

Answering God

I. Coming Home to God

A. God Calls - *Jeremiah 1:4-5*

1. God sends His word to us - He speaks to us
2. God knows who we are and what we have done
3. God sets us apart for His purpose
4. God appoints us to do His will

B. We Answer - *Jeremiah 1:6*

1. We do not know what to say - speechless
2. We do not know what to do - faithless
3. We do not know who we are - hopeless

C. God Reveals - *Jeremiah 1:7-8*

1. God reveals where we should go - direction
2. God reveals what we should say - word
3. God reveals that He will be with us - power

II. Prayer

A. Learning to Listen to God

1. Moving inward - opening my heart to the presence of God
2. Moving upward - opening my head to the plans of God
3. Moving outward - opening my hands to the power of God

B. Learning to Hear What God is Saying

1. God speaking to me: **intimacy**
2. God speaking to my family: **blessing**
3. God speaking to my church: **community**
4. God speaking to my world: **mission**

C. Learning to Answer God - Eugene H. Peterson

1. Text - using the Holy Scriptures as our prayer book - especially the Psalms
2. Way - changing our way of thinking and doing to God's way of thinking and doing
3. Language - learning the language of intimacy and relationship
4. Story - blending our story into God's story
5. Rhythm - entering into the movements of creation and covenant
6. Metaphor - using words to describe feelings and experiences
7. Liturgy - becoming a part of the worshipping community
8. Enemies - expressing our pain, hurt, sorrow and betrayal
9. Memory - remembering the way God has answered previous prayers
10. Ending - coming to the point when our prayers turn into praise

D. Learning to Pray

1. First Step: Love the Lord your God with all your heart - *Mark 12:29-31*
2. Second Step: Believe that God rewards those who seek Him - *Hebrews 11:6*
3. Third Step: Be still and trust in God - *Psalms 46:10*
4. Fourth Step: Rest in the power and presence of God - *Matthew 11:28-30*

Prayer and Sin

I. Sin

A. Our Chief Problem

1. The root of most of our troubles - pride, lust, greed
2. The cause of many of our illnesses and illusions
3. The origin of our separation and alienation from God

B. Expressions for Sin

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|--|---|
| 1. Missing the mark - <i>Romans 3:23</i> | 9. Iniquity - <i>Leviticus 26:40</i> |
| 2. Crossing the line - transgressions - <i>I Tim. 2:14</i> | 10. Godlessness - <i>I Peter 4:8</i> |
| 3. Failure to listen - disobedience - <i>Heb. 2:2-3</i> | 11. Wickedness - <i>Prov. 11:31</i> |
| 4. Failure to stand - <i>Galatians 6:1</i> | 12. Unbelief - <i>Romans 11:20</i> |
| 5. Failure to act - <i>James 4:17</i> | 13. Unrighteousness - <i>I John 1:9</i> |
| 6. Failure to learn - <i>Hebrews 9:7</i> | 14. Unjustness - <i>Deut. 25:16</i> |
| 7. Failure to give in right measure - <i>I Cor. 6:7</i> | 15. Unholiness - <i>I Timothy 1:9</i> |
| 8. Lawlessness - <i>I John 3:4</i> | |

II. The Discipline of Confession

A. Confession Brings Salvation - *Romans 10:9-10*

1. Believing the word of God with hearts full of faith
2. Releasing control of this life to Jesus Christ
3. Surrendering self to the power of the Holy Spirit
4. Fulfilling the call and purpose of the Holy Spirit

B. Confession Brings Forgiveness - *I John 1:9*

1. God sees the faithfulness and justice of Jesus Christ as a substitute for our lives
2. God forgives us by the shed blood of Jesus Christ on the Cross
3. God purifies us by:
 - a. Daily interaction with the Holy Spirit
 - b. Daily trials and struggles which test our faith
 - c. Daily temptations which promote our loyalty and dependence on God
 - d. Daily disciplines which create a space for God to move in us

C. Confession Brings Healing - *James 5:16*

1. Learning to be broken before others
2. Learning to share our repentance with others
3. Learning to walk in the light before others
4. Learning to trust others
 - a. Connecting the present
 - b. Releasing the past
 - c. Planning the future
 - d. Believing the best
 - e. Overcoming the worst
5. Learning to share with others our weaknesses and failures

