

Prayer and the Believer

Lesson 8



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Lesson Outline



- I. The Nature of Prayer
- II. The Practice of Prayer
- III. The Struggle of Prayer
- IV. Application

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I. The Nature of Prayer



- The purpose of prayer is to express our submission to the sovereignty of God and our trust in His faithfulness. Prayer is the means by which we express all that is in our hearts to our loving and wise heavenly Father. Prayer is not to give God information, because God knows everything. Prayer brings us into reverent communion with God, worshipping Him and acknowledging Him as the giver of all things.

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I. The Nature of Prayer



A. The purpose of Prayer

- *Prayer brings glory to God*

John 14:13

- *Prayer aligns our will with God's will*

Luke 22:41-42

Matthew 6:10

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Why Pray?



Prayer brings peace

Philippians 4:6-7

We pray to confess sin

1 John 1:9

We pray to cast our burden upon God

1 Peter 5:6-7

We pray because prayer is powerful

James 5:16-18

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Why pray if God is sovereign?



- God not only ordains the END but also the MEANS
- Our prayers becomes the means how God purposes to bring His will about.
- Our prayers bring God glory
- Prayer does not change God's mind, but we align our minds with God's will.

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Why Pray? (continued)



- Prayer is a **COMMAND**
 - [1 Thess. 5:17](#)
 - [Eph 6:18](#)
- Because Jesus prayed.
 - [Matt 14:23](#)
 - Also Luke 5:16; 6:12

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II. The Practice of Prayer



Conditions for answered prayer

You must be in Christ and His words in you. [John 15:7](#)

Who are those abiding in Christ?

Those who Confess Jesus as Lord – [1 John 4:15](#)

Those who are obedient to Jesus- [1 John 3:22](#)

Does God answer the prayers of the UNSAVED?

NO – [John 9:31](#)

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II. The Practice of Prayer



Conditions for answered prayer

2. Pray according to God's will

- Ask in His name, consistent with who He is- [John 14:13](#)
- Ask what is consistent with His will [1 John 5:14](#)
- Ask so as to bring God glory- [John 14:13](#)
- Pray to align your will to His will- [Matt 6:10](#)

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II. The Practice of Prayer



Jesus' Pattern for Prayer: Matthew 6:9-13

Pray to God	Our Father, Who art in heaven
Exalt him saying	Hallowed be Thy name
Submit to Him praying	Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done
Look to Him seeking	Our daily bread (sustenance)
Confess to Him pleading	Forgive us our debts (sins)
Depend on Him asking	Lead us not into temptation
Trust in Him requesting	Deliver us from evil

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II. The Practice of Prayer



Four Important Areas of Prayer

A doration	Reflect on God Himself. Praise Him for His attributes, His majesty, His gift of Christ.	
C onfession	Admit to God you have sinned. Be honest & humble. Remember, He knows you and loves you.	
T hanks giving	Tell God how grateful you are for everything He has given you, even unpleasant things. Your thankfulness will help you see His purposes.	
S upplication	Make specific requests. Pray for others first, then for yourself.	

Notice the first letters of these four words form the word
"ACTS"
 Use them as a mental guide to maintain balance as you pray.

II. The Practice of Prayer



3. What are some of the hindrances to answered prayer?

- [Psalm 66:18](#)
Regarding iniquity or sin in our heart.
- [James 4:3](#)
Asking for things to satisfy our own pleasures.
- [1 Peter 3:7](#)
Men Not properly honoring our wife.

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III. The Struggle of Prayer (1/6)



A. Prayer can be hard work. This should not keep us from praying, even when it requires sacrifice.

1. How did Jesus pray before He selected the twelve apostles?

[\(Luke 6:12\)](#)

He spent all night in prayer to God.

2. Describe the intensity of Jesus as He prayed in the garden. [\(Luke 22:44\)](#)

Jesus, being in agony, prayed all the more earnestly.

Be vigilant in our thankfulness.

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III. The Struggle of Prayer (2/6)



A3. What should believers be careful to do when we devote ourselves to prayer?

[\(Colossians 4:2\)](#)

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III. The Struggle of Prayer (3/6)



B. Even when we are frustrated or discouraged, we can still approach God in prayer.

1. [Psalm 13:1-2](#)

2. [Psalm 22:2](#)

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III. The Struggle of Prayer (4/6)



C. Prayer is governed by God's sovereignty, and His purpose determines His answer to our prayers.

2 Corinthians 12:7-9.

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III. The Struggle of Prayer (5/6)



C Prayer is governed by God's sovereignty, and His purpose determines His answer to our prayers.

2. Read Mark 14:35-36.

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III. The Struggle of Prayer (6/6)



How Does God Answer Our Prayers?

1. Sometimes Immediately (Ps 138:3)
2. Sometimes answers are delayed (Luke 18:7)
3. Yet still we are exhorted to persist. (Luke 18:1)
4. Sometimes differently than what we asked. 2 Cor 12:7-9 (Paul's Thorn)

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• **Based on what we've covered, is it biblical to:**

- 'Name it and claim it'
- 'Speak it and seek it'
- 'Blab it and grab it'

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IV. Application

Pray in accordance with God's will.

Pray without ceasing.

Pray with faith.

Model your prayers after ACTS

Adoration

Confession

Thanksgiving

Supplication

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REVIEW

- We've covered
- The Nature of Prayer
- The Practice of Prayer
- The Struggle of Prayer
- Application
- Questions?
- Quiz Lesson 9

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