

## Agenda

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12:30 to 12:45 – Opening **prayer** and lunch

12:45 to 1:30 – The basics of **prayer**

- What is **prayer**?
- The **purpose of prayer**
- The benefits of **prayer**
- The sin of **prayerlessness**

1:30 to 1:50 – **Prayer** time

1:50 to 1:55 – Opportunities to **pray** at RHCF

1:55 to 2:00 – Closing **prayer**



**12:45 to 1:30 – The basics of prayer**

- We live in desperate times. However, if there is a deficiency in the Church of Jesus Christ, it's a lack of a desperation for prayer on behalf of the born again Christian.
- Prayer should be the most important activity in the life of a follower of Jesus; prayer should be at the top of a believer's priorities.
- There are plenty of examples of the people of God praying, both in the Hebrew Scriptures (OT) as well as the Christian Scriptures (NT). For example:
  - Moses prayed. Isaiah prayed. Ezekiel prayed. Daniel prayed. Ruth prayed. Deborah prayed. Hannah prayed. Nehemiah prayed. Jeremiah prayed. Mary prayed. Elizabeth prayed. Mary Magdalene prayed...
  - The disciples asked Jesus to pray:
    - **Luke 11:1**, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."
  - Dr. Luke stated:
    - **Luke 18:1**, "...that men always ought to pray and not lose heart."
  - The Apostle Paul wrote:
    - **1 Thessalonians 5:17**, "Pray without ceasing."
  - Jesus prayed:
    - **Luke 6:12**, "In these days, He went to the mountain to pray, and all night He continued in prayer to God."
    - **Matthew 14:23**, "After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone."
    - **Luke 5:16**, "But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray."
      - Prayer is the most effective weapon, coupled with God's Word, that we have this side of heaven to combat the power of darkness, our flesh and the philosophy of this world system (See Ephesians 6:10-18).

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- It is my belief that when I get to heaven, I (and, I surmise, many a believer) will be ashamed at the lack of prayerfulness in my journey on this earth.
  - It is so convicting to me to know intellectually that I can approach God Almighty, at any time of the day, 365 days a year, and in turn minimize this incredible privilege as an event rather than the very lifeline of my existence.
  - It's my heart that this will not be the case; hence, a high priority on prayer is being placed on my personal life and in the life of the church here at Rock Harbor that God has charged and entrusted to my care.
- **What is prayer?**
  - A simple definition: speaking to God the Father through the Name of Jesus (by which we have access – 1 Timothy 2:5), the Son of God, as inspired by the Spirit of God. Additionally, it's being still and listening to God speak to your heart (Psalm 46:10).
  - Prayer is petition:
    - Prayer is a form of worship whereby we humbly come before the throne of God to seek mercy in our time of need (Hebrews 4:12).
    - Prayer is a blessing wherein the believer can call upon God to do that which is beyond human explanation (Ephesians 3:20); needs that line up with His will (Philippians 2:13; 1 John 5:14-15).
    - Prayer is a means by which we call upon our Creator and bring our personal needs before Him. Needs like strength (Deuteronomy 20:4), wisdom (James 1:5-8), guidance (Proverbs 3:5-6) and provision (Philippians 4:19).
    - Prayer, in a broader sense, is a consciousness of who He is and who we are; when we come before an all-knowing, all-knowledgeable and all-present God, we in turn stand in utter awe of Him and are radically blessed that He

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even allows us in His presence (BTW: this privilege has only been privy to the people of God for 2,000 years).

- Prayer is intercession:
  - Not only is prayer a form of petition as aforementioned, we worship God by intercession. And, I propose, it's not work, it's glorious. It's a spontaneous, beautiful communion and fellowship with God. (Chuck Smith).
  - Intercession is when:
    - We intercede for God's glory
    - We intercede for God's will
    - We intercede to God on behalf of others
    - We intercede to God to combat the power of evil
      - Through intercessory prayer, we reach out and pray, not for our needs, but for the needs of family, friends, neighbors, enemies, etc.
      - Further, during times of intercession, as we enter the spiritual realm, we understand very clearly that we are truly in a spiritual battle. In fact, we become increasingly aware that we are in conflict with the power of darkness (John 10:10a; 1 Peter 5:8).
        - 1 John 3:8 states that Jesus was manifested to destroy the works of the devil which He did through His death (Hebrews 2:14) and He made a public spectacle of the enemy by nailing our sins to the cross (Colossians 2:14-15).
- Prayer is persistence:
  - Don't give up; keep praying. James 5:16c states, "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

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- Paul prayed 3x for his physical ailment to be removed (2 Corinthians 12:8-10).
- Jesus prayed 3x for the cup of agony to be taken away (Luke 22:39-46).
  - We need to continue to pray in accord with His will and good pleasure, and to the praise of His glory (Eph. 1:6).
- Prayer is claiming God's promises. Let's read together:
  - **Matthew 18:18-19**
  - **Mark 11:22-24**
  - **John 14:13-14**
  - **John 15:7**
  - **NOTE: let's read together 1 John 5:14-15**
    - So important to know that we **HAVE** to pray according to His will!
- Prayer is asking for God's healing hand:
  - **James 5:13-15**, "Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven."
    - **NOTE: God always heals: whether it is on this side of eternity or on that side of eternity...**
- Types of prayer:
  - A.C.T.S.
    - **A**doration
    - **C**onfession
    - **T**hanksgiving
    - **S**upplication



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- The Lord's model prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)
- Praying the Psalms, the Pauline prayers (i.e., Colossians 1:9-14)
- P.R.A.Y.
  - Praise – Matthew 6:9
  - Repent – Matthew 6:12
  - Ask – Matthew 6:11, 13
  - Yield – Matthew 6:10



