

Prayer – an Act of Worship

Scripture Text: Luke 11:1

Prayer has often been called the Christian's greatest weapon – it is a direct line of contact with our Heavenly Father! How sad it is that too many Christians do not take advantage of this avenue!

We continue looking at acts of worship by examining prayer with a goal of increasing our prayers and boosting our confidence in what we are doing.

Prayer: the way we talk to God!

I. Biblical Examples of Prayer

- A. The Model Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13 (parallel in Luke 11:1-5)
 - 1. It is a model or template, NOT SOMETHING TO REPEAT EVERY TIME WORD-FOR-WORD.
 - 2. v. 9: addressing the recipient and showing reverence
 - 3. v. 10: praying for spiritual life (kingdom established in Acts 2, no need to pray this line today) and asking things in alignment with God's Will.
 - 4. v. 11: asking God about things needed for physical life
 - 5. v. 12: petitioning for forgiveness of trespasses
 - 6. v. 13: praying for deliverance from evil and praising God again
 - 7. "Amen" – let it be so
- B. John 14:13 – ask it in the name of Jesus
- C. John 17 – the true Lord's Prayer
 - 1. Prays for Himself, v. 1-5
 - 2. Prays for Apostles, v. 6-19
 - 3. Prays for all believers (us), v. 20-26. How do you feel knowing Jesus prayed to God for you?
- D. Nothing wrong with praying for the same thing, Jesus did it!
 - 1. Matthew 26:36-44 (v.44 the same words)
 - 2. Matthew 6:7 – we are to avoid vain repetitions (praying the same thing just to be seen of men)

II. Why Do We Pray?

- A. He answers our prayers – 1 Peter 3:12
- B. It is a way to acknowledge our trust in Him, Proverbs 3:5-6
- C. Matthew 7:7 – ask and it shall be given to you!
- D. Matthew 7:8-11 – God knows how to answer

III. How Are We to Pray?

- A. According to God's Will – 1 John 5:14
 - 1. His ways are better than our ways – Isaiah 55:8-9
 - 2. His Will is always what is best for us!
- B. Jesus is our mediator – 1 Timothy 2:5; Ephesians 5:20
- C. Must ask in His Will – Luke 22:42

We are to frequently in prayer, 1 Thessalonians 5:16. This is not a 24-hour-a-day prayer, but we should never quit praying.

All the heroes of the Bible had a regular prayer life. David prayed morning, noon, and evening – Psalm 55:17 – and he knew God would hear his prayers. We can have the same confidence today, too.

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PowerPoint № 182 accompanies this lesson

October 17, 2021 AM Arlington Church of Christ