

# **Sermons on Prayer**

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# What is Prayer?

## Introduction:

1. A subject that one can see throughout the pages of God's Word is that of Prayer.
2. In every era of Bible history, God's people were people of prayer.
3. What is Prayer?
4. In our time together, let us consider the meaning of prayer.

## Discussion:

### I. Adoration.

- A. The meaning of Worship.
  1. There are four Hebrew words translated in our English Bibles as worship.
  2. The most often used means "to bow down to do homage (respect or reverence paid or given)."
  3. In Greek, worship means "to kiss the hand toward or to serve."
- B. Prayer is an act of worship (Acts 2:42).
  1. Prayer brings us into the presence of God (Heb. 4:16).
  2. Prayer directs our focus on God.
  3. Prayer aligns our will with God (Matt. 26:39).

### II. Communication.

- A. The word "Prayer" (προσευχή) refers to a petition made to God.
- B. Calling on the name of the Lord in praise, worship, and dependence (Genesis 4:26; 12:8; 26:25; 1 Kings 18:24; Zephaniah 3:9; Psalm 72:12-15).
- C. Calling on God for help and strength (Psalm 4:1,3; 18:6; 50:15).
- D. Seeking God's face in time of distress (2 Chronicles 7:14; Psalm 105:4).
- E. Seeking the Lord in times of fear or great need (Psalm 34:4; Isaiah 55:6).
- F. Crying out to God (Psalm 3:3-4).
- G. Lifting up your soul to God (Psalm 28).
- H. Approaching God's Throne of Grace and Salvation (Hebrews 4:16; 10:22).

### III. Classification (Phil. 4:6; 1 Tim. 2:1).

- A. Prayer.
  1. The word "prayer" (προσευχή - found 37 times in NT) refers to a petition addressed to deity.
  2. These would be general requests (Matt. 21:22; Lk. 6:12; Acts 2:42; Rom. 12:12).
- B. Supplication.
  1. The word "supplication" (δέησις - found 18 times in NT) refers to an urgent request to meet a need, exclusively addressed to God.
  2. It refers to a want in the sense that you are in poverty (Lk. 1:13; Acts 1:14; Rom. 10:1; Eph. 6:18; Heb. 5:7; Jam. 5:16).
- C. Intercession.
  1. The word "intercession" (ἑντευξις - found 2 times in NT) refers to a petition on behalf of someone else.
  2. This word is associated with "sanctification" (1 Tim. 4:4-5).
- D. Thanksgiving.
  1. The word "thanksgiving" (εὐχαριστία - found 15 times in NT) refers to the expression or content of gratitude (Col. 4:2; Rev. 7:12).

E. Requests.

1. The word “requests” (αἴτημα – found 3 times in NT) refers to a specific request.
2. Though God already knows our every need before we approach Him, we need to name that which is troubling us in life (1 John 5:15).

**IV. Determination.**

- A. Prayer is not a cowardly approach before God.
- B. We are his children!
- C. We can approach Him with Boldness (Heb. 4:16).

**Conclusion:**

1. What is Prayer?
2. It’s an opportunity to worship God and to communicate with Him.
3. Let’s approach our heavenly Father continually with boldness.

# “Lord, Teach us to Pray”

(Text: Luke 11:1-13)

## **Introduction:**

1. One of the greatest blessings we have as Christians is “prayer!”
2. Jam. 5:16; 1 Pet. 3:12; Psa. 34:17.
3. 1 Pet. 3:12; Psa. 34:17; Jn. 14:14; Matt. 7:7-8; 1 Jn. 5:14.
4. How does the Lord want us to Pray?

## **Discussion:**

### **I. Relationship (vs. 2).**

- A. “Our Father.”
- B. We are His children (1 Jn. 3:1).
- C. In any relationship, the more time you spend together, the stronger that relationship will become (Lk. 18:1; Rom. 12:12; 1 Thess. 5:17; Psa. 55:17).

### **II. Reverence (vs. 2).**

- A. God is to be revered (Psa. 33:8; Eccl. 12:13).
  1. When we fear God, He hears us (Psa. 145:18-19).
- B. How do we approach God with reverence?
  1. “Our Father.” (The term “Father” is a term of respect. How sad it is to hear of individuals referring to our Father as “daddy” or “big guy in the sky.”)
  2. “Hollowed” means to render or pronounce holy. It means to respect greatly. It’s a term that focuses on God’s reputation.
  3. God is holy (Psa. 99:5; 1 Pet. 15-16).
  4. His name is holy and reverend (Psa. 111:9).

### **III. Kingdom Success (vs. 2).**

- A. The kingdom is the church (Matt. 16:16-18).
- B. The Church is already in existence (Mk. 9:1; Acts 2:47; Col. 1:13).

