

CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

CHRISTIANS: HOW TO PRAY (Part 2)

SCRIPTURE READING:

⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. ⁹ For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers; ¹⁰ Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you (Rom 1:8-10).

INTRODUCTION:

- A. **“Prayer should be the key of the day and the lock of the night.”** – Thomas Fuller
- B. **“In the morning, prayer is the key that opens to us the treasures of God’s mercies and blessings: In the evening, it is the key that shuts us up under His protection and safeguard.”** – Anonymous
- C. **“It is a good thing to let prayer be the first business of the morning and the last in the evening.”** – Martin Luther
- D. **“To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.”** – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Christians How To Pray (Part 1) – RECAP

- I. Christians are to pray Secretly (Matt 6:5-6)
- II. Christians are to pray Watchfully (Matt 26:40-41)
- III. Christians are to pray Believing (Mark 9:14-19)

In Part 2 of this lesson, we will study four additional ways Christians are to pray to God:

- IV. **Christians are to Pray Increasingly** (1 Thess 5:17)
 - “Pray without ceasing” (1 Thess 5:17)
 - **“without ceasing”** – means without remission, constantly, without intermission
 - A. **Christians are to have a constant attitude of prayer.**

This does not mean that Believers must stay on their knees at all times, However, it does mean that we should have our minds always on the things of God, to be in constant communication with him, so that every moment may be as fruitful as possible. Believers should never give up on prayer.
 - B. **Christians are to pray regularly and constantly.**
 - C. **Christians who maintain an attitude of prayer acknowledge their dependence on God, realize God’s presence within themselves and are determined to obey God fully.**

D. Christians can pray at regularly designated times. However, we can also pray spontaneous, short prayers throughout the day.

1. David declared that he would pray at evening, morning, and noon.

- “¹⁶As for me, I will call upon God; and the Lord shall save me. ¹⁷Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice” (Ps 55:16-17).

2. Daniel prayed three times a day (Daniel 6:10-17)

- “Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime” (Dan 6:10).

3. Scheduled Prayers

Peter scheduled his prayer time to be with God three times a day.

- a. Peter prayed with the church at the third hour of the day – 9:00 a.m. (Acts 2:15).
- b. “Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour” (Acts 3:1) – Peter and John prayed at the ninth hour – 3:00 p.m.
- c. “Peter went up upon the house top to pray about the sixth hour” – 12:00 noon (Acts 10:9).

E. Spontaneous Prayer

1. Acts 12:1-7 reveals that after Peter was miraculously rescued from prison, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John Mark where a group of Believers had gathered, praying for Peter’s release – Peter was knocking on the door, trying to get in during the prayer meeting. The prayers of this group of Believers were answered while they were praying.
2. Jesus spent “all night in prayer to God” before selecting His Twelve Apostles (Luke 6:12-13).

❖ **Christians should pray whenever and however the occasion calls for it.**

V. Christians are to Pray Abidingly (John 15:7-8)

“⁷If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. ⁸Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples” (John 15:7-8).

- “**Abide**” – means to dwell, continue, stay, sojourn, rest in or upon

A. Jesus Christ is the Vine – Christians are the Branches (v. 5a)

1. Those abiding in Christ will produce much fruit (c. 5b).
2. Those without Christ can do nothing (v. 5c).

B. The Believer abiding in Christ and Christ in him will pray about everything and will obediently follow His lead (v. 5).

1. The Believer abiding in Christ realizes that Believers (The Branches) receive their spiritual nourishment from Christ (The Vine).
2. The Believer abiding in Christ and His Word abiding in the Believer will lead to Believers getting to know Christ through His Word and a greater understanding of His Will.

C. The Believer abiding in Christ realizes that Prayer requires two-way communication – A Relationship with Christ.

1. The relationship is talking to God and listening to God.
2. Abiding in Christ and His Word is the way God communicates with Believers.

D. The Benefits of abiding in Christ through Prayer

1. The Believer can have confidence in prayer because Christ hears us
 - “And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us” (1 John 5:14).
2. The Believer is confident that God will answer his prayer.
 - “I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God: incline thine ear unto me, and hear my speech” (Ps 17:6).
3. The Believer will be devoted to prayer.
 - “Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer” (Rom 12:12).
4. The Believer will pray about everything.
 - “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God” (Phil 4:6).

VI. Christians are to Pray Directly (James 5:17-18)

“¹⁷Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. ¹⁸And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit” (James 5:17-18).

- “**Directly**” – refers to the pointedness of Definite Petition.
- “**Petition**” – means a request for something desired; a humble request.

A. Elijah is a great example of the Power of Prayer.

He was a human just like us – He had passions and feelings just as we have. He faced the same trials and temptations just as we do.

1. First Petition

Elijah earnestly prayed for it not to rain – It did not rain for 3 years and 6 months.

2. Second Petition

He prayed again for it to rain, and it rained and “The earth brought forth her fruit” (v. 18).

❖ **Earnest and Fervent prayer is effective – It works – God hears and answers prayers.**

B. Four lessons we can learn from Elijah’s earnest prayer that can help us in our prayer lives.

1. Believers are to be completely dependent upon God (1 Kings 17:5-6).

2. Believers are to pray Boldly for God-sized miracles (1 Kings 18:36, 38).

3. Believers are to point the world back to God (1 Kings 18:36-37).

4. Believers are to pray fervently until God answers their prayers (1 Kings 18:42-45).

○ “⁷ Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: ⁸ For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened” (Matt 7:7-8).

○ “And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive” (Matt 21:22).

○ “Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full” (John 16:24).

VII. Christians are to Pray Effectually (Jude 20)

“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost” (Jude 20).

○ “**Effectual**” – means to be operative, put forth in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Believers build up themselves by praying in the Holy Spirit. To Pray in the Holy Spirit means:

A. Believers are to Pray under the guidance, power, and influence of the Holy Spirit.

B. Believers are to seek the help of the Holy Spirit while approaching the throne of Grace.

C. Believers are to focus their minds and concentrate upon the Holy Spirit's help during prayer and be dependent upon Him to help us.

D. Believers are to walk in the Holy Spirit day by day and offer unbroken prayers to God without ceasing.

❖ **The Holy Spirit is the Believers Intercessor**

- “²⁶Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God” (Rom 8:26-27).
- “Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving” (Col 4:2).
- “Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually” (1 Chron 16:11).

MEMORY VERSE:

“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Heb 4:16).

CONCLUSION:

A. Christians are to Pray Increasingly, Abidingly, Directly and Effectually.

B. Personal Devotions

In the 1880s a young man who was an earnest Christian found employment in a pawnshop. Although he disliked the work, he did it faithfully as unto the Lord until a more desirable opportunity opened for him. To prepare himself for a life of Christian service, he wrote on a scrap of paper the following resolutions: “I do promise God that I will rise early every morning to have a few minutes—not less than five—in private prayer. I will endeavor to conduct myself as a humble, meek, and zealous follower of Jesus, and by serious witness and warning I will try to lead others to think of the needs of their immortal souls. I hereby vow to read no less than four chapters in God's Word every day. I will cultivate a spirit of self-denial and will yield myself a prisoner of love to the Redeemer of the world.” That young man was William Booth, who later led thousands to Christ and founded the Salvation Army. – (Ministry 127 - Our Daily Bread, June 28, 1989).

C. Romans Road (Rom 3:10, 23; 5:8; 10:9, 13)

**From the Teaching Ministry of:
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“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).