

PRAYER

SCRIPTURE - Luke 11:1–4 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.”² So He said to them, “When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.”³ Give us day by day our daily bread.⁴ And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.”

INTRODUCTION: DEFINITION: MAN COMMUNICATING WITH GOD

I. WHO MAY PRAY AND BE HEARD

- A. CHRISTIANS - 1 Peter 2 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.
- B. NON-CHRISTIANS – Cornelius - Acts 10:4 And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, 'What is it, lord?' So he said to him, Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God.

II. WHY PRAY

- A. TO EXPRESS - ADORATION Matthew 6:9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hal lowed be Your name.
- B. TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR SINS - CONFESSION Matthew 6:12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.
- C. TO SHOW OUR THANKFULNESS - THANKSGIVING - 1 Timothy Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men.
- D. TO ASK FOR HELP - SUPPLICATION Matthew 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread
- E. TO INTERCEDE FOR OTHERS - INTERCESSION - 1 John 5:16 If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that.

III. FOR WHAT SHOULD WE PRAY

- A. SELF
 - 1. NEEDS - Matthew 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread,
 - 2. SINS - Matthew 6:12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.
 - 3. WISDOM - James 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.
 - 4. DELIVERANCE - Matthew 6:13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.
 - 5. BOLDNESS - Ephesians 6:19 and (pray) for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel.
- B. OTHERS
 - 1. ENEMIES - Matthew 5:44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,
 - 2. SICK - James 5:16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much,
 - 3. SINNING BROTHER - 1 John 5:16 If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that.
 - 4. RULERS - 1 Timothy 2:1-3 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, {2} for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. {3} For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,
 - 5. THE WORK OF THE LORD
 - 1. Matthew 6:10 Your kingdom come, Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven,
 - 2. Colossians 4:3 meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains.
 - 3. 2 Thessalonians 3:1 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you,

IV. WHEN SHOULD WE PRAY

- A. CONTINUALLY 1 Thessalonians 5:17 pray without ceasing,
- B. WHEN IN NEED AND IN ABUNDANCE
- C. IN CONFIDENCE AND IN FEAR
- D. IN FREEDOM AND IN BONDAGE
- E. AT RISING
- F. AT MEALS
- G. AT BEDTIME
- H. AT DEVOTIONALS AND ASSEMBLIES

V. WHERE SHOULD WE PRAY

- A. IN PUBLIC
 - 1. DEVOTIONALS
 - 2. GET-TOGETHERS
 - 3. CHURCH (ASSEMBLIES)
 - 4. MEALS
- B. IN PRIVATE
 - 1. Matthew 6:6 But you, when you pray, go into your room , and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.
 - 2. AT TIMES OF PERSONAL NEEDS AS WITH JESUS IN THE GARDEN

VI. HOW SHOULD WE PRAY

- A. TRUSTING IN GOD TO ANSWER - James 1:6-7 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. {7} For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;
- B. HUMBLY - Luke 18:9-14 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: {10} "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. {11} The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men; extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. {12} I fast twice a week. I give tithes of all that I possess.' {13} "And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to but beat 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 everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.'
- C. ACCORDING TO GODS 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.
- D. WITHOUT VAIN REPETITIONS - Matthew 6:7 And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words,
- E. UNSELFISHLY - James You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.
- F. NOT TO BE SEEN OF MEN - Matthew "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.
- G. VERBALLY OR SILENTLY - 1 Samuel 1:12-13 And it happened, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli watched her mouth. ¹³ Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk.

CONCLUSION

- A. Are you a child of God, so you may pray to Him as your Father?
- B. As a child of God, are you praying like you should?