

Prayer: Communicating with The Father Series: 1

What Is Prayer ?

- Prayer is asking God (Matthew 7.7-8; Mark 11.24; John 14.13-14)
 - most people associate prayer with asking God to meet needs and situations that we have or find ourselves in.
 - Notice that prayer is asking God, not begging Him. The Bible never tells us to beg, but to ask in Jesus name.
- Prayer is talking to God (Philippians 4.6; 1 Thessalonians 5.17-18)
 - prayer is more than just asking for the things we need. It is talking to God. Not just about the things we need but all things.
 - Prayer is thanking Him for who He is and what He has done for us.
- Prayer is listening to God (John 16.13-15; Revelation 3.13; 1 Samuel 3.10-11; Isaiah 30.21)
 - Many Christians have the concept that they can bring their requests and petitions to God through prayer and then carry on with what they are doing. Prayer is more than just asking or talking to God. Prayer involves listening.
 - How would you feel if you were in a conversation and the only one doing the talking was the other person. Then just as you were about to say something important they said goodbye and left – but too often we treat God like that.
 - Prayer is dialogue not a monologue – we need to allow God to speak to us when we pray.
 - God will speak to us through His word and the Holy Spirit direct into our lives
- Prayer is a foundation for our walk and service before God (Matthew 6.10; Acts 13.2-3; Luke 10.2)
 - Before we do anything for God, prayer must be our foundation. Our decisions , plans and actions are taken in prayer.
 - As we examine the lives of the patriarchs, Bible characters and other men and women of God we see that their lives and ministries were under-girded with prayer – Abraham, Moses, David, Paul - William Carey, Hudson Taylor, Evan Roberts.
 - Jesus Himself often withdrew to pray – He needed to 'hear' from His Father, how much more do we?
 - In this teaching series we are going to look at the prayers of some these patriarchs and men/women found in the Scripture
- Prayer is one of the greatest 'tools' in the Christian's tool box. (Ephesians 6.10-18; Luke 24.40)
 - Prayer is essential in our 'wrestle' against the enemy
 - We should pray that we don't fall into temptation
 - If we are sick and suffering we should pray
 - If we are in trouble – pray!

Types of Prayer

- Prayer of Petition

- Prayer of Faith
- Prayer of Intercession
- Prayer of Commitment
- Prayer of Consecration
- Prayer of Supplication

Is there a right or wrong way of praying?

“Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts”
James 4.3

- We should not pray with wrong motives or out of the will of God
- We should pray in faith, believing that we receive.
- Prayer should never be hurried – anything we do where God is concerned should not be hurried or rushed: church, devotions, worship, reading the word and prayer
- There are some prayers which should never be prayed:
‘Lord if it be thy will then heal me of this sickness’ – this type of prayer shows our ignorance of the Word. The Word already says that it is God’s will for us to be in health – to pray ‘if it be thy will’ underscores our unbelief
- “For Jesus’ sake we pray..” We pray in the name of Jesus not *‘for His sake’*. (Ephesians 5.20; Colossians 3.17)

Overview:

- What is prayer?
 - Asking
 - Talking
 - Listening to God
- How should we pray?
 - To God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit
 - In faith
 - In Jesus’ name
- Why should we pray?
 - God expects/commands it – Jesus said ‘when we pray..’ not if
 - It shows God that we trust Him
 - It is essential for the wrestle against the enemy
- Where should we pray?
 - In the secret place / closet (Matthew 6.6)
- When should we pray?
 - At all times – evening, morning and noon (Psalm 55.17; Luke 18.1)
 - Without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5.17)
 - Whenever there is a need to pray