### **IV. Obedience (vs. 2).**

- A. “Thy will be done.” (Matt. 6:33).
- B. God’s will is that we are obedient, that we are holy (1 Pet. 1:15-16; Matt. 6:33).

### **V. Dependence (vs. 3).**

- A. God already knows what we need before we go to Him in prayer (Isa. 65:24).
- B. “Give us our daily bread.”
  1. The word “bread” is a figure of speech that represents our needs; everything to sustain life.
  2. This petition expresses our dependence on God for our physical needs and wants.

### **VI. Forgiveness (vs. 4).**

- A. The word “debts” refers to that which is owed.
- B. Prayer involves forgiveness.
  1. Forgiveness for our sins (1 Jn. 1:7; Jam. 5:19-20).
  2. Forgiveness for others (Eph. 4:32).
  3. Our forgiveness depends on our willingness to forgive others (Matt. 6:14-15).

### **VII. Deliverance (vs. 4).**

- A. Deliverance from temptation.
  1. Every man suffers from temptation (Jam. 1:14-15).

2. God has promised a way of escape from every temptation (1 Cor. 10:13).
3. Why not ask for deliverance before we enter temptation (Lk 11:9-10).

B. Deliverance from the evil one (1 Pet. 5:8).

### **VIII. Persistence (vs. 5-10).**

A. The story of the friend at midnight (vs. 5-8).

1. Though this man will not assist because he is his friend, he will assist him because of his importunity.
2. The word importunity means shamelessness or persistence.
3. The point of the story is the friend in need is not ashamed to keep knocking because of his need.
4. As Christians, we should not be ashamed to persistently petition God with our needs (Heb. 4:16).
  - a. Our persistence expresses our dependence on God.

B. An exhortation to pray (vs. 9-10).

1. The words ask, seek, and knock are present active verbs that refer to an ongoing action.
2. Though we are to persistently pray, our prayers are answered based upon the love, grace and mercy of God

### **Conclusion:**

1. In this lesson we have seen that the Lord wants us to pray and He has given us a pattern to follow.
2. We must be in a relationship with God for our prayers to be heard.
3. If you're not a child of God, why not become one today?

# The Power of Prayer

## Introduction:

1. When it comes to prayer...
  - a. We are encouraged to pray (Lk. 18:1).
  - b. We are commanded to pray (1 Thess. 5:16-18).
  - c. We are taught how to pray (Matt. 6:9-13).
  - d. We can have confidence in Prayer (1 Jn. 5:14-15).
  - e. Why???
2. There is power in prayer (Jam. 5:16!)
  - a. A “righteous man” is in a right relationship with God.
  - b. It is “effective” (ἐνεργέω) to produce an active effect.
  - c. It “avails” (ἰσχύω) strong, powerful, able, and robust.
    - (1) “Prevail” (Acts 19:20).
    - (2) “I can do” (Phil 4:13).
3. Do we understand why Prayer was an active part of the early church (Acts 2:42)?
4. Just as they gave themselves continually to prayer, we should do the same (Acts 6:4).

## Discussion:

### I. Prayer Leads to Salvation.

- A. Prayer does “NOT” save the alien sinner from sin, but it does open doors of opportunity to teach the lost.
- B. Paul prayed for the salvation of his brethren (Rom. 10:1).
- C. Prayer opens doors to teach the gospel (Col. 4:3).
- D. That the word of the Lord might have free course (2 Thess. 3:1).

### II. Prayer Delivers.

- A. Difficult situations (Philemon 1:22; Phil. 1:19; Matt. 6:13; 2 Pet. 2:9).
- B. Temptation (Matt. 26:41).
- C. Death (2 Cor. 1:8-11).

### III. Prayer Defends.

- A. We are to put on the whole armor of God to protect us against the wiles and the fiery darts of the devil (Eph. 6:10-20).
- B. Prayer helps defeat the devil (Eph. 6:18).

### IV. Prayer Heals.

- A. Heals physically.
  1. Save from death (Heb. 5:7).
  2. Prayer heals (Jam. 5:13).
- B. Heals Spiritually.
  1. Jam. 5:16; Acts 8:22
- C. Heal our nation (1 Tim. 2:1-2).

### V. Prayer Fortifies.

- A. To stand perfect and complete in the will of God (Col. 4:12).
  1. The word “stand” (ἵστημι) means to establish or to set firmly in place.

## Conclusion:

1. Prayer is a powerful tool.
2. Why not make it a part of your life today?

# Confidence in Prayer

## Introduction:

1. Why is it that people do not pray?
  - a. Don't have time.
  - b. Don't think it's important (Heb. 5:7).
  - c. Don't know what to say (Rom. 8:26).
  - d. Don't think it makes any difference.
2. The Bible teaches that we can have confidence in prayer (1 John 5:14-15).
3. How can we have confidence in prayer?

