

The Christian and Prayer

What if, as a parent, your children never desired to talk to you about anything important and continually spurned your attempts at spending time together? What if your son or daughter never shared his or her thoughts with you, never confided in you or came to you for advice or help when they were in trouble? If you'd feel frustration and disappointment, then imagine how God must feel as our Heavenly Father when his children forget to spend time with Him in prayer. The last lesson dealt with how God communicates to us through His Word. This week we will study how we are to communicate to God through prayer.

What is prayer?

- Prayer is communication with God (Psalm 63:1-6)

Why should we pray?

- A. It is His will for us (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)
- B. It provides believers with one mind (i.e. unity)(Acts 1:14)
- C. Because God cares for us (1 Peter 5:7; Matthew 7:7-11)
- D. Because He will bless us with:
 1. Peace (Philippians 4:6-7)
 2. Joy (John 16:24)
 3. Encouragement (Luke 18:1, Ephesians 3:20)
 4. Fruit (John 15:7-8)
 5. Strength (Philippians 4:13)

How should we pray?

- A. Confession (agreeing with God about sin)
 1. Fulfilling a prerequisite to prayer (Psalm 66:18)
 2. Allowing God to search us (Psalm 139:23-24)
 3. Asking God to forgive us (Psalm 51:1-17, 1 John 1:9)
 4. Removing our sins completely (Psalm 103:12)
- B. Adoration (ascribing worth to God, "worthship")
 1. Recognizing God's majesty (Psalm 8)
 2. Singing God's praises Psalm (105:1-5)
 3. Remembering God's wonders (Revelation 15:1-4)

C. Thanksgiving

1. Being thankful; always and in everything (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)
2. Praying with gratefulness (Philippians 4:6, Colossians 2:7)
3. Demonstrating thankfulness through action (Luke 17:11-19)

D. Supplication

1. Letting your requests be made known to God (Philippians 4:6)
2. Asking confidently in Jesus' name (John 14:13-14)
3. Asking according to His will (1 John 5:14-15, James 4:3)
4. Casting our cares on Him (1 Peter 5:7)

When should we pray?

- A. In the morning (Psalm 5:3, Mark 1:35)
- B. In the evening (Matthew 14:23)
- C. At all times in the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 6:18)
- D. When we are alone (Matthew 6:5-6)
- E. When we are with other people (2 Corinthians 1:11)

How should we pray?

- A. Sincerely before God (Matthew 6:5-6)
- B. Boldly (Ephesians 2:17-18; Hebrews 4:16)
- C. With humility (1 Peter 5:6; Luke 18:9-14)
- D. With a clear conscience toward God (Psalm 66:18)
- E. With a clear conscience toward others (Matthew 5:23-24)
- F. With expectation of reward (Hebrews 11:6; James 1:6-8)
- G. Persistently (Luke 18:1-8)
- H. Openly before God (Psalm 139:23-24)
- I. With thankfulness; always and in everything (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18; Philippians 4:6)
- J. In Jesus' name (John 14:13-14)
- K. According to His will (1 John 5:14-15)
- L. In the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 6:18-20)

Who should we pray for?

- A. For kings and all who are in authority (1 Timothy 2:1-2)
- B. Saints (Ephesians 6:18)
- C. Church leaders (Hebrews 13:17-18)
- D. For your enemies (Matthew 5:44)

Memory verse: 1 John 2:6