

Prayer

Introduction

Matthew 6:9-13

Referred to as "the model prayer."

Luke 11:1 Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."

1. What is prayer?

A. It is a spiritual communion with God; A time where we call upon God or just talk with Him.

1) This is how we obtain a close relationship with God.

2. What does prayer include?

– There are different aspects of prayer

A. The giving of praise. Notice how Matt 6:9 opens.

Matthew 6:9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

1) Understanding that God is set apart as holy.

a. But remember, He is our Father.

B. The giving of thanks.

Ephesians 5:20 **giving thanks always** for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 pray without ceasing, **in everything give thanks**; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

C. The confession of our 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.

Acts 8:22 Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart **may be forgiven you**.

D. Supplication (A petition)

– Be specific - learn to have an attitude of “more of thee and less of me”

1) **This would be earnest and intense begging, a request, a call to one’s aid.**

Luke 22:40-44

E. Intercession.

1) **This would include begging on behalf of others.**

Romans 15:30-31

Luke 23:34"Father, **forgive them**, for they do not know what they do...."

3. What is God's will concerning prayer?

A. God wants us to pray continuously. Talk to Him.

Luke 18:1-7

1 Timothy 2:1-2, 8

Whose Prayer Will God Not Hear?

1. He will not hear those who turn away from His law.

Proverbs 28:9 One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer is an abomination.

2. He will not hear those who have wickedness in their hearts.

Psalms 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.

3. He will not hear the prayer of the proud.

Job 35:12 There they cry out, but He does not answer, Because of the pride of evil men.

4. He will not hear sinners!

John 9:31 Now we know that God does **not hear sinners**.....

A. It does not mean that godly men who commit occasional transgressions of God's law do not have their prayers heard.

B. This passage summarizes what the Old Testament scriptures teach:

1) THAT IS: Willful, impenitent sinners do not have God's ear.

- Proverbs 15:29
- Psalms 66:18-19; 109:7
- Job 27:8-9; 35:13
- Isaiah 1:11-15
- John 16:23-27
- 1 John 3:21-22

Whose Prayer Will God Hear?

1. He will hear the prayers of those who worship Him.

John 9:31but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him.

2. He will hear the prayer of the humble.

Psalms 9:12 When He avenges blood, He remembers them; He does not forget the cry of the humble.

3. He will hear the prayer of the righteous.

1 Peter 3:12 For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil."

4. He will hear the prayers of those who keep His commandments.

1 John 3:22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

How Then Should We Pray?

1. We must pray in faith.

James 1:6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

2. We must pray in harmony with God's will.

1 John 5:14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

3. We must pray in the name of Christ.

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

4. We must pray in the spirit of sincerity.

Matthew 6:5 "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

Why Then Do We Feel Some Prayers Go “Unanswered?”

1. **Because many prayers go “UNFINISHED.”**
 - A. **Pray for Health - then we must obey the laws of health.**
1 Corinthians 3:17
 - B. **Pray for the sick - then must help them get well.**
 - C. **Pray for the bereaved - then must comfort them.**
 - D. **Pray for wisdom - then must study.**

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

- 1)
God has given us the Bible and He does expect us to use it. If we expect God to listen to us, then we must understand that God expects us to listen to Him!
2 Timothy 2:15
 - E. **Pray for spiritual growth - then must take spiritual food.**
 - F. **Pray for salvation of sinners - then must seek and study.**
 - G. **Pray for unity of the church - then must work for unity.**
 - H. **Pray for church to grow physically and spiritually, then must be faithful member.**
Hebrews 10:24-26
2. **If we fail to do our part the prayer is unfinished.**
 - A. **Those things we ask God for - we must be willing to do ourselves such as: forgiveness; knowledge; faith; etc.**

Conclusion

1. **Let us remember to pray to God for all things.**
2. **Only those abiding in God's will are heard by God.**
 - A. **Sinners - God does not hear.**
3. **It is Jesus who came and died for us. Therefore let us remember that all prayers go through Jesus our savior and mediator to God.**
 - A. **Let's ask for God's help – not for Him to do it all. We are His tools to do His work.**

