

Fundamentals Of The Bible

How Are We To Pray?

(Is 55:6)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning
 - a. Brethren it is great to see you here this fine morning.
2. Series of lessons on "Fundamentals Of The Church"
 - a. We have been looking at "acts" of worship.
 - b. Last week we examined "What Is Prayer?"
 - c. Today we will look at prayer its self in an acrostic.
 - i. Answering the question "How are we to pray?"
3. When it comes to praying we know we have authority for.
 - a. **Ph 4:6** "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God"
 - b. **I Ti 2:8** "I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting"
 - c. **Is 55:6** "Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near."
4. So how are we to pray?
 - I. **Prayerful Actions (Mt 6:5-6)**
 - A. Bowing down
 1. **Ps 95:6** "Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker."
 2. **Zp 2:11** "The LORD will be awesome against them; for he will famish all the gods of the earth, and to him shall bow down, each in its place, all the lands of the nations." (ESV)
 - B. Kneeling
 1. **Lk 22:41** "And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed"
 2. **Ac 20:36** "And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all."
 - C. Falling on the face
 1. **Nu 16:22** "Then they fell on their faces, and said, "O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and You be angry with all the congregation?""
 2. **Mt 26:39** "He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.""
 - D. Standing
 1. **I Ki 8:22** "Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven"
 2. **Mk 11:25** "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses."

II. Ready To Pray (1 Th 5:17)

- A. With a true heart
 - 1. **He 10:22** "let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."
- B. With unfeigned lips
 - 1. **Ps 17:1** "Hear a just cause, O LORD, Attend to my cry; Give ear to my prayer which is not from deceitful lips."
- C. With Confidence in God
 - 1. **Ps 86:7** "In the day of my trouble I will call upon You, For You will answer me."
 - 2. **I Jn 5:14** "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."
 - 3. **Ja 1:5-7** "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord"
- D. With submission to God
 - 1. **Lk 22:42** "saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.""
- E. With a desire to be heard
 - 1. **Ps 55:1-2** "Give ear to my prayer, O God, And do not hide Yourself from my supplication. 2 Attend to me, and hear me; I am restless in my complaint, and moan noisily"
 - 2. **Ne 1:6** "please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You. Both my father's house and I have sinned."

III. Ask For Blessings (Ja 4:2)

- A. Temporal Blessings
 - 1. Food, shelter, safety
 - i. Mt 6:25-33 "READ"
 - ii. **Ja 5:17-18** "Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit."
- B. Spiritual Blessings
 - 1. Not to be tempted
 - i. **Mt 6:13** "And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."
 - ii. **Lk 22:46** "Then He said to them, "Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation.""

2. Having the right armor
 - i. **Ep 6:11, 18** "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints"
3. Forgiveness of sins
 - i. **I Jn 1:9** "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

IV. Yearn For Oneness With God (**Ac 9:9-11**)

- A. Yearning is described as...
 1. To feel a longing or craving
 - i. **Ps 119:20** "My soul breaks with longing For Your judgments at all times."
 - ii. **Ps 42:1** "As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God."
 2. As a husband & wife are one we should long for that oneness with God
 - i. **Gn 2:24** "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."

CONCLUSION

1. Unger's Bible Dictionary "Prayer is the expression of man's dependence upon God for all things."
 - a. Martin Luther King Jr. "To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing." (<http://thinkexist.com/quotations/prayer/>)
2. Questions: "Do I pray in such a way to express my dependence up God for "all" things?" "Is my prayer to more important than the air I breath?"
 - a. How you answer these questions will help you to proper evaluate your prayer life.
2. Invitation