

Discipleship Pathway 1

Session 9: Prayer

"True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance. It is far deeper than that - it is a spiritual transaction with the Creator of Heaven and Earth." - Charles Spurgeon

Prayer is one of the most meaningful ways that we can _____ with God.

What is prayer? (Take a moment to discuss what prayer is with those at your table.)

Prayer is spiritual _____ between man and God, a two-way _____ in which man should not only talk to God but also listen to Him.¹

Prayer was a regular part of Jesus' daily devotional life. The Gospels are filled with instances where Jesus engaged God in prayer.

Read: Matthew 14:23, Luke 6:12, Mark 1:35.

What does your prayer life look like? How often do you pray? How much time do you spend in prayer? What kind of things do you pray about?

Jesus' daily prayer life was so meaningful and impactful, that it caused His disciples to request instruction in how to pray.

Read: Luke 11:1-4

The prayer Jesus offered provided a _____ for His disciples to use when approaching God. It reflects the personal connection that we can have with God by communicating a deepened sense of _____ and _____.

Prayer can be expressed in a variety of ways.

Read: 1 Timothy 2:1, Ephesians 6:18, and Philippians 4:6.

List some ways, found in these passages, in which prayers can be offered:

_____, _____, _____, _____.

Let's look at four primary types of prayer that we often see throughout scripture: thanksgiving, petitions, intercession and supplication.

¹ "What is Prayer?", accessed on 01/23/2023, <https://billygraham.org/answer/what-is-prayer>.

- Thanksgiving is a prayer of _____ towards God. Prayers of thanksgiving focus on _____ God is, rather than _____ God does.

Read: 1 Chronicles 29:10-13 & Psalm 36:5-9

- Petitions are prayers in which we are asking God to _____ us with wisdom, direction, healing, or to meet a specific need in our lives.

Read: Nehemiah 1:11 & 1 Kings 3:5-9

- Supplications are requests made to God that carry a deep sense of _____.

Read: Daniel 9:16-19 & Matthew 26:38-39

- Intercession is prayer offered on _____ of others. **Read:** Ezekiel 22:30.

How would you describe intercession based on this passage?

Intercession is when we stand in the _____ as a mediator between God and man. One of the best examples of this is found in the book of Genesis where Abraham is interceding with God on behalf of the righteous in Sodom & Gomorrah.

Read: Genesis 18:22-33.

Which of these four do you feel you need to practice more in your prayer time? Why?

Each of these prayers can be employed in our personal prayer lives, but the Bible also encourages us to pray _____ with other believers. We see this throughout the book of Acts: **Read:** Acts 1:14, Acts 2:42, & Acts 12:12

There is tremendous power in praying with other believers. God promises when we gather together, in this way, that He is both _____ and _____.

Read: Matthew 18:19-20

"Prayer delights God's ears; it melts his heart; and opens his hand. God cannot deny a praying soul."-Thomas Watson

Prayer is rooted in our relationship with God. Because we are His children, we can _____ ask anything according to His _____ and know that God will answer.

“And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.”- 1John 5:14-15

Read: Luke 11:9-13 & Jeremiah 29:11-12

This week's reading plan: Read: Exodus Ch. 31-40, Proverbs Ch.9