

PRAYER

Someone has well said, “if we would become like Christ we list have a Christ-like history.” If this is true, we must enter at once into the wonders of a life of prayer, for his is a life of prayer. We can never over estimate the value of prayer.

Unfortunately, very little has been done recently to train people in this crucial area of Christian living, serving, and ministering. **Is the church producing prayer warriors today?**

B. M. Bounds asked a century ago, “Is prayer a fixed course in the schools of the church, the Sunday Schools, the homes? Have we any graduates from the great university of prayer?”

You may be surprised to know that Christ’s disciples asked Him only once to teach them a particular discipline of the Christian life. They did not ask how to preach. They did not ask for five steps to church growth, nor did they ask for training in personal evangelism. Rather, they asked that Jesus would teach them to pray (Luke 11:1 KJV And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.). Jesus responded with a shortened Lords Prayer compared to Matthew 6:9-13.

WHY LEARN ABOUT PRAYER?

- 1) Prayer will unify believers in the task of world evangelism.
 - a. They will know that you are my disciples if you have love one for another.”
 - b. James 5:16 “...pray for one another...”
- 2) Prayer will take us to new heights with Christ, personally.
- 3) Prayer reaches everywhere, and meets every need that God does.
- 4) Prayer will help Christians remain focused on the important things.

“Beyond a doubt, one of the greatest reasons for the unsatisfactory, superficial, and temporary nature of many of our so-called modern revivals, is that so much dependence is placed upon man’s machinery, and so little upon God’s power, sought and obtained by earnest; persistent, believing prayer.” Dr. R.A. Torrey

“What the church needs today is not more or better machinery, not new organizations or novel methods, but men (and women) whom the Holy Spirit can use - men and women mighty in prayer. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come upon machinery, but upon men. He does not anoint programs, but men - men of prayer.”

AN OVERVIEW OF PRAYER

Definitions: Prayer is the first step to knowing Christ.”Calling out to God.”
“Entreating the Father”

Prayer is recognizing the presence and power of God.
Prayer is man’s means to know and touch God intimately.
Prayer is the laying hold of God’s promises.
Prayer is the soul bowed down before a holy God.
Prayer is the path to strength and peace.
Prayer is man’s way to know and understand God’s plan.
Prayer is doing business with God on His terms.
Prayer is God’s gift of power.
Prayer is serving on an executive committee for world evangelism.
Prayer is communing in the love of God through Christ.
Prayer is giving God access to our lives and needs.
Prayer is spiritual breathing.

Instructions:

- 1) Pray: is easier to read ten books on prayer than to really pray. Some would rather talk about prayer, or debate prayer than pray.
 - a. The great assumption of God’s Word is that we would be praying.
 - b. “Pray without ceasing” 1 Thessalonians 5:18 KJV (18) In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.
 - c. Ephesians 6:18 KJV Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;; 1 Timothy 2:8 KJV I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.; Psalms 55:17 KJV Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.; Luke 18:1 KJV And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;
- 2) Pray with Faith: Our Lord does not respond to insincerity of heart (John 1:1 KJV In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.)
 - a. Matthew 21:22 KJV And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.; James 1:6-7 KJV But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. (7) For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.; Hebrews 11:6 KJV But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him..
- 3) Pray without hindrances: The Lord is nigh unto all those who call upon

- a. Him in truth” Psalms 145:18 KJV The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.
- b. Luke 18:9-14 KJV And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: (10) Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. (11) The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. (12) I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. (13) And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. (14) I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.;
- c. James 5:16 KJV Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.;
- d. John. 15 “abiding.”
- e. Some hindrances; Psalms 66:18 KJV If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:
 - i. Matthew 5:23 KJV Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;
 - ii. Matthew 6:14-15 KJV For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: (15) But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.;
 - iii. Proverbs 21:13 KJV Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.;
 - iv. Proverbs 28:9 KJV He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.;
 - v. 1 Peter 3:7 KJV Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.;
 - vi. James 4:3 KJV Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts..
- 4) Pray in Jesus Name: Christ is our only access to God (John 14:6 KJV Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.).
 - a. John 16:24 KJV Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.,
 - b. John 14:13-14 KJV And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. (14) If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.;
 - c. Hebrews 4:16 KJV Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.;

