

PRAYER

Prayer and Evangelism are two of the most important subjects for us as Christians to grasp and discipline ourselves in regarding our daily walk with God. However, most of us are not very consistent in our practice in either one of these areas. Let's talk Prayer. Maybe it's because we don't understand Prayer very well or we don't set aside time on a regular basis to pray are possible reasons as to why we fail in whatever we define successful Prayer to look like. Whatever the reasons are, if we don't pray effectively and consistently we will begin to have feelings of guilt and eventually may give up on Prayer altogether.

To help us to be "Overcomers" in Prayer we will define what Prayer is, learn what the different types of Prayer are and look at some of the characteristics of Prayer. We will also look at what our motives should be for Prayer and what does God want to accomplish in both His Kingdom and in our personal relationship with Him through Prayer.

Prayer in its most basic definition is simply communicating with God. Let's take a look at what's commonly called "The Lord's Prayer" to help guide us in how to pray.

1. Matthew 6:9 What relationship- type title did Jesus say that we should address God as?

Answer: Our _____ who art in heaven

2. Matthew 6:9 What is the next phrase used to address the name of God?

Answer: _____ be thy Name

Hallowed means Holy, as for someone you would give great reverence to.

3. Matthew 6:10 Instead of asking right away for our own needs to be met, what two things are we first to be declaring regarding God's interests?

Answer: Thy _____ come, Thy _____ be done

4. Matthew 6:10b Where are God's plans available at in regards to accomplishing His will on a daily basis here on earth?

Answer: _____

5. Matthew 6:11 The emphasis shifts in this verse to us asking for personal needs to be met. What is being specifically asked for?

Answer: _____

Notice that it does not say to ask for your needs to be met for an extended period of time. God is looking for a daily relationship with Him!

6. Matthew 6:33 It's all about priorities! What two things should we be doing first and foremost if we want to have God meet all of our other needs?

Answer: "But seek first His _____ and His _____"

By doing this we are showing the humility that God is looking for. God is looking for people that want to find out what pleases Him and pray it and then do it!

7. Matthew 6:12 If we want God to forgive us our own debts, (or sins), what do we need to do?

Answer: _____ those that have debts or wrong doings against us

8. Matthew 6:14-15 Will our Heavenly Father forgive us of our sins if we refuse to forgive others?

Answer: ____

9. Matthew 6:13 What two things should we pray for deliverance from?

Answer: _____, _____

Let's look at some of the main types of Prayer to help us understand how to pray more effectively.

10. Matthew 15:36 What was the first thing that Jesus did before He performed the Miracle of the multiplication of the seven loaves and a few small fish?

Answer: He gave _____

11. Philippians 4:6 What should we combine with our prayer requests if we want our prayers answered?

Answer: _____

Thanksgiving helps us to stay humble and constantly reminds us where our blessings come from!

The next type of Prayer is called a Petition.

12. Philippians 4:6 What word embodies a petition in this verse?

Answer:with thanksgiving let your _____ be made known to God

So Petitions, (or Requests), are the specific items that we might need for any given moment. Examples include a request for a healing, a financial need to be met, or a personal relationship to be restored, just to name a few.

13. Job 22:28 This kind of Prayer requires a boldness and confidence to see it come to pass. What is it?

Answer: ...You will also _____ a thing and it will be established for you; and light will shine on your ways

14. Matthew 18:19 What type of prayer is highlighted here which shows that there is increased power when more than one person is involved?

Answer: The Prayer of _____

15. Deuteronomy 32:30 Showing the exponential power of agreement, we see that one person has the ability to make 1000 enemies flee. But how many will flee when two people agree on something that God has empowered them to do?

Answer: _____

16. John 14:16 If you research the root meaning for the word “Helper” from this verse you will find that there is a legal aspect to this word. It refers to God, by the Holy Spirit, as someone who is standing and defending us as an

Answer: _____

An Intercessor is someone who represents another by speaking, (or praying), on behalf of another on the basis of the legal rights which allow them to do so. And because the Holy Spirit is the intercessor we know that ALL of us are intercessors because He lives in every one of us!

17. Romans 8:26a Do we know how to pray as we should?

Answer: ____

18. Romans 8:26b So how does the Holy Spirit help us?

Answer: With _____ too deep for words

We learned in the Study on The Baptism of the Holy Spirit that the word groanings refers to us allowing the Holy Spirit to pray through us. This is a travailing or crying out type of prayer which includes “Praying in Tongues”. This allows our minds to get out of the way and let God use our mouth to pray the perfect will of God!

19. Psalm 1:2b Read verses 1-3 and you will see the prosperous end result of a person who follows these instructions. But what discipline are they doing in verse 2 that brings forth the blessings of God?

Answer: They are _____ on God’s Word

Meditating in a Biblical sense is not just emptying one’s mind of all thoughts. The root meaning of the word Meditate means to say the Word of God under your breath, similar to muttering it. Since we are created in God’s image, and we know that He speaks Words and things are created, we ought to say and pray His promises out loud just like He does. This builds our faith so that we will have confidence that when we pray our prayers are being answered. We will talk more about how meditation on God’s Word operates in the Study of the topic of Faith.

The last type of Prayer that we will discuss is “Contemplative Prayer”. This is similar to Meditative Prayer but is deeper.

20. Psalm 91:1 What must one do in order to in order abide in the shadow of the Almighty?

Answer: _____ in the in the shelter of the Most High

To “Dwell” means that you make a conscious decision that you are going to focus on God and Him only! This will require finding a private place where all distractions are out of the way and you can just listen to what He wants to say to you. We know that God is personal and therefore we can experience Him in a personal way. He wants to tell us all kinds of things (to help us, not to hurt us).

21. John 15:7-8 What is the end result of our abiding ,(Dwelling), in God’s Word and presence?

Answer: We will bear much _____ and so prove to be His Disciples

Isn’t it amazing how much can be straightened out in our lives if we just give God the time to speak His thoughts and ways to us instead of us always just telling Him all the things that we think we need?

Let's conclude this study by looking at some attitudes and motives that can greatly affect whether or not we ever see our prayers answered.

22. I Thessalonians 5:17 How often or how long should we pray?

Answer: _____

“Without ceasing” means to keep praying regularly until you see the answer to your prayer manifested. And even after the answer God might lead you to keep praying for additional things related to your initial request(s).

23. James 4:3 What is one of the main reasons that our prayers go unanswered?

Answer: We ask with wrong _____ and spend it on our _____

24. Luke 18:2-8 In this Parable what are the two attitudes shown here by the Widow Woman that impress God and get his attention?

Answer: Her _____ and _____

25. Colossians 3:17 There is really only one name by which we should do all things in and that includes prayer!
What is that name?

Answer: _____

There are hundreds, if not thousands of scriptures on Prayer in the Bible, but here are just a few to get you started on your Essay.

Psalms 30:8; I Thessalonians 5:18; Acts 12:5; James 5:16; Mark 11:22-25; Luke 10:2

ANSWERS:

1. Father
2. Hallowed
3. Kingdom, Will
4. In Heaven
5. Daily Bread
6. Kingdom, Righteousness
7. Forgive
8. No
9. Temptation, Evil
10. Thanks
11. Thanksgiving
12. Requests
13. Decree
14. Agreement
15. 10,000
16. Intercessor
17. No
18. Groanings
19. Meditating
20. Dwell
21. Fruit
22. Without ceasing
23. Motives, pleasures
24. Persistence, Faith
25. Jesus