

Discipleship Series Bible Study

Lesson 6

Prayer

... What the Bible Teaches About Prayer

(Heb. 10:19-24; Rom. 8:26-27; Jn. 17:1-26)

INTRODUCTION

- The word PRAYER used in the largest sense includes all forms of communion with God
- It Embraces:
 - Worship
 - Praise
 - Thanksgiving
 - Supplication
 - Intercession
- Importance of Prayer Measured by the Prominence it is Given in the Scriptures
- Estimated Over 33,000 Promises in the Bible we can Claim Only through Prayer

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

- Importance of Prayer Seen in the Reason and Necessity of it
- The Christian Life cannot be Sustained without it
- Reasons for Prayer:

A. Because it is Right

Lk. 18:1 - Men ought always to pray, and not to faint.

1. God's revealed will for His people to pray **1 Thess. 5:17**

Col. 4:2 - Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

2. Necessary for Obedience
3. Obligated to Pray because of Christ's Example

B. Because it is Sinful to Neglect it

1 Sam. 12:23 - God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you.

1. By not praying for others we not only wrong them, but it is a sin against God
2. Many sinful things come into our lives because we have not prayed, or have not prayed as we ought to

C. Because Neglect of Prayer Grieves God

Isa. 43:21-22 - This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise. But thou hast not called upon me, O Jacob; but thou hast been weary of me, O Israel.

1. Prayerlessness is the wrong attitude for man in regards to God
2. Therefore Grieves God

D. Because Prayer is The Medium of God's Blessings

Matt. 7:11 - If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

1. Prayer is one of the appointed ways of God to bestow blessings on us

2. There are many things which God gives and the Christian receives only thru prayer

E. Because it is Essential to Victory Over The Forces of Evil (Eph. 6:12-18)

1. We are in spiritual warfare with the forces of evil
2. Prayer brings the power we need for victory

F. Because of The Emphasis Given to it By The Apostles and Early Church

Acts 6:4 - But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

1. They regarded prayer as one of the two most important things to receive their time and attention - the ministry of the Word, and prayer
2. The Word, without Prayer, leads to Formalism
3. Prayer, without the Word, leads to Fanaticism

II. THE PERSON IN PRAYER

- The Bible teaches that prayer is to be made TO THE FATHER

Acts 12:5 - Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

- In the NAME OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST
- In the POWER AND UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Eph. 2:18 - For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

- The goal of prayer is the ear of God

III. THE TIME OF PRAYER

A. At Certain Periods - Regularly

Ps. 55:16-17 - As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me. Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.

B. Early in the Morning

Mk. 1:35 - And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

C. At Meals

1 Tim. 4:4-5 - For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

D. At Night

Lk. 6:12 - And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

E. In Times of Trouble

Ps. 50:15 - And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

F. Special Occasions

- Agony in the Garden (**Lk. 22:39-46**)

G. Always

Eph. 6:18 - Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

IV. THE PLACE OF PRAYER

A. In Private

Matt. 6:6 - 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.

B. Amid Nature

Matt. 14:23 - 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.

C. At Church

- To those Assembled at the Supper

Jn. 17:1 - These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

D. Before the Unsaved

Acts 16:25 - And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

F. In Public

- Paul's Journey as Prisoner

Acts 27:35 - And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat.

G. Everywhere

1 Tim. 2:8 - I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

V. THE MANNER OF PRAYER

- Standing (Mk. 11:25)
- Kneeling (1 Kings 8:54)
- On Knees and Elbows
- David Prayed
 - Lying on his Bed (Ps. 63:6)
 - On Face (Matt. 26:39)
- Peter prayed on the Water (Matt. 14:30)
- The Thief on the Cross (Lk. 23:42)
- The Bible Sanctions No Special Bodily Position in Prayer
 - The Soul may be in Prayer Regardless of the Body
 - Recognition of God by Bowed Heads, and Kneeling, etc. is in Accordance to the Attitude of the Soul
- The Worst
 - Pharisee (**Lk.18:10-14**)
- The Best
 - Centurion (**Acts 10**)