## Discussion:

### I. The Privilege of Prayer.

- A. Understanding the meaning of "confidence."
  1. The word "confidence" (*παρρησία*) means to speak with openness and frankness; not being afraid to speak all that one thinks.
- B. Verses encouraging Prayer (1 Chron. 16:11; Psa. 17:6; 34:15, 17; 116:1-2; Jer. 29:12; Lk. 6:12; 18: 1; Rom. 12:12; Eph. 6:18; Col. 4:2; 1 Thess. 5:16-17; Heb. 4:16; 1 Jn. 5:14-15).
- C. These verses are written to give God's people confidence in prayer!

### II. The Position of Prayer.

- A. Prayer has been designed for those who are "in Christ Jesus."
- B. Those who are in Christ, are His children (Gal. 3:26-27; Rom. 8:16-17; Matt. 6:9; 7:7-11).

### III. The Purpose of Prayer.

- A. Prayer is designed to...
  1. To glorify the Father (Jn. 14:13-14).
  2. Prayer pleases God (Prov. 15:8).
- B. What kind of prayer glorifies and pleases God?
  1. Prayers that are according to His will.
    - a. God's will is that all men be saved (1 Tim. 2:4; Jn. 6:40).
  2. We must have faith (Matt. 21:22; Mk. 11:24; Eph. 3:12).
  3. Obedience (Jn 14:13-15; 1 Jn. 3:22).
  4. Dependence (Psa. 34:17).
    - a. The phrase "cry out" means to shout loudly. It refers to one begging and pleading.
    - b. Examples (Exod. 17:1-4; Num. 11:1-2).

## Conclusion:

1. We can have confidence in prayer.
2. Our confidence in prayer depends on our faith in prayer (Matt. 21:22; James 1:5-8).

# “Keys to Acceptable Prayer”

## Introduction:

1. One of the greatest privileges we have as Christians is the avenue of prayer.
2. Christians have the assurance that God will hear and answer prayer (1 Jn. 5:15).
3. The prayer of a Christian is powerful (Jam. 5:16).
4. What can we as Christians do to assure that our prayers will be accepted by God?
5. To be effective, prayer must be offered according to the divine order.
6. Let us analyze what the Bible teaches regarding the laws of prayer.

## Discussion:

### I. Nonessentials to Acceptable Prayer.

- A. A particular body posture.
  1. Several different positions are seen in Scripture.
    - a. Falling upon one's face (Num. 16:22; 1 Chron. 21:16-17; Matt. 26:39).
    - b. Standing (1 Kings 8:22-23; Mk. 11:25; Lk. 18:13).
    - c. Lifting up hands (Psa. 28:2; 1 Kings 8:22-23; Lam. 2:19).
    - d. Lifting up the eyes (Jn. 17:1).
    - e. Kneeling (Psa. 95:6; Lk. 22:41; Acts 20:36).
  - B. Flowery impressive language (Matt. 6:5).

### II. Essentials to Acceptable Prayer.

- A. A proper life.
  1. One must be righteous (1 Pet. 3:12; Psa. 51).
    - a. To be righteous, one must do or practice righteousness (1 Jn. 3:7).
    - b. Practicing righteousness involves keeping the commandments of God (Psa. 119:172; Jn. 15:7).
  2. One who does not hear and do the will of God will not have his prayers heard (Prov. 28:9; Psa. 66:18).
- B. A proper disposition. (One must pray with:)
  1. Reverence (Matt. 6:9; Psa. 111:9).
  2. Submission (1 Jn. 5:14; Matt. 26:39).
  3. Sincerity (Matt. 6:5-6).
    - a. The Pharisees did not pray from the heart (Matt. 6:5).
      - (1) The word “hypocrites” (ὑποκριταί) refers to someone completely devoid of sincerity and genuineness.
      - (2) Prayer involves sincerity. It must be from the heart (Matt. 15:7-9).
    - b. When our prayers are not from the heart, they become vain or empty.
    - c. My worship becomes empty (Jn. 4:24).
  4. Humility (Lk. 18:9-14; 1 Pet. 5:5-7).
    - a. Deep humility is taught and expected (2 Chron. 7:14; 34:27).
    - b. Such humility can be seen in the life of the Publican (Lk. 18:9-14).
  5. Obedience.
    - a. Our whole personality must move in the direction of prayer.
      - (1) It is not so much what you say when you pray, but what you are.
    - b. We must be obedient (Deut. 11:13; Rom. 6:17).
    - c. God answers the prayers of those who know, obey, and keep His commands (Jn. 14:14-15; 1 Jn. 3:22).



6. Faith.

- a. Without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6).
- b. Faith is a necessity when it comes to prayer (Mk. 11:22-24; James 1:5-7).
- c. The need for faith can be seen in Christ's attitude towards those seeking His aid (Matt. 9:27-31).

