

The Privilege Of Prayer

By: Josh Blackmer

Prayer is a resource and an honor that not all enjoy. Through the power of prayer, we can receive forgiveness from God, boldness from God, peace from God, opportunity from God, strength from God, healing from God, wisdom from God, and tranquility from God. For those that do not have the privilege of prayer, their prayers will be an abomination to God. Their prayers will fall on deaf ears. Their prayers will be hindered. Their prayers will not be answered favorably. We might be praying people, even pray fervently; but do we have the right to pray, to expect God to heed us when we pray?

God will not hear the prayers of those that will not heed His word. Those who turn their ears from the law, their prayers are an abomination (**Prov. 28:9**). Such is the case of those who will not endure sound doctrine (**2 Tim. 4:3-4**). God will not hear the prayers of those whose sins separate them from Him. Sins can separate one from God so He will not hear (**Isa. 59:1-2**). Such is the condition of those who will not seek God's forgiveness (**Rom. 6:23**). God will not hear the prayers of those that treat others unjustly. Those who fail to consider the poor (**Psa. 41:1-3**). Those who fail to treat their wives as they should (**1 Pet. 3:7**). Those who fail to make things right with those they have offended (**Matt. 5:23-24**). Those who fail to forgive those who sinned against them (**Matt. 18:21-35**). God will not

hear the prayers of those that pray without faith. Without faith it is impossible to please God (**Heb. 11:6**). Those asking with doubt in their hearts ensures failure (**Jas. 1:5-8**).

The privilege of prayer is not for everyone. It is afforded to those whose hearts are in the right condition. God hears the prayers of the sinner seeking truth and righteousness. This is what we learn from the example of Cornelius. He was a good man, but still in need of salvation (**Acts 10:1-2; 11:14**). His prayers and alms had been noticed by God (**Acts 10:4,31**). God saw to it that he had an opportunity to hear the words whereby he could be saved (**Acts 11:14**). God heard the prayer of a sinner like Cornelius because he was hungering and thirsting for righteousness (**Mat. 5:6**). He was asking, seeking, and knocking (**Mat 7:7-8**). God hears the prayers of those that have Jesus as their high priest. He is now a merciful and faithful high priest, able to aid His brethren (**Heb. 2:17-18**). He makes it possible to approach God's throne boldly (**Heb. 4: 14-16**) He is able to save to the uttermost, since He ever lives to intercede (**Heb. 7:25**). Jesus has now become our Advocate and Mediator. Our advocate with the Father (**1 Jn 2:1**. He is the one mediator between God and man (**1 Tim. 2:5**). He makes intercession for us at the right hand of God (**Rom. 8:34**). What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer.

There Is Only ONE Lord

By: Dan Jenkins

As I was growing up at the West Huntsville (AL) congregation, we had an hour-long Sunday night class for all the young people in the church. The class began with each of us saying a memory verse. Obviously, whoever went first got the “good ones” like “Jesus wept” (**John 11:35**). So, part of my life was finding the obscure verses that were very short which others just would not know. One of my favorites, which others seemed to overlook, was **Ephesians 4:5**—“One Lord, one faith, one baptism.”

Think about what this verse says—one Lord. While it is true that there are many who sit in places of authority on this earth—politicians, policemen, teachers, your boss—there is one Lord above all others and He rightfully is the only true Lord.

Before He left the earth He said—by the way, another short verse—“And Jesus came and spoke to them saying, ‘All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth’” (**Matt. 28:18**). Think about the meaning of these words. He is above all heavenly creatures and has dominion over every mortal on this earth! He has *all* authority.

In the vision Daniel saw of the ascension of Jesus, he saw Jesus’ arrival in heaven and being brought before God. “Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed” (**Dan. 7:14**). What a momentous event this would have been to witness. All of creation is subject to Him.

However, many have served other lords. The entire basis of pagan idolatry is a rejection of the only Lord and bowing before an image of stone, wood or precious metal. Contrast the concept of asking the help and guidance from any inanimate item and the concept of seeking

a personal relationship with a living Lord.

Now consider that much of the religious division in our land today is the result of changing the kingdom/church Jesus received when He came before God. The One who has all authority never gave any mortal any right to change it. It seems that if you do not like the kingdom of the Lord of lords and King of kings, we have ignored His authority and created our own religious body, giving us what we want not what He wants.

Think about how practical it is to honor Him who has all authority. I have no authority, except that which the Lord gives me, over any part of my life. I have no time that is not His, I have no money that is not His, I have no rules of life which are not His. May I suggest that you memorize that short verse and meditate on how it applies to all of your life!



Upcoming Events

TODAY!: Ben Moseley will be with us all day.

Sun. 10/2: Ron White will be preaching in the morning; James Cammock in afternoon. There will be a potluck luncheon with a 12:45 service. Please bring a potluck dish and/or dessert.

Sun. 10/9: Brandon Starling and his family will be here!

10/9: Youth Devo at the home of the Jobes. Girls bring desserts, boys bring drinks.

10/16: A welcome fellowship honoring the Starling family will be held after evening services. Please bring sandwiches. A cake will be provided.

Oct. 30-Nov. 1: Midtown will be hosting an evangelism seminar with guest speaker Rob Whitacre. There will be a potluck luncheon after morning service with a 1pm afternoon service.

Area Events (More info on the bulletin board in the hallway):

Oct. 7-9: Creation & Evolution Seminar at Weber Road

Oct. 15: Saturday Workshop for Bible class teachers at Mathis church of Christ Ladies Day.

Nov. 12: Bible Bowl 2022 at Weber Road

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Joyce Salinas, a friend of Vergie Shelton and Ken & Nancy Dorries. Joyce has blockages in her heart and will be having tests and possible open heart surgery.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Kin and Sandra Marie, Ann Pantel, Veronica Serenil, Clark Withers, Dee Gilpatrick, Faye Henderson.

Service Roster

Week of September 25, 2022

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Kirk FitzSimmons
Song Leader Doug Jobes

Opening Prayer..... Bryant Siegel
Closing Prayer..... Mike Atkinson

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread..... Ken Dorries
Cup..... Doug Jobes
Offering..... Dan Fielder
Assist..... Jack Jobes
Assist..... Willie Fossati
Assist..... Luke FitzSimmons

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Rick Bass

Opening Prayer..... James Cammock
Closing Prayer..... Doug Jobes

Lord's Supper & Offering..... ... Doug Jobes,
Ken Dorries

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class..... James Cammock
Song Leader Ken Dorries
Devotional James Cammock

Other

Prepare Communion Nina Siegel

Congregational News

Birthdays

Jack Jobes.....Sept. 25
Tam Archer.....Sept. 27
Violet Pantel.....Sept. 28

Please sign up to prepare communion and opening & close the building for October through December 2022. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Food Helpers for the month of Sept. - Team A.

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030.

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Weekly Reading

“Or do you not know that your body is the temple
of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have
from God, and you are not your own?”
1 Corinthians 6:19

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of September 18, 2022

A.M. Bible Class.....56
A.M. Worship.....71
P.M. Worship.....46
Wednesday Bible Class.....53

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*
B.K. York *Southwest School of Bible Studies*

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