D. Effective Prayer

1. Prayer brings light to the areas we have been sinning
2. Prayer brings a sense of forgiveness when we have fallen
3. Prayer brings healing for the hurts sin has inflicted
4. Prayer brings a sense of newness and rightness

PRAYER: COMING HOME TO GOD

Men's Ministries International

Prayer and Faith

I. Holy Faith

A. The Realm of Faith

1. Greek - *pistis* - strong conviction and dedication to Jesus Christ - *Acts 3:16*
2. Faith comes from hearing the word of God - *Romans 10:17*
3. Faith is a gift from God to each disciple - *Romans 12:3*
4. Faith does not rest on the wisdom of the world - *I Corinthians 2:5*
5. Faith continues to grow in the life of the disciple - *II Corinthians 10:15*
6. Faith is a shield to protect the disciple - *Ephesians 6:16*
7. Faith develops perseverance through testing - *James 1:3*
8. Faith helps the disciple overcome the world - *I John 5:4*

B. The Effects of Faith

1. The righteous will live by faith - *Hebrews 10:38;11*
 - a. Abel's offering
 - b. Enoch's walk
 - c. Noah's obedience
 - d. Abraham's journey
 - e. Isaac's blessing
 - f. Jacob's blessing
 - g. Joseph's prophecy
 - h. Moses' choice
 - i. Israel's exodus
 - j. Jericho's walls
 - k. Rahab's hospitality
 - l. Cloud of witnesses
2. The salvation of our souls by faith - *I Peter 1:9*
 - a. Surrendering our life to God
 - b. Following Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior

II. Prayer and Faith

A. How We Relate to God

1. Faith is a set of doctrines, beliefs and convictions that disciples hold true
2. Faith is trust and personal commitment
3. Faith requires constant repentance to be activated
4. Faith gives a confident assurance that God will keep his promises
5. Faith produces experiences with a living God that change the disciple

B. Childish Ideas of Prayer - David Seamands

1. God cannot violate His nature - *James 1:13-17*
2. God cannot violate His own laws - *Hebrews 13:8*
3. God cannot violate human freedom - *Acts 9:4-5*

C. How We Pray by Faith

1. Sometimes God gives a gift of faith for a certain season or event - *I Cor 12:9*
2. Sometimes God answers our prayers by saying no - *James 4:3*
3. Sometimes God shows us how to pray the right way - *Romans 8:26*
4. Sometimes God allows us to wait until the right time - *Galatians 4:4*
5. Sometimes God wants us to be still and to wait upon Him - *Psalms 46:10*
6. Sometimes God wants us to grow in our faith - *Acts 3:6*
7. Sometimes God wants to reveal His glory through us - *Acts 19:17*

Private Prayers

I. Dimensions of Prayer

A. Prayer and Grace

1. God comes to us in His wisdom and understanding
2. God creates a place for us to connect and interact with Him
3. God calls us to participate in the divine conversation

**Prayer is the natural outcome of a life dedicated to grace.*

B. Prayer and Desire

1. We hold our desires before God - consciously or unconsciously
2. We must learn to give ourselves completely into God's hands
3. We must shift our thoughts from self to the crucified Christ
4. We must stay before God until our hearts are clear of clutter
5. We must abide in Christ - *John 15:7-8*

C. Prayer and Experience - *1 Kings 19:9b-18*

1. Everyday we must wait on the Lord - *v.10*
2. Everyday we must expect the presence of God - *v.11*
3. Everyday we must discern the manifestations of God - *vv.11-13*
4. Everyday we must seek the face of God - *v.14*
5. Everyday we must obey the word of God - *vv.15-18*

II. Personal Devotions

A. Why Spend Time Alone with God? - *Luke 6:12*

1. To know God - relate, commune, share, trust
2. To respond to God's presence - letting go
3. To enter into a dialogue with God
4. To find God at work on the inside of our heart
5. To listen to the divine conversation between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