C. Proper authority.

1. One must pray in the name of Christ (Col. 3:17).
  - a. "In the name of" = by the authority of.
  - b. Jesus is the Christian's High Priest (Heb. 8:1-2), Mediator (1 Tim. 2:5) and Advocate (1 Jn. 2:1-2), therefore, all prayers should go through Him.

D. Proper purpose.

1. Prayer is not about getting what we want in life (Jam. 4:3).
2. We must ask things according to His will (1 Jn. 5:14-15).
3. When His will is our will we may ask whatsoever we desire (Jn. 15:7).

E. Proper frequency.

1. One always ought to pray and not lose heart (Lk. 18:1).
2. The Christian should pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17).

**Conclusion:**

1. Are your prayers heard and accepted by God?
2. Are you doing the things necessary to ensure that your prayers will be heard and accepted?

# Hindrances to Prayer

## Introduction:

1. Read 1 Peter 3:7.
  - a. The word “hindrance” (ἐγκόπτω) means to cut into or to cut off or out; to render ineffective (Matt. 3:10).
2. According to this passage, some things can hinder my prayer life.
3. Let us consider some things that may hinder my prayers.

## Discussion:

### I. A lack of Faith (Jam. 1:5-7).

- A. When it comes to prayer, we must believe (Mk. 11:24).
- B. A lack of faith hinders our prayers.

### II. A Lack of Love (Prov. 17:9).

- A. The Bible encourages love.
  1. Love is the badge of discipleship (Jn. 13:34-35).
  2. Love our brethren (Jn. 15:12; 1 Jn. 4:7-8; 1 Pet. 1:22-23).
  3. Love our neighbor (Matt. 22:35-40).
  4. Love God (Matt. 22:37-40).
- B. When we fail to love, our prayers are hindered.

### III. An Unforgiving Spirit.

- A. Forgiveness is demanded (Eph. 4:32).
- B. Our forgiveness depends on our willingness to forgive others (Matt. 6:14-15).
- C. When we fail to forgive, our prayers are hindered.

### IV. Unreconciled Differences.

- A. Consider the text of Matthew 5:23-24.
  1. Bringing the gift before the altar represents approaching God.
  2. The word “reconciled” means to change from hostility to peace especially between persons, to restore to a state of harmony, to renew a friendship.
  3. If we have differences with our brethren and do not seek to reconcile, our prayers are hindered.

### V. Selfishness (Jam. 4:3).

- A. Prayer is not about me.
- B. Prayer is designed to glorify the Father (Jn. 14:13-14).
- C. Prayer that glorifies God is according to His will (1 Jn. 5:14).

### VI. An Improper Treatment of Spouse (1 Pet. 3:7).

- A. Proper treatment of one’s spouse.
  1. Understanding.
    - a. The word “knowledge” means to be understanding.
    - b. Men and women are very different.
    - c. The husband has the responsibility of understanding his wife.
  2. Honor.
    - a. The word “honor” means to value and respect.
  - b. Motivation for honor.
    - (1) Weaker vessel.
      - (a) Peter is not referring to spiritual weakness (Gal. 3:26-29).
      - (b) Peter has in mind physical weakness.

- (c) The husband's responsibility is to lead, care for and provide for his wife (Eph. 5:23, 28-29; 1 Tim. 5:8).
- (2) Heirs of the grace of life.
  - (a) This phrase refers to recipients of eternal life (1 Jn. 2:25; 1 Tim 6:19; 1 Jn. 5:13).

**VII. Idols in the Heart (Ezek. 14:3).**

- A. An idol is anything that comes between me and God
- B. Idolatry is sinful (Gal. 5:19-21).
- C. Idols in the heart cause our prayers to be hindered.

**VIII. Refusing to help those in Need (Prov. 21:13).**

- A. The Bible demands that we do good to all (Gal. 6:10).
- B. When we fail to help, our prayers are hindered.

**IX. Refusing to hear the Law (Prov. 28:9).**

- A. Everything we know about prayer is found in the Bible.
- B. Reading the Bible encourages and motivates prayer.
- C. When we reject God's Word our prayers are hindered.

**X. Sin (Psa. 66:18).**

- A. The word "regard" means to look at, to look after, or to gaze upon.
  - 1. The idea is to cherish something.
- B. The word "heart" refers to the mind (Prov. 23:7).
- C. If I have a love for sin, my prayers are hindered.

**Conclusion:**

- 1. According to the Bible, our prayers can be hindered.
- 2. Let us live our lives in a way that our prayers will never be hindered.

# “Prayers of Supplication”

## Introduction:

1. As we think about the different kinds of prayers, there are five: General, Supplication, Intercession, Thanksgiving, and Requests (1 Tim. 2:1; Phil. 4:6).
2. Let us consider “the prayer of supplication.”
3. God hears our supplications (1 Pet. 3:12).

