

CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

PRAYER: COMMUNICATING WITH GOD

SCRIPTURE READING:

¹And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples. ²And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. ³Give us day by day our daily bread. ⁴And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil” (Luke 11:1-4).

INTRODUCTION:

A. In our Scripture Reading – The Model Prayer – Jesus taught His Disciples who to address their prayers to and then make requests:

1. **First, Praise God** “... our Father which are in Heaven, hallowed be they name ...” (v. 2). Prayer must be offered to God through Jesus Christ (John 14:13-14).
 - a. **“Our Father”** is indicative of an intimate family relationship – Born Again in Christ Jesus.
 - b. **“Hallowed be thy name”** is the Believer expressing that God is to be revered, magnified, glorified and adorned.
2. **Second**, the Believer makes his requests known to God (vv. 3-4)
3. Jesus taught His Disciples about forgiveness which is the cornerstone of a relationship with God. As Believers, God has forgiven our sins, therefore, we must forgive those who have sinned against us.
 - **“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you”** (Eph 4:32).

B. Christian Quotes on Prayer:

1. “Prayer will make you leave off sinning, or sinning will make you leave off praying.” – (Charles H. Spurgeon)
2. “Prayer delights God’s ear, it melts his heart, it opens His hand: God cannot deny a praying soul.” – (Thomas Watson).

C. “Because You Ask Not”

Evangelist John R. Rice once wrote, “I once imagined I was in Heaven, walking along with the Angel Gabriel. I said, “Gabe, what is that big building over there?” “You’ll be disappointed,” he answered. “I don’t think you want to see it.” But I insisted, and he proceeded to show me floor after floor of beautiful gifts, all wrapped and ready to be sent. “Gabriel, what are all of these?” He said, I thought rather sadly, “We wrapped all these things, but people never called for them.” – (Robert J. Morgan: Preachers Sourcebook of Creative Sermon Illustrations).

According to Dr. Herbert Lockyer, “Scripture is plain upon the point that God hears and answers prayer. His ear is never heavy that it cannot hear the right kind of petition (Isa 59:1). We are urged to pray at all times, in all places, for all needs. It is essential to believe that God is a rewarder of all who diligently seek Him” (Heb 11:6).

The Scope of His promise is:

- I. WITHOUT LIMIT OF SPACE: “PRAY EVERYWHERE”** (1 Tim 2:8)
“I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting” (1 Tim 2:8).
- The Believer is to pray everywhere and pray in the right spirit.
 - The Believer is to “Pray without Ceasing” (1 Thess 5:17).
- A. The Believer is to Pray Everywhere – Regardless of where He is. Pray-Pray-Pray!**
1. The Believer is to pray in church. Public and Corporate prayers, pray for Godly Sermons, before the Lord’s Supper and Evangelism of the Unsaved.
 2. Pray for those in your Home, Church, Community and Country.
 3. Pray for those on the Mission Field for Christ at home and abroad.
 4. Pray Everywhere – In the restaurant before eating (in the right spirit – not for show).
 5. Pray for Journey Mercies before traveling, driving or riding in a care. As Dr. Charles Stanley said, thank God that you were not involved in a traffic crash.
 6. Pray on the Job, for yourself, customers, co-workers, and supervisors – Be “Honest ... and seek to “live peaceably with all men” (Rom 12:17-18).
- B. How are Believers to Pray – In the Right Spirit (v. 8)**
1. **The Believer is to pray “Lifting Up Holy Hands”**
The Believer should not approach God with sin in his life – the practice of sin.
 - “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me” (Ps 66:18).
 - “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear” (Isa 59:2).
 2. **The Believer is to approach God “Without Wrath”**
The Believer is to approach God without anger or hatred in his heart against another person.
 - “But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matt 6:15).
 - “So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses” (Matt 18:35).
 3. **The Believer is to Pray without “Doubting”**
The Believer is to pray believing that God will hear and answer his prayer. Believe God and trust God to meet your needs.
 - “Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them” (Mark 11:24).

- “⁶ But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. ⁷ For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord” (James 1:6-7).

II. WITHOUT LIMIT OF TIME: “ALWAYS” (Luke 18:1)

“And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint” (Luke 18:1).

