

FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH

Prayer and the Believer

LESSON 8

FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH

Memory Verse

6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by
prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your
requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God,
which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts
and your minds in Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6–7

PRAYER

1. The Nature of Prayer

1. THE NATURE OF PRAYER

A. The Purpose of Prayer

- ✓ Prayer brings glory to God (John 14:13)

Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

JOHN 14:13

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- ✓ Prayer brings peace (Philippians 4:6–7)

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1. THE NATURE OF PRAYER

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- ✓ Prayer brings glory to God (John 14:13)
- ✓ Prayer brings peace (Philippians 4:6–7)
- ✓ We pray to confess sin (1 John 1:9)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 JOHN 1:9

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- ✓ Prayer brings peace (Philippians 4:6–7)
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- ✓ We pray to cast our budens upon God (1 Peter 5:6–7)



6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of
God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting
all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

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- ✓ Prayer brings peace (Philippians 4:6–7)
- ✓ We pray to confess sin (1 John 1:9)
- ✓ We pray to cast our budens upon God (1 Peter 5:6–7)
- ✓ Prayer is powerful (James 5:16–18)



16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for
one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a
righteous person has great power as it is working. 17 Elijah
was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed
fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six
months it did not rain on the earth. 18 Then he prayed
again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

JAMES 5:16–18

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Why pray if God is sovereign and all things have been decreed by Him?

1. THE NATURE OF PRAYER

B. Prayer Is Not an Option

- ✓ Jesus prayed (Matthew 14:23; Luke 5:16; 6:12)
- ✓ We are commanded to pray (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Ephesians 6:18)

And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,

But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.

In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God.

MATTHEW 14:23; LUKE 5:16; 6:12



1. THE NATURE OF PRAYER

B. Prayer Is Not an Option

- ✓ Jesus prayed (Matthew 14:23; Luke 5:16; 6:12)
- ✓ We are commanded to pray (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Ephesians 6:18)

pray without ceasing,

praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17; EPHESIANS 6:18

PRAYER

2. The Practice of Prayer

2. THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER

A. Conditions for Answered Prayer

- ✓ You must abide in Christ, and His words must abide in you (John 15:7)

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

JOHN 15:7

2. THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER

A. Conditions for Answered Prayer

- ✓ You must abide in Christ, and His words must abide in you (John 15:7)
- ✓ You must pray according to the will of God (1 John 5:14)



And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

1 JOHN 5:14

2. THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER

A. Conditions for Answered Prayer

- ✓ You must abide in Christ, and His words must abide in you (John 15:7)
- ✓ You must pray according to the will of God (1 John 5:14)
- ✓ Hindrances to answered prayer
  - ✓ Sin (Psalm 66:18)



If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

PSALM 66:18

2. THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER

A. Conditions for Answered Prayer

- ✓ You must abide in Christ, and His words must abide in you (John 15:7)
- ✓ You must pray according to the will of God (1 John 5:14)
- ✓ Hindrances to answered prayer
  - ✓ Sin (Psalm 66:18)
  - ✓ Wrong motives (James 4:3)



You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

JAMES 4:3

2. THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER

A. Conditions for Answered Prayer

- ✓ You must abide in Christ, and His words must abide in you (John 15:7)
- ✓ You must pray according to the will of God (1 John 5:14)
- ✓ Hindrances to answered prayer
  - ✓ Sin (Psalm 66:18)
  - ✓ Wrong motives (James 4:3)
  - ✓ Lack of faith (James 1:5–8)



5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives
generously to all without reproach, and it will be given
him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the
one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and
tossed by the wind. 7 For that person must not suppose
that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a
double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

JAMES 1:5–8

2. THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER

B. How to Pray

- ✓ **General Guidelines of Prayer**
  - ✓ Pray to the Father; through Christ; in the power of the Spirit (Matthew 6:9; Romans 1:8; Ephesians 2:17–18)

Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.