- d. Romans 8:34 KJV Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us..
- 5) Pray to the Father (Lord):
 - a. Matthew 6:9 KJV After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.;
 - b. Luke 11; Example of Christ
 - c. "Pray to the Father, in the Name of the Son, by the power direction of the Holy Spirit."
 - 6) Pray in the Spirit:
 - a. Ephesians 6:18 KJV Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;
 - b. Romans 8:26 KJV Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.
 - c. "According to the Will of God" 1 John 5:14-15 KJV And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: (15) And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him..
 - 7) Pray with Determination:
 - a. Luke 11:5-13;
 - b. Luke 18:1-8.
 - c. Hebrews 11:6 KJV But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.
 - d. "The effectual, fervent, prayer" James 5:16 KJV Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much..
 - 8) Pray with secret devotion and concentration: Matthew 6:5-6 KJV And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. (6) But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.
 - a. The example of our Lord was to get alone to pray often (Matthew 14:23 KJV And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.).

9) Pray with God's Power in View: "For nothing shall be impossible with God"
Luke 1:37 KJV For with God nothing shall be impossible.

a. Remember, prayer can do anything God can do, it is the power that moves
the arm that controls the universe.

b. Is anything too hard for God'?

10) Pray Scripture:

"If there is no God we are fools to pray - if He is (and He is a rewarder of them that
diligently seek Him, Hebrews 11:6), we are fools not to pray always."

Praying Scripture

"The word of God is the fulcrum upon which the lever of prayer is placed and by which things are mightily moved. God has committed Himself, His purpose and His promise to prayer. His Word becomes the basis, the inspiration of our praying..."

E.M. Bounds

1. Study the following passages **and observations about prayer**. (Note the contexts.)

Passage	Observations
Genesis 32:9-12	Jacob ("Israel") is fleeing from Esau his twin brother because he fooled his father Isaac into giving him his older brother's birthright for which his brother hates him and wants to kill him. Jacob is praying to God to save him and his family and in doing so recalling promises made in Scripture (Gen 22:17) to Abraham his grandfather. And Jacob being sent by God to "return unto thy country" is reminiscent of Abraham being sent in Gen 12:1 to the same country.
Exodus 32:9-14	In this case Moses prays to God, who is about to destroy the nation of Israel because of their disobedience and worshipping the golden calf idol while Moses was on Mt. Sinai, in the same way as Jacob above. He refers to the promises to Abraham in Gen 22:17 once again. And to this God "repented of the evil" he was going to do to them. A mighty prayer indeed, as well as, repenting to get back in compliance with the concept of 1 John 5:14.
Exodus 33:12-17	Here God is still cross with Israel but loves Moses. God said go to the promised land but I will not journey with you because I am so mad I may destroy the people. Moses prayed for God in the tabernacle with the Shekinah cloud of glory marking the presence of God. Moses asked God to please go with them for if He didn't, Moses had many doubts about the journey. God relented and said he would go. God's reason was because Moses was special to God so he answered his prayer. This, I think is an example of 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Pray without ceasing.
II Samuel 7:18-29	King David has just been told that he may not build the Temple of God (by the Prophet Nathan) but that his son will build it and his family will be on the throne of Israel forever. David

Passage	Observations
	prays a prayer of thanks to God starting with the same humbleness as Moses did in Gen 32:10. David's prayer of thanks and worship includes amazement at the Grace shown on Israel. He really doesn't even mention decision about the temple but instead thanks God for, and confirms that, the blessings to his family are far more important than the prestige of building a house for God to live in. Showing that when we pray we need to keep the main thing the main thing so we don't violate James 4:3.
I Kings 8:22-29	Solomon, David's Son, has just finished building the Temple of God and has brought the Ark of the Covenant into the Holy of Holies in the Temple and God's presence filled the Temple with the Shekinah cloud of Glory. Solomon then begins to pray thanks to God for doing as he promised and allowed him, David's son, to build the Temple. Giving glory to God in answered prayer is important. The Solomon prays God's blessing on the temple that he should dwell there and bless its use. Again showing that praying to God that we are good steward of the blessings and for His guidance in doing so.

