

# Prayer



"Prayer does not enable us to do a greater work for God. Prayer is a greater work for God."

**THOMAS CHALMERS**



**PRAY FIRST:** O Triune God, who commandeth the universe, thou hast commanded me to ask for those things that concern thy kingdom and my soul. Let me live and pray as one baptized into the threefold Name.

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## Understanding the Truth

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- James 5:16 reads, *"Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."* What does this verse teach us about prayer?

### What Is Prayer?

Prayer is the act of turning toward God, through the merits of Christ, to find His solutions and direction in every aspect of the believer's life. *"The idea of prayer is not in order to get answers from God; prayer is perfect and complete oneness with God."*—**Oswald Chambers**

## How Should We Pray?

A. How did Jesus instruct the disciples to pray? *(Read John 14:13)*

“In Jesus’ name” means according to His character and His merits. It means asking in reliance upon all that He is in Himself and in all that He has accomplished on our behalf.

B. According to James 1:6-8, what is an important ingredient when praying?

C. Does this mean if I have enough faith, God will hear my prayers? Why or why not? *(Read 1 John 5:14)*

D. How do we know that our prayers are according to God’s will? *(Read John 14:13)*

- Prayer is the key to accessing heavenly resources for daily victory.

E. Look up the following verses and indicate what they teach about how we should pray.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:17: \_\_\_\_\_
- Matthew 6:5-6: \_\_\_\_\_
- Matthew 6:7: \_\_\_\_\_
- Ecclesiastes 5:1-2: \_\_\_\_\_

F. Is there a certain “posture” in which we should pray? Read these verses and write down the answer:

- Ephesians 3:14: \_\_\_\_\_
- 1 Timothy 2:8: \_\_\_\_\_
- Psalm 63:6: \_\_\_\_\_

## Why Should We Pray?

A. According to James 5:16b, why should we pray?

B. According to 1 Thessalonians, 5:17-18, what is another reason we should pray?

## What Are Some Hindrances to Answered Prayers?

- A. Psalm 66:18: \_\_\_\_\_
- B. 1 Peter 3:7: \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Matthew 6:15: \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Isaiah 1:10-15: \_\_\_\_\_
- E. Isaiah 59:2: \_\_\_\_\_
- F. Proverbs 28:9: \_\_\_\_\_
- G. Proverbs 21:13: \_\_\_\_\_

## What Are the Benefits of Prayer?

- A. Philippians 4:6-7: \_\_\_\_\_
- B. James 1:5: \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Hebrews 4:16: \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Jeremiah 29:11-12: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Embracing the Truth

Knitting the truth of God's Word into our lives



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Here are some tips for developing your prayer life:

- **Keep a prayer journal.** It will help you see the ways God is answering your daily prayers.
- **Find a prayer partner.** This would be someone who can pray with you once a week for encouragement and accountability.

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### APPLICATION

Spend some time right now applying the ACTS model in prayer.

- A - Adoration**—What do you adore about God?
- C - Confession**—What sins do you need to confess?
- T - Thanksgiving**—What can you thank God for today?
- S - Supplication**—What needs do you and others have?



## ACCOUNTABILITY

### Placing yourself in transparent and accountable relationships

How are you doing in the area of **DISCIPLESHIP** and **GROWTH**?

- Assess your consistency with satisfying personal devotions:

(Unstable) 1      2      3      4      5      6      7      (Stable)

- Are you implementing your Personal Disciple-Making Plan? Yes/No/Somewhat  
If not, in which areas are you struggling and how do you plan to adjust?
- What scripture have you memorized this week?
- With whom have you shared the Gospel this week and how did it go?
- What other ways have you worked to make disciples this week?

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### Obeying the Truth—your mission this week

Engaging the lost through word and deed with the intention of imparting the Gospel



- Think about your usual week and add some intentional time you can spend praying. Perhaps it is 5 minutes at work. Or while you wait to pick up the kids from school or practices. Or perhaps it's getting up a little earlier in the morning. Do this intentional prayer time over the next week and be ready to comment about the impact.



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#### MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK: James 5:16

*"Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."*



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#### EXTRA RESOURCES FOR THE VAULT

Calvin, John. "Of Prayer." Institutes of The Christian Religion. [http://www.prayermeetings.org/files/P\\_Of\\_Prayer\\_John\\_Calvin.pdf](http://www.prayermeetings.org/files/P_Of_Prayer_John_Calvin.pdf). Web.1845.

Luther, Martin. "A Simple Way to Pray". Church Plant Media. [http://s3.amazonaws.com/churchplantmedia-cms/crosspointe\\_waterford\\_fl/a-simple-way-to-pray---luther.pdf](http://s3.amazonaws.com/churchplantmedia-cms/crosspointe_waterford_fl/a-simple-way-to-pray---luther.pdf). Web. n.d.

## Understanding the Truth

there is healing in confession to others and praying for others, the effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much

### How Should We Pray?

- A. in His name
- B. faith
- C. no; it must be according to God's will
- D. they will glorify the Father
- E.
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:17: without ceasing
  - Matthew 6:5-6: privately and with the proper motive
  - Matthew 6:7: not repetitious
  - Ecclesiastes 5:1-2: reverently, carefully, with few words, with an attitude of listening
- F.
  - Ephesians 3:14: bowing our knees
  - 1 Timothy 2:8: lifting up holy hands
  - Psalm 63:6: lying in bed

### Why Should We Pray?

- A. our prayer can accomplish much
- B. it is the will of God for us

## **What Are Some Hindrances to Answered Prayers?**

- A. Psalm 66:18: regarding wickedness in your heart
- B. 1 Peter 3:7: unreconciled relationship with spouse
- C. Matthew 6:15: unforgiveness
- D. Isaiah 1:10-15: living in a way that displeases God
- E. Isaiah 59:2: sin
- F. Proverbs 28:9: turning away from God's Word
- G. Proverbs 21:13: ignoring the needs of the poor

## **What Are the Benefits of Prayer?**

- A. Philippians 4:6-7: peace
- B. James 1:5: wisdom
- C. Hebrews 4:16: mercy and grace
- D. Jeremiah 29:11-12: God will listen to you/fellowship with God

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Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture references are from the New American Standard Bible: 1960, 1962, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation.