomes us to the throne of grace not because we have done "spiritual things," but because of what Christ has done.
- ◆ Abiding – lifestyle of prayer and waiting on God.
- ◆ Praying in His name is a totally new teaching on prayer and is found only in John: -
 - John 14:13, *"and whatever you ask in My Name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."*
 - John 14:14, *"If you ask anything in My Name."*
 - John 15:16, *"Whatever you ask of the Father in My Name."*
 - John 16:23, *"Whatever you ask the Father in My Name, He will give you."*
 - John 16:24, *"Until now you have asked nothing in My Name. Ask and you will receive."*
 - John 16:26, *"In that day you will ask in My Name."*

II FAMOUS QUOTES

- ◆ Charles Spurgeon
Prayer is the slender nerve that moves the muscles of omnipotence.
- ◆ Francis Frangipane
Learning to see the eternal and invisible is an important part of effective warfare prayer. If we do not pray against our spiritual enemies, they will, indeed, prey upon us.
- ◆ John Wesley
God will do nothing on earth except in answer to believing prayer.
- ◆ Dr Guthrie
The first true sign of spiritual life, prayer is also the means of maintaining it. Man can just as well live physically without breathing, as live spiritually without praying.
- ◆ Billy Graham
In prayer, "One with God is a majority."
- ◆ By Brother W.M Gass – "Can I say the Lord's Prayer?"
 - I cannot say, *"Our,"* if I live in a watertight spiritual compartment; if I think a special place in heaven is reserved for my denomination.

- I cannot say, “*Father,*” if I do not demonstrate the relationship in my daily life.
- I cannot say, “*Which art in Heaven,*” if I am so occupied with earth that I am not laying up treasure over there.
- I cannot say, “*Thy will be done,*” if I am questioning, resentful, or disobedient to His will for me.
- I cannot say, “*Give us this day our daily bread,*” if I am living on past experiences.
- I cannot say, “*Lead us not into temptation,*” if I deliberately place myself or remain in a position where I am likely to be tempted.
- I cannot say, “*Deliver us from evil,*” if I am not prepared to fight it in the spiritual realm with the weapon of prayer.
- I cannot say, “*Thine is the Kingdom,*” if I don’t give the King the disciplined obedience of a loyal subject.
- I cannot say, “*Thine is the ... glory,*” if I am seeking glory for myself.
- I cannot say, “*Forever,*” if my horizons are bound of things of time.
- I cannot say, “*Amen,*” if I do not also add, “*Cost what it may,*” for to say this prayer honestly ... will cost everything.

◆ R.A. Torrey

Luke 18:1, “*And He spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.*” Why is it that God does not give to us the very first time we ask Him, the things that we ask of Him? The answer is plain: God would do more for us, and better for us, than to merely give us that thing. He would do us the far greater good of training us into persistent faith. The things that we get by our other forms of effort than prayer to God, do not always become ours the first time we make an effort to get them; for our own good, God compels us to be persistent in our effort, and just so God does not always give us what we ask in prayer the first time we pray. Just as He would train us to be strong men and women along the other lines of effort, so also He would train us to be and make us to be strong men and women of prayer by compelling us to pray hard of the best things. He compels us to “pray through.”

◆ Mary Mason – “Prayer in the Spirit”

The thirsty love of God reached down to where I knelt in prayer, caressing tongue and lips and soul with love beyond compare. And oh, that love God placed in me reached out in words unknown, embracing souls who walk apart in desert lands alone. I see my soul an altar for God’s Son to intercede. He weeps His tears through eyes of clay. My lips are His to lead. How sweet to know Eternal God has housed Himself in me. He prays my prayer; He thinks my thoughts; I’m one with Royalty. And someday when the straying sheep are safe on streets of gold, I shall rejoice. I’ve had a part. I prayed them to the fold.

◆ Annie Woodsworth – “Unanswered”

Unanswered, does your prayer remain though oft with tears you plead? And watch and wait and wonder if God does not care or heed? Unanswered? Well, perhaps, dear heart, you may have asked amiss; is it God’s glory that you seek, or selfish avarice?

◆ George Muller – “The Secret Of His Power In Prayer”

- **Lord! Teach us to pray;** or, The Only Teacher
- **In Spirit and truth;** or, The True Worshippers
- **Pray to thy Father, which is in secret;** or, Alone with God
- **After this manner pray;** or, The Model Prayer
- **Ask, and it shall be given you;** or, The Certainty of the Answer to Prayer
- **How much more?** Or, the Infinite Fatherliness of God
- **How much more the Holy Spirit;** or, The All-Comprehensive Gift
- **Because of his importunity;** or, The Boldness of God’s Friends
- **Pray the Lord of the harvest;** or, Prayer provides labourers
- **What wilt thou?** Or, Prayer must be definite
- **Believe that ye have received;** or, The Faith that takes
- **Have faith in God;** or The Secret of Believing Prayer
- **Prayer and fasting;** or, The Cure of Unbelief
- **When ye stand praying, forgive;** or, Prayer and Love
- **If two agree;** or, The Power of United Prayer
- **Speedily, though bearing long;** or, The Power of Persevering Prayer
- **I know that Thou hearest me always;** or Prayer in harmony with the being of God
- **Whose is this image?** Or, Prayer in harmony with the destiny of man
- **I go unto the Father;** or, Power for Praying and Working
- **That the Father may be glorified;** or, The Chief End of Prayer
- **If ye abide in me;** or, the All-Inclusive Condition
- **My words in you;** or, The Word and Prayer
- **Bear fruit, that the Father may give what ye ask;** or, Obedience the Path to Power in Prayer
- **In my Name;** or, The All-Prevailing Plea
- **At that day;** or, The Holy Spirit and Prayer
- **I have prayed for thee;** or, Christ the Intercessor
- **Father, I will;** or, Christ the High Priest
- **Father! Not what I will;** or, Christ the Sacrifice
- **If we ask according to His will;** or, Our boldness in prayer
- **An holy priesthood;** or, The Ministry of Intercession
- **Pray without ceasing;** or, A life of prayer

◆ Author unknown – “If I had prayed”

Perhaps the day would not have been so long, the skies would not have seemed so gray, if on my knees in humble prayer, I had begun the day. Perhaps the fight would not have been so hard, prepared, I might have faced the fray, if I had been alone with Him, upon my knees, to pray. Perhaps I might have cheered a broken heart, or helped a wand’rer on the way, if I had asked to be a light, to some dark soul today. I would remember just the pleasant things; the harsh words that I meant to say, I would forget, if I had prayed, when I began the day.

◆ Author unknown – “The Lord’s Prayer”

You cannot say the Lord’s Prayer and ever once say ‘I’; you cannot pray the Lord’s Prayer and ever once say ‘my’; nor can you pray the Lord’s Prayer and not pray for one another, for when you ask for daily bread you must include your brother; for ‘others’ are included in each and every plead, from beginning to the end of it, it does not once say ‘me.’

David did not stop with praying three times a day: “*Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgements*” (Psalm 119:164). This indicates that we should praise God more than twice as much as we petition Him. When you are facing problems you can’t solve, don’t pray yourself out of faith. Praise builds your faith in the One who can lift you up above that problem. Offer a sacrifice of praise with your prayers, and God will give the victory.

III PRINCIPLES OF PRAYER INCLUDE

- ◆ Forgiving Spirit
- ◆ Humility
- ◆ Simplicity
- ◆ Watchfulness
- ◆ Faith
- ◆ In the Spirit
- ◆ Father’s will
- ◆ Prayer in: -
 - secret
 - times of spiritual conflict
- ◆ Thanked
- ◆ Sought guidance
- ◆ Intercession
- ◆ Intensity
- ◆ Fervent
- ◆ Unity in prayer