Passage	Observations
I Chronicles 16:14-18	David has brought the Ark of the Covenant into the Tabernacle and began a celebration and worship to God. Again he make references to the covenant with Abraham which appears to be common because we see this in the NT as well, e.g., Luk 1:72-73; Act 3:25; Gal 3:15-17; Heb 6:13-18. I appears that reminding God of his promises to us in our prayers in an ok thing to do. As a result, today, I know have a deeper understanding of the memory verse John 15:7.
Ezra 9:10-13	The people of Israel, against God's commands, have intermingled with the pagan cultures of the promised land. This has violated 2 Cor 6:14. The prayer seems to be one of repentance and acknowledgement of rightful punishment. So even after we have sinned and been chastened by God we should repent in our prayers and beg for his mercy and guidance to not repeat the same mistakes. (Gal 3:4)

Passage	Observations
Daniel 9:11-14	This passage is referring to the Babylonian captivity and destruction of Jerusalem. This prayer clearly says, "We got what we deserved God, you warned us about the consequences of such behavior, we didn't listen, and you had no choice but to punish to fulfill your Word." These actions and consequences were predicted in Leviticus 26:14-46 and Deuteronomy 28:15-68. God's Word not only defines God's will for our lives but also the consequences of not being in His Will. Repentance in prayer is of paramount importance.
Matthew 27:46	This statement of Jesus from the cross was the moment that he had taken the sins of humanity upon Himself and replaced it with His imputed righteousness upon those who believe. Jesus is quoting Psalm 22:1 and the sentiments are reflected in Psalm 71:11 and the event is predicted in Isaiah 53:10. Jesus and David inquire in their prayer about the loss of God's presence. So, it would seem this is not an unusual inquiry in prayer during a time of separation from God's presence.
Luke 23:46 & Psalm 31:5	This is the last statement of Jesus from the cross just before his death. This event is also recorded in Matthew 27:50, Mark 15:37, and John 19:30. Also, we again find this same statement in Psalm 31:5 by King David. We also find a similar statement in Acts 7:59 by Stephen as he is stoned to death. These prayers are all surrendering ones "Spirit" to God, and it is clear these people did this in life as well as at the moment of their death; and so should we all.
Acts 4:23-30	After Peter and John had been arrested, tried, and let go through the Grace of God. They returned to their church reported, rejoiced, worshiped and prayed from Psalm 2 about the hatred of Jesus the "anointed" or the "Christ," the vengeance of God, and the miracles that can be done in the name of Christ. These prayers speak of the perseverance through persecution that will be rewarded with the grace of God.

2. Praying Scripture for those you are helping is an essential aspect of disciple making. If the person you are helping has needs in the following areas, what

verses could you pray for him/her? Are you able to jot down verses in these areas without opening your Bible?

- A. Assurance of Salvation: John 6:37, John 10:27-29, 1 John 5:11-13 For these this have I written... Romans 10:9
- B. Assurance of Answered Prayer: John 15:7, 16:24, James 6:16, 2 Chronicles 7:14, 2 Corinthians 1:20, Luke 11:9, John 14:13.
- C. Assurance of Forgiveness: 2 Chronicles 7:14, 1 John 1:9,
- D. Assurance of Victory Over Sin: 1 Corinthians 10:13, 2 Peter 2:9, 2 Corinthians 5:17,
- E. Assurance of Guidance: Proverbs 3:5-6, Proverbs 16:9, James 1:5, 1 Peter 5:6-7, 1 Corinthians 1:25, Jeremiah 10:23-24.
- F. The Importance of Being in the Word: Hebrews 4:12, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Matthew 4:4, 24:35, 1 Peter 2:2, Psalm 119:11, 105
- G. The Importance of Fellowship: Acts 2:42, 1 Corinthians 1:9, 2 Corinthians 8:4, Galatians 2:9.