## Discussion:

### I. The Meaning.

- A. The word “supplication” (δέησις – found 18 times in NT) refers to an urgent request to meet a need, exclusively addressed to God. To humbly ask.
- B. It refers to a want in the sense that you are in poverty (Lk. 1:13; Acts 1:14; Rom. 10:1; Eph. 6:18; Heb. 5:7; Jam. 5:16).

### II. Examples.

- A. Bible Examples.
  1. The Prayer of Moses (Exod. 32:30-32)
  2. The prayer of Hezekiah (2 Kings 20:1-3).
  3. The prayers of David (Psalm 51, 86).
  4. The Prayer of Jesus (Heb. 5:7).
- B. Examples Today.
  1. Salvation.
    - a. The world population is 7,845,927,418.
    - b. People who have died today are 106,290.
    - c. Paul prayed for salvation (Rom. 10:1).
  2. Restoration (Gal. 6:1-2; Jam. 5:19-20).
  3. Forgiveness
  4. Healing (Jam. 5:16).
  5. Protection.
    - a. Physical
    - b. Spiritual (Eph. 6:18).
  6. Unity (Psa. 133:1; 1 Cor. 1:10).

### III. Requirements.

- A. Faith (James. 1:3-5).
- B. Thanksgiving.

## Conclusion:

1. There are times in the life of every Christian when we have urgent needs.
2. Why not take those needs to God knowing He will fulfill our needs.

# Intercessory Prayer

## Introduction:

1. As we think about the different kinds of prayers, there are five: General, Supplication, Intercession, Thanksgiving, and Requests (1 Tim. 2:1; Phil. 4:6).
2. Let us consider “the prayer of Intercession.”
3. What is intercessory prayer?

## Discussion:

### I. The Definition.

- A. The word “intercession” (ἑντευξις) means to meet with to have a conversation.
  1. It refers to an arranged meeting or appointment to speak about another person.
  2. When used concerning prayer, intercession refers to an arranged meeting with God to talk with him about someone else.
  3. Before every service, the church is encouraged to pray for certain individuals.
  4. Such is intercessory prayer.

### II. Design of Intercession.

- A. The purpose of intercessory prayer is to pray for someone to secure God’s grace and restore one to a useful relationship with Him.
- B. Jesus makes intercession for us (Heb. 7:25; Rom. 8:34).
- C. Holy Spirit makes intercession for us (Rom. 8:27).
- D. Moses (Exod. 32:30).
- E. Such is our responsibility today.
  1. Christians are priests of God (Rev. 1:5; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9).
  2. As members of the royal priesthood, we can make intercession for others.

### III. The Demand for Intercession

- A. Jesus demanded it (Matt. 5:44).
- B. Paul demanded it (Rom. 15:30).
- C. Author of Hebrews demanded it (Heb. 13:18).
- D. James demanded it (Jam. 5:16).
- E. Every Christian must give himself to the ministry of Intercession (Gal. 6:1-2; Jam. 5:19-20).

### IV. Demonstration of Intercession.

- A. Jesus is the Model example (Lk. 22:31-32; 23:34; Jn. 17:20; 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 7:25).
- B. Moses (Exod. 32:30).
  1. Moses’ intercession was to restore the Israelites to fellowship with God.
- C. Abraham interceded for Sodom (Gen. 18:23-32).
- D. Paul interceded for his brethren.
  1. Ephesians (Eph. 1:15-23).
  2. Philippians (1:3-11).
  3. Colossians (1:3-12).

**Conclusion:**

1. Intercessory prayer has so many advantages.
  - a. Unites our hearts with the people we pray for.
  - b. Renews our hope and faith.
  - c. Humbles us.
  - d. Changes us.
2. Let us take the time to recognize the importance of intercessory prayer and pray diligently for others.

# Prayers of Thanksgiving

## Introduction:

1. As we continue to think about the different kinds of prayers, (1 Tim. 2:1; Phil. 4:6) Let us consider “prayers of Thanksgiving.”
2. Thankfulness is an important subject in the Bible.
3. In the New Testament alone, some combination of this word is found 169 times.
4. The apostle Paul was notorious for using this word. Very seldom did he begin a letter without expressing gratitude.
5. Thankfulness is a mental and/or verbal expression of one's acknowledgment and appreciation of God's person, His grace, blessings, and sovereign work in one's life and the world.
6. Thankfulness is like a spiritual barometer. You can tell where an individual is by what they are thankful for.
7. Thankfulness should be continual (Heb. 13:15).
8. Let us consider the importance of “prayers of Thanksgiving.”