B. How should I pray? - *Hebrews 4:15-16*

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|-----------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Petitions | 8. Confessions | 15. Psalms |
| 2. Thanksgiving | 9. Intercessions | 16. Hymns and Songs |
| 3. Silence | 10. Tears | 17. Contemplative |
| 4. Praise | 11. Laughter | 18. Supplications |
| 5. Thoughts | 12. Flash Prayers | 19. Requests |
| 6. Emotions | 13. Liturgical Prayers | 20. Boldly |
| 7. Groanings | 14. Prayer Books | |

C. What will Private Prayer Do? - *Ephesians 6:18*

1. Private prayer will change us - will, emotions, attitudes, feelings, heart, mind & soul
2. Private prayer will empower us - holiness and godliness
3. Private prayer will equip us - gifts and grace
4. Private prayer will move us - service and witness

Public Prayers

I. Corporate Prayers

A. Old Testament Pattern of Prayer

1. Prayer, worship and praise connected together - *Exodus 3:1-12*
2. Tabernacle and Temple prayer - *Exodus 30:1-38*
 - a. Basin - cleansing from sin
 - b. Altar - place of sacrifice
 - c. Candles - light and revealing
 - d. Show bread - word of God
 - e. Incense - intercessions
 - f. Ark - the presence of God
3. Morning and evening prayer - *Psalms 88:1*
4. Praising God seven times a day - *Psalms 119:164*
5. Coming together to pray in a holy place - *Isaiah 56:6-7*

B. New Testament Patterns of Prayer

1. Jewish Prayer Times - *Acts 3:1*
 - a. Morning prayer - 9 AM
 - b. Midday prayer - 12 noon
 - c. Evening prayer - 3 PM
2. Speak to one another psalms, hymns and spiritual songs - *Ephesians 5:19*
3. Devote yourselves to prayer - watchful and thankful - *Colossians 4:2*
4. Continue meeting together for encouragement - *Hebrews 10:19-25*

C. Liturgical Prayer - developed in the 2nd Century

1. Mattins (prime) - early morning prayer before dawn
2. Lauds - early morning praise - *Psalms 145-150*
3. Terce - third hour - "developed in the monastic tradition"
4. Sext - sixth hour - "day time prayers"
5. None - ninth hour - "third psalms each hour"
6. Vespers - oldest office - evening prayer with psalms and hymns
7. Compline - prayer before bedtime or at midnight

II. Public and Private Prayer

A. God wants us to pray - pray without ceasing - *I Thessalonians 5:17*

1. Public - to encourage, comfort and strengthen one another
2. Private - to seek the Lord with all our being

B. God speaks to us in prayer - *Acts 13:1-3*

1. Public - we can discern together the word of God
2. Private - we can be blessed by a personal touch of God

C. God uses public prayer to grow our corporate faith - *I Corinthians 14:18-19*

1. Public - we learn that we need each other in love, faith and hope
2. Private - we are made complete in God when we love one another

D. God reveals public prayer as the order of prayer for heaven - *Revelation*

Transformation Prayers

I. From Glory to Glory

- A. God Calls Us to Change - *II Corinthians 3:18*
 - 1. God wants us to repent of our sins - to turn around
 - 2. God wants us to follow Jesus Christ - life of faith
 - 3. God wants us to grow in Christlikeness - restore the image
 - 4. God wants us to mature our faith greater trust
- B. We Must Want to Change - *Luke 18:35-43*
 - 1. We must receive the grace God is giving to us
 - 2. We must embrace the truth God is revealing to us
 - 3. We must live the life God is sharing with us
- C. Prayer Helps Us to Change - *Psalms 51*
 - 1. Prayer helps focus our faith in God alone
 - 2. Prayer helps bring conviction to our hearts
 - 3. Prayer helps open our minds to God's Word
 - 4. Prayer helps restore our souls

II. Prayers of Transformation - changing from the inside out

- A. Prayer of Relinquishment - surrendering all to God - *Luke 22:39-45*
- B. Prayer of Lament - revealing inner conflicts and struggles - *Psalms 88:1-18*
- C. Prayer of Examination - using Scripture to weigh thoughts and desires - *Psalms 139*
- D. Covenant Prayer - committing to God's will and God's ways - *Nehemiah 1:5-11*
- E. Formation Prayers - conforming to the likeness of Christ - *Ephesians 1:15-23*
 - 1. Receive a Spirit of wisdom and revelation
 - 2. Knowledge of hope and promise
 - 3. Knowledge of power and authority