And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

MATTHEW 6:9; ROMANS 1:8; EPHESIANS 2:17–18

2. THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER

B. How to Pray

- ✓ **General Guidelines of Prayer**
  - ✓ Pray to the Father; through Christ; in the power of the Spirit (Matthew 6:9; Romans 1:8; Ephesians 2:17–18)
  - ✓ If you don’t know what to pray for, ask the Holy Spirit to intercede (Romans 8:26)



Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

ROMANS 8:26

2. THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER

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- ✓ **General Guidelines of Prayer**
  - ✓ Pray to the Father; through Christ; in the power of the Spirit (Matthew 6:9; Romans 1:8; Ephesians 2:17–18)
  - ✓ If you don’t know what to pray for, ask the Holy Spirit to intercede (Romans 8:26)
  - ✓ Prayer should be intimate communion with God (Matthew 6:6–8)



6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door
and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father
who sees in secret will reward you. 7 “And when you pray,
do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they
think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do
not be like them, for your Father knows what you need
before you ask him.

MATTHEW 6:6–8

2. THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER

B. How to Pray

- ✓ **General Guidelines of Prayer**
  - ✓ Pray to the Father; through Christ; in the power of the Spirit (Matthew 6:9; Romans 1:8; Ephesians 2:17–18)
  - ✓ If you don’t know what to pray for, ask the Holy Spirit to intercede (Romans 8:26)
  - ✓ Prayer should be intimate communion with God (Matthew 6:6–8)
  - ✓ Do not be hasty; let your words be few (Ecclesiastes 5:2)



Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few.

ECCLESIASTES 5:2



2. THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER

Jesus' Pattern for Prayer: Matthew 6:9–13

- ✓ **Pray to God** — Our Father who is in heaven
- ✓ **Exalt Him, saying** — Hallowed be Your name
- ✓ **Submit to Him, praying** — Your kingdom come, Your will be done
- ✓ **Look to Him, seeking** — Our daily bread (sustenance)
- ✓ **Confess to Him, pleading** — Forgive us our debts (sins)
- ✓ **Depend on Him, asking** — Do not lead us into temptation
- ✓ **Trust in Him, requesting** — Deliver us from evil



2. THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER

Four Important Areas of Prayer

- ✓ **Adoration:** Reflect on God Himself. Praise Him for His attributes, His majesty, and His gift of Christ.
- ✓ **Confession:** Admit to God that you have sinned. Be honest and humbe. Remember, He knows you and loves you.
- ✓ **Thanksgiving:** Tell God how grateful you are for everything He has given you, even the unpleasant things. Your thankfulness will help you see His purposes.
- ✓ **Supplication:** Make specific requests. Pray for others and then for yourself.



PRAYER

3. The Struggle of Prayer

3. THE STRUGGLE OF PRAYER

A. Prayer Can Be Discouraging (Psalm 22)

- ✓ 1–2 - David is discouraged and wonders why God does not answer.
- ✓ 3–6 - David recognizes God and remembers God’s past faithfulness. As David considers God, he is humbled
- ✓ 7–18 - David pours out his burdens upon the Lord.
- ✓ 19–21 - David calls on God for help and asks for assistance.
- ✓ 22–24 - David is move to praise God for he knows that God cares.
- ✓ 25–28 - David is lifted up.

3. THE STRUGGLE OF PRAYER

B. Answers to Prayer

- ✓ Prayer and the sovereignty of God

Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear.

ISAIAH 65:24

And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them?

LUKE 18:7

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.

LUKE 18:1

7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the
surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me
in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me
from becoming conceited. 8 Three times I pleaded with the
Lord about this, that it should leave me. 9 But he said to me,
“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect
in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my
weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2 CORITNHIANS 12:7–9

3. THE STRUGGLE OF PRAYER

B. Answers to Prayer

- ✓ Prayer and the sovereignty of God
- ✓ Claiming from God

PRAYER

4. Application