“Always” means at all times, evermore, to be in a constant state of praying.

A. The Believer is to Pray “Always”

We do not have a limit on the number of times to pray in a day, week, month or year – We have unlimited access to God.

B. Biblical Examples of Prayer

1. Job’s Prayer of Praise (Job 1:21)

Job praised God in the midst of his adversity and calamity (Job 1).

2. David’s Prayer for God’s Guidance (Ps 25:1-5)

David asked God to lead him and show him the path to follow. David told God that he put his trust in Him.

3. Daniel’s Prayer to God – In Times of Great Trouble (Daniel 6)

Daniel chose to worship God over the law (v. 10). His decision led to his sentence of being placed in a pit of lions for praying and worshipping God (Dan 6:13-18).

- “Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29).
- Always choose God over man – Obey God at all times at and at any cost.

4. Prayer for Humility (Luke 18:9-14)

The Publican Prayed – “God be merciful to me a sinner” (v. 13). The Publican’s Prayer should be our prayer because we all need God’s mercy every day. We should not brag about our achievements which cut us off from God.

5. Those Who Prayed Three Times A Day

a. David prayed three times a day

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

b. Daniel prayed three times a day

- “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).

c. Peter prayed three times a day

- “For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day” (Acts 2:15).

- “Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour” (Acts 3:1).
- “On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour” (Acts 10:9).
- You may pray more than three times a day – Have an active prayer life with God – He is waiting to hear from you.
- **Don’t Quit Praying**
One of my favorite Scripture passages in the gospels is found in Luke 18:1–8. The first verse states the Lord’s purpose, “And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.” The purpose of this parable was to encourage God’s people in the matter of praying; it was also to give them an incentive not to quit praying (Dr. Kevin Folger, Ministry 127, Prayer).

III. **WITHOUT LIMIT ON SUBJECT: “EVERYTHING”** (Phil 4:6)

“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).

- **“Everything”** means all, the whole, every kind of .
 - There is nothing too great or too small for God’s loving care.
- A. The Believer is to “Be Careful for Nothing”**
Do not worry about anything – **Take it to the Lord in Prayer.**
1. Prayer is the remedy for worrying and anxiety.
 2. God will overcome the trials of life for the Believer, no matter how terrible the situations may be.
 - The Believer, “should be anxious in nothing, prayerful in everything, thankful for everything.” – Anonymous

B. The Believer is to Walk With God in Prayer

1. Pray in times of Bible Reading and Evangelism.
2. Pray for specific needs for yourself and others.
3. Prayer also includes offering Thanksgiving and Praises to God for the many Blessings He bestows to you.
4. The Believer is to pray about everything, no matter how small or insignificant it may seem. God is interested in every aspect of the Believer’s life. God wants the Believer to acknowledge Him in all cases or steps. He wants to care and look after every single step.

- “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you” (Matt 7:7).
- “Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man” (Luke 21:36).
- “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints” (Eph 6:18).

POINTS TO PONDER:

- How is your prayer life with God?
- Do you take everything to God in prayer? – No matter is too great or small for God’s loving grace.
- Are you praying for others? – Those in authority, church members, the unsaved, Pastors, Ministers, Christian workers and First Responders.

MEMORY VERSE ON PRAYER:

“Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving” (Col 4:2)

CONCLUSION:

A. “Who we are, that we should be able to tell Him all? He is High and Holy, yet here are we, with authority to come before God at any time, in any place, through ... the Power of Prayer” – (Dr. Herbert Lockyer).

B. I Need Thee Every Hour

I need Thee every hour Most gracious Lord, No tender voice like Thine Can peace afford
I need Thee every hour, Teach me Thy will; And Thy rich promises in me fulfill.
I need Thee, O I need Thee, Every hour I need Thee, O bless me now, my Savior, I come to
Thee

C. ABC’s of Salvation

- **A – Admit** that you’re a sinner and that you cannot save yourself (Rom 3:23, Eph 2:8-9).
- **B – Believe** that Jesus died on the Cross and rose again for your sins (Rom 5:8, 1 Cor. 15:3-4).
- **C – Confess**/Call on Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior (Rom 10:9-13)

❖ **The main points of this lesson are taken from quote by Dr. Herbert Lockyer**

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