III. Changing the Way We Think

- A. The Thought Process - *II Corinthians 10:5-6*
 - 1. Thought Capture - What is the thought?
 - 2. Thought Evaluation - Where did this thought come from?
 - 3. Thought Challenge - How can I overcome this thought?
 - 4. Thought Change - How can I replace this thought?
 - 5. Thought Prevention - How can I control this thought?
- B. Streams of Positive Thinking - *Philippians 4:8-9*
 - 1. True
 - 2. Noble
 - 3. Right
 - 4. Pure
 - 5. Lovely
 - 6. Admirable
 - 7. Excellent
 - 8. Praiseworthy
- C. The Mind of Jesus Christ - *I Corinthians 2:10-16*
 - 1. We have received the Spirit of God - **understanding**
 - 2. We speak in words taught by the Spirit - **truth**
 - 3. We make judgments about all things by the Spirit - **discernment**
 - 4. We have the mind of Christ - **revelation**

Intimacy Prayers

I. The Great House of Love

- A. Intimacy - knowing, living and abiding in the grace of God - *John 15:5-8*
 - 1. Discovering the grace of God - "a spiritual treasure"
 - 2. Running to the mercy seat of God - "Seek and hide"
 - 3. Understanding the nature of God - "enfleshing the good news"
 - 4. Untangling the consequences of life - "old is gone, new has come"
 - 5. Resting in the presence of God - "rhythms of trust"
 - 6. Sharing in the sufferings of Christ - "passion to perfection"
 - 7. Enlarging the center of your life - "living and dying and living"
- B. Fecundity - bearing, growing and producing in the power of God - *John 15:5-8*
 - 1. Maturity in communication - our response
 - 2. Maturity in contagion - our witness
 - 3. Maturity in receptivity - our conviction
 - 4. Maturity in love - our lives
- C. Ecstasy - embracing, holding and overflowing in the joy of God - *John 15:11*
 - 1. Finding a refuge - sing for joy - *Psalms 5:11*
 - 2. Knowing the presence - fullness of joy - *Psalms 16:11*
 - 3. Receiving the victory - great joy - *Psalms 21:1*
 - 4. Hiding in the shelter - shouts of joy - *Psalms 27:6*
 - 5. Waiting for change - rejoicing in the morning - *Psalms 30:5*
 - 6. Delighting in justice - joy and gladness - *Psalms 35:27*
 - 7. Entering the house of God - with joy - *Psalms 42:4*
 - 8. Going to the altar - joy and delight - *Psalms 43:4*
 - 9. Returning to God - joy of solution - *Psalms 51:12*
 - 10. Coming home to God - center of joy - *Psalms 137:6*

II. Prayers of Intimacy

- A. Contemplative Prayer - waiting for God - *Psalms 46:10*
- B. Praying the Scripture - living the experience of God's Word - *Luke 10:25-37*
- C. Adoration - giving praise and thanksgiving - *Psalms 103*
- D. Sabbath Prayer - releasing the peace of God - *Hebrews 4:9*
- E. Liturgical Prayer - finding the words that express our hearts - *I Timothy 3:16*
- F. Abba Prayers - revealing the deepest desires of our hearts - *I Samuel 1:9-17*
 - 1. Praying without words - *Romans 8:23*
 - 2. Praying with tears - *Psalms 42:3*
 - 3. Praying in tongues - *I Corinthians 14:14-15*
 - 4. Praying under stress - *Mark 14:36*

"To come to the pleasure you have not you must go by a way in which you enjoy not."

