

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Psalms 66:16-20**.
- B. An elderly lady was greatly disturbed by her many troubles. Someone in her family tactfully told her, "Grandma, we've done all we can for you. You'll just have to trust God for the rest." A look of absolute despair spread over her face as she replied, "Oh, dear has it come to that?"
- C. I may have two sermons worth of material here, but I want to talk about prayer (1Th. 5:17).

## I. KINDS OF PRAYER.

- A. The Bible tells us about different kinds of prayer:
  - 1. Secret (Mt. 6:6).  
But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray...
  - 2. Family (Ac. 10:2).  
He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.
  - 3. Group (Mt. 18:20).  
"For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."
  - 4. Public (1Cor. 14:16-17).  
If you are praising God with your spirit, how can one who finds himself among those who do not understand say "Amen" to your thanksgiving, since he does not know what you are saying? You may be giving thanks well enough, but the other man is not edified.
- B. Which ones are you doing well? Which ones need improvement?

## II. PARTS OF PRAYER.

- A. When we pray we can do one of more of 5 things:
  - 1. Adoration (Dan. 4:34,35).  
At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever.
  - 2. Confession (1Jn. 1:9).  
If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
  - 3. Supplication (1Tim. 2:1-3).  
I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone--for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior,
  - 4. Intercession (Jas. 5:14-15).  
Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.
  - 5. Thanksgiving (Phil. 4:6).  
Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
- B. Which kinds do you pray often? Which ones need some work?

## III. REQUIREMENTS OF PRAYER.

- A. **Personal requirements.**
  - 1. Purity of heart (Psa. 66:18-19).  
If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer.

2. Believing (Mt. 21:22).  
If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.
3. In Christ's name (Jn. 14:13).  
And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.
4. According to God's will (1Jn. 5:14).  
This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

**B. General requirements.**

1. A forgiving spirit (Mt. 6:14).  
For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.
2. Simplicity (Mt. 6:5,6).  
"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.
3. Humility and repentance (Lk. 18:9-14). See Bible text.
4. Unity (Mt. 18:19-20).  
"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."
5. Tenacity (Lk. 18:1-8). See Bible text.
6. Persistence (Lk. 11:5-8).  
Then he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.' "Then the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs.
7. Intensity (Mt. 7:7-11).  
"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.  
"Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? **10** Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!
8. With confidence (Mk. 11:24).  
Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.
9. Without many words (Mt. 6:7).  
And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.
10. Unceasingly (1Th. 5:17).  
pray continually;

**IV. WHY OUR PRAYERS CAN BE REFUSED.**

- A. When we pray God can do one of the three things; say *yes*, say *no*, or say *wait*.
- B. Sometimes it seems that God does not answer our prayers. Here are some reasons why:
  1. Sin (Psa. 66:18).  
If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;
  2. Selfishness (Jas. 4:3).  
When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.
  3. Doubt (Jas. 1:5-7).  
If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a

wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord;

4. Disobedience (Prov. 28:9).

If anyone turns a deaf ear to the law, even his prayers are detestable.

5. Inhumanity (Lk. 18:11-12,14).

The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself, 'God I thank you that I am not like all other men--robbers, evildoers, adulterers--or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

V. **WHAT TO ASK FOR.**

A. We do not want to waste time in prayer that is meaningless. But there are times that we don't know what to pray for.

B. Here are some suggestions:

1. Forgiveness of sins (Mt. 6:12).

Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

2. Help in times of temptation (Mt. 6:13).

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. '

3. Necessities of life (Mt. 6:11).

Give us today our daily bread.

4. Earthly rulers (1Tim. 2:1,2).

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone--for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

5. The sick (Jas. 5:14).

Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord.

6. Our enemies (Mt. 5:44).

But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

7. Laborers to enter the harvest (Mt. 9:38).

Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

8. For the preaching of God's word (2Th. 3:11).

We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies.

9. Children of God (Phil. 1:9-11).

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ--to the glory and praise of God.

10. God's will be done in all things (Mt. 6:10).

your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

**CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

A. Prayer is hard work! See the Suggested Prayer List to help you get started.

B. Nothing of value comes easy--the same is true with prayer.

C. Hopefully, this lesson will help you improve your prayer life.

D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.

## PRAYER: BACK TO BASICS

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2. *Family* (Ac. 10:2). \_\_\_\_\_
3. *Group* (Mt. 18:20). \_\_\_\_\_
4. *Public* (1Cor. 14:16-17). \_\_\_\_\_

B. Which ones are you doing well? Which ones need improvement?

### II. PARTS OF PRAYER.

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1. *Adoration* (Dan. 4:34-35). \_\_\_\_\_
2. *Confession* (1Jn. 1:9). \_\_\_\_\_
3. *Supplication* (1Tim. 2:1-3). \_\_\_\_\_
4. *Intercession* (Jas. 5:14,15). \_\_\_\_\_
5. *Thanksgiving* (Phil. 4:6). \_\_\_\_\_

B. Which kinds do you pray often? Which ones need some work?

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1. *A forgiving spirit* (Mt. 6:14). \_\_\_\_\_
2. *Simplicity* (Mt. 6:5-6). \_\_\_\_\_
3. *Humility and repentance* (Lk. 18:9-14). \_\_\_\_\_
4. *Unity* (Mt. 18:19-20). \_\_\_\_\_
5. *Tenacity* (Lk. 18:1-8). \_\_\_\_\_
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7. *Intensity* (Mt. 7:7-11). \_\_\_\_\_
8. *With confidence* (Mk. 11:24). \_\_\_\_\_
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5. *Inhumanity* (Lk. 18:11,12,14). \_\_\_\_\_

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- B. Here are some suggestions:
1. *Forgiveness of sins* (Mt. 6:12). \_\_\_\_\_
  2. *Help in times of temptation* (Mt. 6:13). \_\_\_\_\_
  3. *Necessities of life* (Mt. 6:11). \_\_\_\_\_
  4. *Earthly rulers* (1Tim. 2:1-2). \_\_\_\_\_
  5. *The sick* (Jas. 5:14). \_\_\_\_\_
  6. *Our enemies* (Mt. 5:44). \_\_\_\_\_
  7. *Laborers to enter the harvest* (Mt. 9:38). \_\_\_\_\_
  8. *For the preaching of God's word* (2Th. 3:11). \_\_\_\_\_
  9. *Children of God* (Phil. 1:9-11). \_\_\_\_\_
  10. *God's will be done in all things* (Mt. 6:10). \_\_\_\_\_

VI. **SUGGESTED PRAYER LIST.**

- A. General concerns:
1. Earthly rulers \_\_\_\_\_
  2. God's will to be done in all things \_\_\_\_\_
  3. The necessities of life \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Church concerns:
1. Those sick \_\_\_\_\_
  2. The children of God \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Laborers in the harvest \_\_\_\_\_
  4. Preaching of God's word \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Personal concerns:
1. Forgiveness of sins \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Help in times of temptation \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Our enemies \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Other concerns:
1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_