3. What benefits are there in praying the Scriptures for life & ministry?

Answer:

- 1. Connecting our prayer life with the Word of God which is how He communicates His Will for our lives. Assures we are in His Will.
- 2. Assures we are in compliance with James 4:3 and don't ask amiss.
- 3. Hebrews 4:12 tells us that the Word of God is alive and powerful, etc. Ephesians 6:17 also tells us the Word is a sword. What more powerful protection can we and our ministries have against the enemy than the Word of God in our prayers? None.
- 4. It is a good way to call on God's promises for both our lives and ministries. Making a direct connection between Scripture and

prayer is seen over and over in Scripture itself. God provides the model for us to follow.

5. Helps with Scripture memorization... more arrows in our quiver.
6. Helps us put our lives and ministries in God's hands.
7. A lot of songs are created from Scripture. Songs are used in Worship, so praying Scripture can be a form of Worship which gives us favor with God.

"What is a disciple?"

Answer: For me, it really boils down to this: Living life as closely to Christ's example as we can and bringing the world into this reality one person at a time. We can discuss this in detail as: first being Godly ourselves, being centered on the Word, investing in another person's spiritual make up through a personal relationship, investing time, sacrificing, and remembering what John Repass said, "The process is as important as the product." This, to me, is the same as saying, "God doesn't expect a result. God expects obedience." We will plant seed, or perhaps water, but it is God who will give the increase. 1 Corinthians 3:7.

From the "Passing It On" video, I have recorded, for my own reference, some of the specific comments and concepts provided by the Godly men in the video below:

Lorne Sanny - Discipleship is being and making a disciple. What do disciples look like?: Three characteristics a) personally identifying with Jesus, b) obedient to the word, and c) Bearing fruit in the work of Christ 1) character (Fruits of Spirit) 2) influencing others to grow in Jesus.

Gene Warr - One man helping another man grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ and getting that person to the place in maturity to where they can reproduce themselves also.

Charlie Riggs "Mentoring" helping them grow in Jesus in a host of ways (devotions, prayer, church fellowship, bible studies, conferences, etc.) to really get the Word of God in their lives.

Kirk Humphreys - retool your life to a Christian World view according to God's Word like morality in every aspect of your life, time, money, relationships.

Robert Price - The importance of relationships in the discipleship process to encourage us to keep going. Discipleship is story-telling. They help us remember what discipling is about. Make it personal

Max Barnett - Discipling takes time and must permeate your life. 1 Thessalonians is Paul's first book that is more of a testimony, a picture of evangelism, and a picture of him living the Christian life in front of people.

Jerry Fine - investing in a man's life

Robert Coleman - Discipling is more than God's plan for reaching the world, it is also His plan for the encouraging of our own sanctification. We are disciplined right along with those we are discipling. We share the deepest levels of our need, like in a family where we have trust and bare our soles and each other's burdens.

Clarence Shuler - Discipleship is how to live life

Jim White - Being a Disciple of Jesus is being that quality of Christian that Christ intended when he came to earth. The "hate" in Luke 14:26 is to be taken that we should forsake all that we have and put Christ at the center. Jesus must be the Lord of our life. Let God use us to achieve God's objectives, not the other way around.

John Repass - The process is as important as the product.

ASSIGNMENT:

Decide on a passage of Scripture that you would appreciate someone praying for you this week. Ask a friend to pray it for you and see if he/she has a passage you could pray for him/her. Pray for yourself using the passage you selected and pray for your friend

- A. Passage for you: 2 Timothy 2:1-2 KJV Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. (2) And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.
- B. Passage for your friend: 2 Corinthians 12:9 KJV And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.