## Discussion:

### I. Why We Should Be Thankful.

- A. It is commanded (Psa. 100:4; 1 Thess. 5:18; Col. 3:15, 17; 4:2).
- B. It honors God.
  1. When we are thankful, we recognize that God exists, and we are acting on the reality of His life as the very source and means of ours.
  2. True thankfulness recognizes our total dependence on God and stems from realizing that everything going on in our lives and all we have is the product of God's sovereign control, infinite wisdom, purposes, grace, and activity (2 Cor. 4:15).
- C. It focuses on the sovereignty of God (Psa. 90:2; Col. 1:17; Acts 17:28).
- D. The danger of not being thankful.
  1. It dishonors God (Rom. 1:21).
  2. It causes me to have the spirit of ingratitude (Lk. 17:11-19).

### II. Objects of Thanksgiving.

- A. Godhead.
  1. Triumph (2 Cor. 2:14).
- B. Brothers and Sisters in Christ.
  1. Paul was thankful for the brethren (Rom. 1:8; 1 Cor. 1:4; Phil. 1:3; 2 Tim. 1:3; Philemon 1:4; 2 Thess. 1:3).
- C. Church.
  1. The church is that institution through which we are saved (Eph. 5:23; 1:22-23).
  2. What a blessing it is to live every day knowing that I am a member of not just any church, but the church I read about in the Bible.
  3. How great it is to know that when I obeyed the gospel, God added me to “the Church of Christ,” (Rom. 16:16) that wonderful blood-bought institution (Acts 20:28).
- D. Salvation.
  1. It is God's desire for every individual to be saved (1 Tim. 2:4).
  2. As a result, He has promised salvation to everyone willing to obey Him (Heb. 5:8-9).
  3. What an honor it is to live every moment of every day knowing that Salvation is mine and no one can take it from me.

E. Heaven.

1. That sweet place of rest for the faithful Child of God (Heb. 4:9-11).
2. Wouldn't it be wonderful to be in a place where we are free from the aches, pains, and disappointments that this life has to offer?
3. That place in heaven! (Rev. 21:4, 23, 25, 27)

F. Bible.

1. The Bible is God's message to man (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Psa. 119:11, 105).
2. Isn't it great to know that God has not placed us here on the earth without guidance?
3. He's given us a book that leads, guides, and directs man in a way that will always be right. I love the Bible and I'm so thankful for it.

G. We should give thanks for everything (Eph. 5:20; 1 Thess. 5:18).

**III. What Promotes a Thankful Attitude?**

- A. A Word-filled life (Col. 1:9, 12; 2:7; 3:16).
- B. A Spirit-filled life (Eph. 5:18, 20).
- C. A Prayer-filled life (2 Thess. 2:13).

**Conclusion:**

1. The Psalmist states that God daily loads us with benefits (Psa. 68:19).
2. Are you thankful for the many blessings of God?
3. Why not express your thanks through a prayer of thanksgiving?



# Learning From the Prayers of Jesus

## Introduction:

1. How much better can we learn how to pray than by observing the prayer life of Jesus?
2. The importance and significance of prayer are best exemplified in the life of Jesus, our perfect example.
3. There was never a moment in His earthly ministry that He was not in the spirit of prayer.

## Discussion:

### I. Prayer at His Baptism (Luke 3:21-22).

- A. Jesus began His public ministry following His baptism (Lk. 3:23).
  1. The significance of His ministry can be seen in that He came to seek and save the lost (Lk. 19:10).
  2. To successfully complete His ministry, He relied on the power of the Father.
- B. Christians today.
  1. When are baptized into Christ, we are new creatures (2 Cor. 5:17).
  2. We rise up to walk in the newness of life (Rom. 6:3-4).
  3. We need the power of the Father to be successful.

### II. Prayer in the wilderness.

- A. Jesus.
  1. Prayer involves solitude (Mark 1:35; Lk. 5:15-16).
  2. Jesus knew the value of private prayer, of praying in solitude.
- B. We need to recognize the power of solitude in prayer.

### III. Prayer Before Choosing the Twelve.

- A. Jesus prayed all night (Lk. 6:12).
  1. The object of this night-long prayer is learned from the context.
  2. Following this prayer He called His disciples and chose twelve of them who would become apostles.
  3. The choosing of the apostles was a momentous decision in the life of Jesus, affecting all the future history of mankind (Eph. 2:20).
- B. Christians today.
  1. Difficult decisions should be saturated with prayer.

### IV. Prayer on the Mount of Transfiguration.

- A. Jesus prayed during His transfiguration (Matt. 17:1-8).
  1. It was while the Lord was in close communion with God in prayer that the great change took place.
- B. Christians today.
  1. Christians must be transformed (Rom. 12:1-2).
  2. Think of how a continual communion with God will help us in our transformation.