—St. John of the Cross

Ministry Prayers

Into the Neighborhood

- A. Purpose of the Church - *Acts 13:1-3*
 - 1. Ministry to the body of Christ — to build, equip, encourage and comfort
 - 2. Ministry to God — to exalt, praise, adore, serve and worship
 - 3. Ministry to the world — to evangelize and disciple
- B. Church and Prayer - *Matthew 18:15-20*
 - 1. Pronouncing the will of God — bind and loose
 - 2. Connecting in the Holy Spirit — unity
 - 3. Gathering together in the midst of Christ — called
 - a. Called by Jesus Christ to walk together
 - b. Called out of darkness into light — **revelation**
 - c. Called to be a people of God — **set apart**
 - d. Called to be a people of mercy — **witness**
 - e. Called to be a holy priesthood — **prophetic intercession**
- C. Prayer and the World - *1 Timothy 2:1-3*
 - 1. Christians pray for themselves to be faithful
 - 2. Christians pray for leaders to be wise and diligent
 - 3. Christians pray for the peace of all things
 - 4. Christians pray for the second coming of Jesus Christ
- D. Pattern For Prayer— *Matthew 6:9-13*
 - 1. Worship— God's Name/Kingdom/Will
 - 2. Requests— Our Physical/Spiritual/Supernatural
 - 3. Praises— God's Kingdom/Power/Glory

Ministry Prayers

- A. Salvation Prayers
 - 1. Intercession — standing in the gap for others - *Matthew 16:19-20*
 - 2. Healing — bringing the healing power of Christ - *James 5:13-18*
 - 3. Renewal — coming back to the Kingdom of God - *2 Chronicles 7:14*
 - 4. Confession — releasing guilt, shame and judgment - *1 John 1:19*
 - 5. Conversion — receiving new life in Jesus Christ - *Acts 16:29-34*
- B. Guidance Prayers
 - 1. Petition — seeking from the hand of God - *Matthew 7:7-8*
 - 2. Assurance — holding onto the Word of God - *1 John 5:14-15*
 - 3. Faith — asking more of God than we are able - *Mark 11:24*
 - 4. Endurance — waiting on God's blessing and/or timing - *Luke 18:1-8*
 - 5. Will — finding and doing God's perfect will - *Romans 12:1-2*
- C. Authoritative Prayers
 - 1. Deliverance — confronting the evil in this world - *Matthew 17:14-21*
 - 2. Prophetic — proclaiming truth and grace - *Jude 20*
 - 3. Identification — bearing the burdens of others - *Philippians 3:10*
 - 4. Pardon — forgiving people their sins - *John 20:22-23*
 - 5. Blessing— anointing people with God's grace and peace— *Numbers 6:24-26*

Pray Without Ceasing

I. Unbroken Communion

A. Incarnational Living

1. Becoming a Christian who celebrates the grace of God - worship
2. Becoming a Christian who shows mercy and hope - social justice
3. Becoming a Christian who befriends lost people - evangelism
4. Becoming a Christian who nurtures others - discipleship
5. Becoming a Christian who engages the world - missions
6. Becoming a Christian who lives in truth - purpose
7. Becoming a Christian who multiplies the ministry - reproduction
8. Becoming a Christian who listens and obeys God - prayer

B. Incarnational Witness

1. Expressing our faith by our **love** for God and others
2. Expressing our faith by our **obedience** to Jesus Christ
3. Expressing our faith by our **victory** over sin
4. Expressing our faith by our **endurance** through difficult circumstances
5. Expressing our faith by our **desire** for holiness through the Spirit

C. Incarnational Presence

1. God around us - "Every bush is burning"
2. God in us - "All life is precious"
3. God through us - "Every moment is divine"

II. Unceasing Prayer

A. The Scriptural Mandate

1. Pray always and do not lose heart - *Luke 18:1*
2. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer - *Romans 12:12*
3. Pray in the Spirit at all times - *Ephesians 6:18*
4. Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful - *Colossians 4:2*
5. Pray without ceasing - *1 Thessalonians 5:17*
6. Continually offer a sacrifice of praise - *Hebrews 13:15*
7. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful - *James 5:16*

B. Practical Steps

1. We must place our faith in God - *Hebrews 11:6*
2. We must let go of any sin in our lives - *Psalms 66:18*
3. We must have the same attitude as Christ - *John 14:13*
4. We must discern the will of God - *James 4:2-3*
5. We must be led by the Holy Spirit - *Romans 8:26-27*
6. We must live in the forgiveness of God - *Matthew 6:12-15*
7. We must seek God with all we have - *Luke 11:9*
8. We must embrace corporate prayer - *Matthew 18:19*
9. We must pray with perseverance - *Ephesians 6:12*
10. We must pray with authority - *Luke 10:19*