- **The purpose of prayer**

- Oh, how we need to pray! Not talk about it, but pray... Not to have weekend conferences on prayer, but pray... (Which we will do shortly...)
- Paul wrote in Colossians 4:2, "Continue in prayer." The ancient Greek word for continue speaks to persistence and consistency (See Luke 11:5-10; Luke 18:2-8).
- Do our prayers change the direction of God? I am convinced that our prayers do not and cannot change the heart or the ways of God. Rather, prayer aligns my heart with the heart of God. As I pray, as you pray, as we pray for God's will, according to His good will and good pleasure, there is a change in our heart that aligns with God's heart.
  - The principle of **Psalm 37:4** and **John 15:16** becomes the reality in the life of a prayerful believer. Let's read these together...
- So, the purpose of prayer is not to change God's mind, God direction or God's ways in that He conforms to my wants. Rather, God knows what's best and He's given us the incredible honor to approach His throne and to seek His way and directives for our lives – which is a far better strategy for living than we can ever muster up...

- **The benefits of prayer**

- Develops our faith and helps mature us
- Grows us in dependence upon Him
- Invites the Holy Spirit to have free reign in our life
- Protects against the flesh and sinful desires

- Can you name some additional benefits of prayer?
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- **The sin of prayerlessness**
  - Chuck Smith wrote, “In your walk with the Lord, God will lift you up to the highest level you allow Him, and He’ll do what’s best for you at that level. But, unfortunately, so many times we limit what God wants to do in our life by not seeking His face and, by default, by insisting on our own way instead of yielding to His way.”
  - Such was and is the case of the Nation of Israel. And, sad to say, what I would consider the North American Church.
    - There’s a great passage the Lord has convicted me with. 1 Samuel 12:23 states, “Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way.”
    - Further, for me to not pray, especially as a Pastor, should disqualify me as a shepherd (see James 3:1; 5:16; Galatians 6:2 – for starters).
      - Additional... how about you? Why don’t we pray? Do you consider a lack of prayer sinful? Why? Or, why not?
  - What are some causes of prayerlessness?
    - Busyness
    - Laziness
    - Apathy
    - A busy mind
    - Priorities
    - Tiredness
    - Can you name a few?
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**Prayer** Workshop

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- Solutions:
  - Find a quiet place
  - Write your prayers in a journal
  - Verbalize your prayers out loud
  - Have a notepad next to you
  - Can you name a few?
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**1:30 to 1:50 – Prayer time**

- Let's pray. Please get in groups of 3 or 4. If you want to pray alone, please feel free to do so as well. You can stay in this room; you can walk the property – that's your call.
- I'd like to pray over the following prayer points and let's take 20 minutes and return back at 1:50.
- Prayer points:
  - Pray for God to be glorified at Rock Harbor – 1 Corinthians 10:31
  - Pray for lost souls to be redeemed – 2 Peter 3:9
  - Pray for revival at Rock Harbor – Psalm 85:6
  - Pray for Rock Harbor ministry leaders – 2 Peter 3:18
  - Pray for every ministry to bear fruit – John 15:1-8
    - Children's ministry
    - Youth ministry
    - Men's ministry
    - Women's ministry
    - Open Arms ministry
    - Counseling ministry

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- Small group ministry
- Greeter and Usher ministry
- Hospitality ministry
- Missions ministry
- Administration ministry
- Maintenance and grounds ministry
- Worship ministry
- Prayer and altar call ministry
- Executive board ministry
- Finance ministry
  - Etc.

**1:50 to 1:55 – Opportunities to **pray** at RHCF**

- Join our E-Prayer ministry team (please give Mike a yellow card with “Prayer Team” and your email address)
- Join us every Sunday at 7:30 in the prayer room
  - It is my prayer to have church family praying during all three services in our newly decorated Prayer Room (please sign up)
- Join the Altar Call Prayer Ministry Team (see attached protocol and please sign up)
- Join the team for prayer every Thursday at 6:00 am here at Rock Harbor
- Join us for our upcoming 40 hour prayer vigil from Good Friday (April 19) at 2pm to Easter (April 21) 6am (please sign up)
- Start a prayer ministry...

**1:55 to 2:00 – Closing **prayer****



## ***Protocol for Rock Harbor's Prayer Ministry Teams***

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Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart. (Luke 18:1)

But we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word. (Acts 6:4)

We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers. (1 Thessalonians 1:2)

- ***Biblical standards:***

- A cleaned and readied vessel (2 Timothy 2:21)
- A growing believer in knowledge and grace (2 Peter 3:18)
- A willing servant (Mark 10:45)
- A shepherd's heart (1 Peter 5:2)
  - Caring sacrificially (by a willingness to invest your time)
  - Caring scripturally (by ministering the Word of God)
  - Caring steadily (by consistent follow up)
  - Caring successfully (by following the Great Shepherd)

- ***Practical steps:***

- **Appearance**
  - Dress appropriately
  - Have clean breath (mints/gum will be available every Sunday)
  - Smile and be welcoming
- **Listening skills**
  - Ask what their prayer request is
  - Ensure good eye contact
  - Lean into those you're serving and be attentive
  - Ask God for "Words of Knowledge" as you listen to their request
  - Don't formulate your response while the person is sharing... (the HS will guide you)
- **Prayer and encouragement with the Word**
  - Pray for God's perfect will in their given situation (1 John 5:14-15)
  - When giving advice, the Word of God is your source of truth
- **Follow up**
  - Ask for contact information (yellow card)
  - Offer biblical counsel (if needed)
  - Phone call, text, email = paramount to ensure a church family is cared for
- **Generalities**
  - Gender specific is the goal
  - Side hugs, a touch on the shoulder, a word of affirmation, etc.

The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing. (Ze. 3:17)