

Prayer

What is Prayer for You

P *rayer means yearning for the simple presence of God, for a personal understanding of His Word, for knowledge of His will and for capacity to hear and obey Him. – Thomas Merton*

1. What are some experiences you have had with prayer? Have you seen it work? Write down a few examples.

2. As a Christian, what role does prayer play in your walk with Christ?

Why We Should Pray to God

W *e do not glorify God by providing His needs, but by praying that He would provide ours - and trusting Him to answer. – John Piper*

3. What are some encouraging realities about prayer that are shown in Hebrews 4:15-16? How does this relate to the Gospel and the privilege we have in prayer?

4. What does John 15:5 reveal about our relationship with Christ? How does this influence our prayer lives?

5. Paul wrote in Philippians 4:4-7 about a powerful key to freedom from anxiety. What truths can you stand firmly upon from these verses? How does this encourage your walk with Christ? How does Luke 11:9-13 reinforce this promise of God?

How Should We Pray

Praying seemed to be natural to me, as the breath by which the inward burnings of my heart had vent. - Jonathan Edwards

6. What do these verses reveal about how we are commanded to pray?

1 Thessalonians 5:16

Luke 18:1

Romans 12:12

Ephesians 6:18

7. What conditions of prayer do you find in the following verses?

Matthew 21:22

John 16:24

James 1:6

James 5:16

8. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in our prayers (Romans 8:26-27)? How does this passage and a verse like Galatians 4:6 encourage you?

And generally speaking, as Christians our prayers ought to be Trinitarian. To the Father through the Son by the Spirit. - Mark Driscoll

Consider Jesus' pattern for prayer in Matthew 6:7-13 and answer the following questions:

9. What does Jesus warn us against in this verse? Why is it crucial to heed His warning?

10. How does the prayer begin? Why is this important?

11. Which requests are God-centered?

12. Which requests are people-centered?

13. How can this pattern of praying help you to pray?

What We Should Pray For

14. What does scripture say to pray for?

Psalm 38:18

Hebrews 13:15

James 1:5

Ephesians 5:20

Luke 6:28

Psalm 27:4

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-4, meditate on the phrase “all men”, and answer the following questions:

15. Why are we called to pray for all men?

16. How does this relate to the Gospel?

17. Who are you called to pray for specifically?

18. What does the Lord desire you to pray for (Matthew 9:37-38)? Why do you think this is important? How does this focus us as we live a missional life for Christ?

***I**t’s amazing that God would talk to us. And that we could pray for people. I mean that’s amazing. That we could participate in what God is doing.” – Mark Driscoll*

19. What can we learn from James 4:1-4? What is a wrongly motivated prayer? How can we combat praying with wrong motives?

Read Jesus’ prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46) and answer the following questions:

20. What are your first impressions from reading this passage?
21. Why was Jesus deeply grieved? How does this influence our understanding of His prayer?
22. What was Jesus asking the Father? What truth can we derive from this for our own prayer lives?
23. How did Jesus end His prayer? What is significant about Him ending this prayer in that manner?
24. What truth can we derive from this example of Jesus in regards to how to approach the Father in prayer? What should our motivation be for our prayers?

Application

Take a few minutes to pray using the pattern of the Lord's Prayer. Pray for your walk with Christ, friends, family, people you're being intentional with, and our campus. Practice praying in the manner Jesus instructed His followers to pray.

Memory Verse

Philippians 4:6-7 - Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Recommended Resources

1. *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*- Richard Foster