### V. Prayer for Peter.

- A. Jesus.
  1. Jesus prayed that Peter's faith would not fail (Luke 22:31-32).
  2. The word "Fail" means to end or come to a stop.
- B. Christians today.
  1. Do we pray for others during difficult times that their faith would not fail (Jam. 5:19-20).

**Conclusion:**

1. The apostle Peter states that Jesus left us an example to follow (1 Pet. 2:21).
2. One of the many areas where Jesus was an example was in prayer.
3. Let us look to the life of Jesus and strive to be better students of prayer.

# How God Answers Prayer

## Introduction:

1. One of the greatest blessings we have as Christians is the avenue of prayer.
  - a. Not only are we promised that God will hear and answer our prayer, but we are also promised that we can have confidence in prayer (1 Jn. 5:14-15; Psa. 34:15,17).
  - b. Prayer is so powerful that we can change God's mind (Exod. 32:9-14; 2 Kings 20:1-6).
2. Why don't people pray more often?
  - a. We misplace our faith.
    - (1) We often pray because we believe in prayer.
    - (2) We should pray because we believe in God.
  - b. We get too caught up in the technique.
    - (1) Prayer is not a technique. It's a relationship.
    - (2) It's an expression of our faith in God.
    - (3) Jesus' disciples requested that He teach them "to" pray not "how" to pray (Lk. 11:1).
    - (4) Once we begin "to" pray, the technique will come.
  - c. We don't understand how God answers prayer.
    - (1) Many don't believe their prayers are being answered.
    - (2) If you have ever felt this way, you are not alone (Psa. 13:1-2; Hab. 1:1-3).
    - (3) God always answers His children (Psa. 118:5; 138:3).
    - (4) Not knowing how God answers, causes many to lose faith in prayer.

[Lest we begin to think that God does not hear us when we pray, we should remember that there are **at least four ways** that God answers prayer, beginning with...]

## Discussion:

### I. God May Answer "YES."

- A. God often grants the petitions we ask of Him (1 Sam. 1:11; Isa 38:2-5).
  1. Especially when we put Him first in our lives (Matt. 6:33).
- B. Things Necessary For God To Answer "YES."
  1. We must ask according to His will (1 Jn. 5:14).
  2. We must be doing His will in our lives (1 Jn. 3:22).

### II. God May Answer "Wait A While."

- A. God may grant our request, but in time (Jer. 42:4-7).
  1. So we may think God is saying "No" when He is really saying "Yes, but wait." (Lk. 1:1ff.)
- B. When the answer seems to be "Wait."
  1. We need to have patience.
  2. We need to keep asking, seeking, and knocking (Lk. 11:8-10).

### III. God May Answer "NO."

- A. There may be times when God denies our requests.
  1. He denied Abraham (Gen. 18:23-32).
  2. He denied David (2 Sam. 12:16-23).
  3. He denied Paul (2 Cor. 12:8-9).
  4. He denied Christ (Lk. 22:31-34; Matt. 26:37-44).

5. We must trust that God, who knows what is best, would do so only if granting our request might not be for our good (Heb. 12:5-11).

B. When God seems to say “No.”

1. We may not fully understand, but we can still fully trust Him! (Hab 3:17-19)

2. Especially in light of the promise in (1 Cor 10:13).

3. God will provide the grace and mercy to do without (2 Cor. 12:7-9).

#### **IV. God May Substitute.**

A. Sometimes God answers in a way differently than we may anticipate

(1 Kings 3:6-9; 2 Cor. 12:7-9).

1. Remember, His thoughts and methods are much different than ours - Isa 55:8,9

2. For example, asking God for strength and perseverance...

a. He may give us trials to bear (Phil. 1:29-30).

b. Which in turn develops the virtues we prayed for! (Rom. 5:3-4)

B. We must not limit God's options.

1. We should be careful and not dictate to God how to answer our prayers.

a. There are forces at work beyond what we can imagine (Eph. 3:20).

b. Plus, we do not always know what to pray for as we ought (Rom. 8:26).

#### **Conclusion:**

1. In at least four ways, then, God answers our prayers...

a. Yes.

b. Wait a while.

c. No.

d. Substitutes.

2. However God may choose to answer our prayers...

a. We can have confidence that it will be for our good.

b. We should never grow weary in praying to God "The Lord has heard my supplication; The Lord will receive my prayer."

# “Paul’s Prayer for the Ephesians”

(Text: Eph. 1:15-23)

## Introduction:

1. Isn’t it great to know that others are praying for you?
2. We know that we should pray for one another, what should we pray for?
3. Consider Paul's prayer for the brethren at Ephesus.

