

Sermon  SNAPSHOTS



THE POWER OF
PRAYER

A STUDY OF PRAYER

The Scriptures call upon us to talk to God – i.e., to pray (Matthew 7:7-11). Prayer is one of the most powerful weapons in the “armor” of a Christian (Ephesians 6:13-18); yet it often goes unused. How sad! Christians have the ear of the Almighty; so it befits us to know as much as we can about this wonderful avenue of worship. So let’s study about prayer & the Divine power which is at our disposal...

Definition of prayer

- Prayer is basically talking to God; expressing our hearts desire to a loving Father
- It implies: our faith that God is; God cares; God hears; God is able; and God will act
- There are at least four kinds: request, praise, intercession, & thanksgiving (1 Tm.2:1-2)
- We can pray long or short prayers (Luke 6:12; 23:46) publicly or privately (Mat. 6:6, 9-f)

Components of prayer

- Address: “Our Father in heaven” (Matt 6:9-f); [or “Lord Jesus,” Acts 7:59; 1 Thess. 3:11]
- Praise: An expression of God’s majesty – “Hallowed be Your name” (Matthew 6:9-ff)
- Thanksgiving: “with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God” (Phil 4:6)
- Request: “Give us...” (Matthew 6:10-13); and Closing: “In Jesus name” (John 14:6, 13-14)

Attitude requirements for acceptable prayer

- Reverence (Matthew 6:9, “Hallowed by Your name”)
- Sincerity (vs. to be seen by men, Matthew 6:5-7)
- Expressing our true “heart’s desire” (Romans 10:1)
- Unceasingly (Luke 18:1-8; 1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Relational requirements for acceptable prayer

- In faith (James 1:5-8)
- In obedience (Isaiah 59:1-2; 1 Peter 3:12)
- According to God’s will (1 John 5:14; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10)
- With peace at home (1 Peter 3:7; Romans 12:18)

Moral requirements for acceptable prayer

- In humility (Luke 18:9-14)
- Confessing sin (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9)
- Forgiving others (Matthew 6:12-15)
- Unselfishly (James 4:3)

This is a good summary of what the Bible teaches about prayer. Let us give heed to this teaching, so our prayers will be acceptable to Him. Let us also take full advantage of this privilege! But if you’re rebellious (whether a Christian not), God will NOT hear you (Isaiah 59:1-2). So, why not fix that hindrance by obeying the gospel, so that you can participate in this act of prayer? You’ll never regret your decision to serve God!



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In Luke 18:1-8, Jesus encourages prayer. We can add to this many other passages that encourage it, (Ephesians 6:18; Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17). But in this lesson, we want to expand upon the unbelievable power of prayer.

Prayer brings forgiveness from God (1 John 1:7-9)

- This command is for erring Christians (1 John 2:12-14; Acts 8:13,22)
- Don't you want the assurance of knowing your sins are forgiven?

Prayer brings peace from God (Philippians 4:6-7)

- The antidote to worry or anxiety is prayer, which will bring peace
- Don't you want to have that peace which passes all understanding?

Prayer brings strength from God (Ephesians 3:14-16, 20)

- Paul prayed for the Ephesians to be strengthened; we can do the same today
- Don't you want the power which surpasses all that you can ask or think?

Prayer brings opportunity from God (Colossians 4:2-3)

- God can open doors of opportunity for preaching the gospel (1 Cor. 16:9; 2 Cor. 2:12)
- Don't you want the Lord to give you these opportunities to lead others to Christ?

Prayer brings boldness from God (Acts 4:23-31)

- When persecuted, the disciples prayed for boldness! (Ephesians 6:19-20)
- Don't you want boldness to speak about Christ to others, when needed?

Prayer brings wisdom from God (James 1:5-8)

- Wisdom is not knowledge, but the ability to APPLY knowledge
- Don't you want that wisdom which comes from God, when needed?

Prayer brings healing from God (James 5:14-16)

- Those who are sick and/or sinful are told to call the elders for prayer
- Don't you want the help of God when you are sick or lost in sin?

Prayer brings tranquility from God (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

- We are told to pray for our leaders, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life
- Don't you want to live in peace and tranquility, even as the world is in turmoil?

Indeed, there is great power in prayer! According to James 5:16 says "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. So, let us pray!

-Lanny Smith



PRAYER

Fishers Church of Christ

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Sunday Worship: 10 am
Sunday Bible Study: 5 pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7 pm

Our Eldership

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