

# PRAYER AS A PERFORMANCE

## A SERIES ON HOW PRAYER WORKS

“For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.”

- Romans 16:18

### 1. Putting on a Prayer Show

- a. Prayer is a universally religious activity, it is used as a show of piety
- b. The best place to pray is in an end zone – Mat 6:5-6
- c. Priests and so-called holy men show off in prayer as well – Mark 12:40
- d. They serve their own bellies – Rom 16:17-18
- e. My speech was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom – 1 Cor 2:4
- f. Prayer is like magic to many – it’s not entertaining without a show

### 2. Controlling God with Prayer

- a. If people think you can control God you have power – Gen 20:3-4, 7
- b. Solomon’s prayer prep: decorate, food, temple, music, fog – 2 Chron 5:1,3,6,12
- c. Bless the people, invoke the covenant, kneel - 2 Chron 6:3,11,13... 40,42
- d. “God is in this place” gives authority to the speaker, and excites the audience
- e. The response is nothing that happens today – 2 Chron 7:1-6
- f. Solomon was right when he did it, we are wrong if we do it today.

### 3. Prayer Plus

- a. More honest people may try to put on a private show before God
- b. + Going to church to pray – Mark 1:35, 6:46 - You are the temple! 1 Cor 3:16
- c. + Fasting, does it help? – Matthew 17:21, Acts 27:33-34
- d. + Humility → 2 Chron 7:14, but Psalm 35:13. Know your position! (Gal 2:20)
- e. + Oil – James 5:14, This is for healing, not because oil greases up your prayers
  - i. It comes from the covenant - Lev 14:11-18
  - ii. It was practiced by the twelve and Jesus – Mark 6:7-13
- f. + More people? They do not amplify your prayer power – Acts 1:14-15
  - i. Two or three had to do with binding and loosing authority – Mat 18:15-20
  - ii. Paul says do not count him as an enemy – 2 Thess 3:14-15

### 4. Prayer in Groups

- a. It often turns into recitation or long prayers – Acts 19:32-34, Ecc 5:2
- b. It doesn’t have to be physical – the touch does not transfer prayer power
- c. Hands on prayers has to do with ordination – Acts 6:6, 8:15-19, 1 Tim 4:14
- d. Prayers change you, prayer among others can change them as well – Acts 27:35
- e. Prayers for other people can generate charity towards them – Phm 6
- f. Don’t pray for other people as a weapon or gossip tool.
- g. Paul says to pray for us – 1 Thess 5:25
- h. It can bring comfort to pray for another with sincerity – 2 Cor 1:4, 1:11
- i. Prayer should be genuine and sincere. It is not a show before others or God.