

# ONE FROM THE HEART

## Jesus and Prayer

### Why Pray?

As Christians, why is it that we need to pray? Does our prayer life please God? Does our time praying prove to others how holy we are? Does the time spent praying matter to God? Why pray?

The Gospel of Matthew contains over 50 direct links to the ministry of Jesus and prayer. From angelic visitations, to healings and deliverances, to teachings on the subject of prayer and even personal prayers of Jesus.

### The Conception of Prayer

**Matthew 3:16–4:2**

Prayer begins in relationship with Our Father.

Prayer requires our dependency and faith.

*“Satan would rather we let the grass grow on the path to our prayer chamber than anything else” – E.M. Bounds*

### The Content of Prayer

You can tell a lot about your theology, by the way you pray.

What is the content of your prayers?

The Lord’s Prayer has been turned upside-down by the Western church...

*“Deliver us from the evil one. Lead us not into temptation. As we have forgiven our debtors, forgive us our debts. Give us today our daily bread. On earth as it is in heaven, Your will be done, Your Kingdom come. Hallowed be your name, Our Father”*

The content of our prayer comes from a correct view of God. When we view God correctly, our prayer becomes informed and powerful.

In the Lord's Prayer, we may find at least five types of prayer; Adoration, Intercession, Petition, Confession and Spiritual Warfare. This is no 'magic formula' for prayer, but it is a framework that the Lord has given us, which will help us form the content of our prayers.

- + Adoration – Praising God for who He is and what He has done
- + Intercession – Asking God to move, intervene, redeem and save
- + Petition – Bringing everyday needs before God
- + Confession – Repenting of sin
- + Spiritual Warfare – Pushing back the work of the devil through faith-filled prayer

*"The Lord's Prayer is the most perfect of prayers... In it we ask, not only for all the things we can rightly desire, but also in the sequence that they should be desired. This prayer not only teaches us to ask for things, but also in what order we should desire them."* Thomas Aquinas

## The Confidence of Prayer

*"But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time, you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you."*

**Matthew 10:19-20**

Prayer precedes mission and prayer sustains mission.

As we grow in prayer, we grow in confidence to boldly seek Him and His kingdom here on earth as it is in Heaven.

Prayer isn't one of the things we do, it's the most important thing we do.

*"Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings."*

**Hebrews 10:19-22**

If Jesus were to ask you, right now – what do you want? What would you say?

## The Company of Prayer

**Matthew 17:1-8**

The voice of the Father

Corporate prayer gatherings as well as private prayer gatherings

## The Christ of Prayer

**Matthew 26:39-41**

When Jesus looks upon His church, what does He see? Are we awake? Or, "are you still sleeping and resting?"

Gethsemane - "oil press"

*Heaven's king in a puddle of tears  
In an honest pouring of his heart  
Holy grief*

*In agony as I'm falling asleep  
You wept for me  
In Gethsemane*

Jesus the Great High Priest

**Hebrews 4:14-16**

**Isaiah 53:12**

The cross is the greatest prayer meeting in the history of the world.

Jesus is interceding for you, right now.

## The Gift of Tears

*"Those who sow with tears, will reap with songs of joy". Psalm 126:5*

*"We can change the course of events if we go to our knees in believing prayer." – Billy Graham*

*"Asking is the rule of the Kingdom." – Charles Spurgeon*

## Questions for Discussion

- + For this week's discussion, I want to encourage you to pray with Jesus. If you are working through this personally, spend some time praying through Isaiah 52-54 and see what the Lord shows you. If you are reading through this as a Life Group, work through Matthew 6:9-13 and spend some time in corporate prayer, roughly following the order of adoration, intercession, petition, confession and spiritual warfare. .

## Resources for Further Study:

### Books:

- + How To Pray – Pete Greig
- + Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools – Tyler Staton
- + A Treasury of Prayer: The Best of E.M. Bounds – Leonard Ravenhill
- + The Furious Longing of God – Brennan Manning
- + Hearing God – Nathan Finocchio
- + Common Prayer – Shane Claibourne
- + Practicing the Way – John Mark Comer
- + Always Enough – Heidi Baker
- + Reappearing Church – Mark Sayers
- + The Pursuit of God – A.W. Tozer

### Websites:

- + Awaken Network: <https://www.awakennetwork.com/>
- + Practicing the Way: <https://www.practicingtheway.org/prayer>
- + '24/7 Prayer' Eight-week Course: <https://prayercourse.org/>
- + Asbury Revival Awakening Library: <https://awakeninglibrary.com/>
- + Commoners Communion: <https://www.commonerscommunion.com>
- + Renewal Journal: <https://renewaljournal.com/>