## Discussion:

### I. Paul Commends the Brethren (vs. 15-16).

- A. Their faith.
  1. “Therefore” (διά) for this reason. This conjunction connects to the previous section. Paul’s prayer can be made for them because they are true believers.
  2. For this reason, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit and made recipients of many other blessings.
  3. Faith (πίστις) – can refer to...
    - a. Personal faith or conviction in Christ.
    - b. Ongoing Christian living.
    - c. Christian doctrine (Acts 6:7; 13:8; 14:22; Gal. 1:23; 6:10; Jude 3, 20).
    - d. Since “faith” is modified by the personal pronoun “your” it is most likely referring to personal faith and faithful Christian living (Col. 1:4; Rom. 1:8; 16:19).
  4. The fact that he had “heard of their faith” does not imply that Paul had never met these brethren. He wrote the same way to others (Philemon 1:4-5; 1 Thess. 3:6).
- B. Their love for all the saints (Heb. 13:1; 1 Pet. 1:22; Jn. 13:34-35; 1 Thess. 3:12).
- C. Paul thanked God for The Brethren (vs. 16).
  1. Giving Thanks (εὐχαριστέω) means to render or express gratitude.
  2. Paul never stopped thanking God for his brethren.
- D. Paul remembered his brethren.
  1. The word “prayers” (προσευχή - 37 times in NT) is often used in reference to a special time or location of prayer.

### II. The Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation in the Knowledge of Christ (vs. 17).

- A. The word “spirit” (πνεῦμα – 384 times in NT).
  1. It can refer to air in movement; that which gives life; human personality; the Spirit of God.
  2. Since the word “spirit” is not modified by an article, this is probably not referring to the Holy Spirit (Jn. 14:26; 15:26).
- B. The word “Revelation” (ἀποκάλυψις) means to make information known with an implication that the information can be understood.
- C. The word “Knowledge” (ἐπίγνωσις) means more than just understanding or insight. It refers to a deep thorough knowledge. It refers to knowledge that very powerfully influences the form of religious life, a knowledge laying claim to personal involvement.
- D. Paul is praying that their understanding of Jesus would be deepened (Consider a parallel passage – Col. 1:9; Isa. 11:2).
- E. How do we receive a greater knowledge of God?
  1. God gives it to us (vs. 17).
    1. Prayer (Jam. 1:5-7).
    3. Time.

- a. A greater knowledge of God does not come overnight.
- 2. Paul is not praying that they would receive further revelation, but that they be granted wisdom to understand and apply the revelation they already had to come to a fuller knowledge of God.

### **III. Results of The Proper Knowledge of God (vs. 18-23).**

#### **A. Enlightened Understanding (vs. 18a).**

- 1. The eyes of your understanding.
  - a. The word “understanding” (καρδία) is the seat of human intellect, emotion, and will power.
    - (1) We think with our heart (Prov. 23:7).
    - (2) Love with our heart (Matt. 22:37).
    - (3) Obey from the heart (Rom. 6:17).
  - b. When one hears God’s message, he may accept or reject it.
    - (1) If he accepts it with understanding, we can say that his eyes have been opened (Lk. 24:31).
    - (2) If he rejects it because of misunderstanding, prejudice, or bias, we can say that his eyes are closed or blinded (Matt. 13:15-16).
- 2. The word “enlightened” (φωτίζω) means to give light to, to make known, to function as a source of light.
- 3. A proper knowledge of God opens our understanding of Him.
- 4. Many are like blind men standing in a lovely park in broad daylight. All around them lie riches of beauty, but they cannot see. There are treasures of wisdom and knowledge revealed in Christ (Col. 2:3), but many cannot see them. Our prayer should be that God would open their eyes!

#### **B. Knowledge of the hope of His calling (vs. 18b) (Past).**

- 1. The word “know” (εἶδω) refers to a completed, comprehensive knowledge.
- 2. The word “hope” (ἐλπίζω – 53 times in NT) refers to the desire for some good with the expectation of obtaining it.
- 3. The hope of “his calling.”
  - a. The word “calling” (κλήσις) refers to the divine invitation to embrace the salvation of God (Psa. 3:8; Acts 4:12).
  - b. We need to remind ourselves every day of our salvation; the fact that we are saved, what we do to be saved, and what we need to do to stay saved (2 Pet. 1:10; Heb. 2:1-4).
- 4. This hope is the anchor of the soul (Heb. 6:19).
- 5. We must be filled with this hope (Rom. 15:13).

#### **C. Knowledge of the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints (vs. 18b) (Future).**

- 1. The word “riches” (πλοῦτος) means wealth; an abundance of external possessions. It refers to those rich benefits or abundant blessings that flow from God.
- 2. The word “glory” (δόξα) refers to splendor, magnificence or excellence.
- 3. Christians have been promised an inheritance (vs. 11; 1 Pet. 1:4-5).
- 4. Knowledge of God increases our understanding of our inheritance.

#### **D. The exceeding, greatness of His power (vs. 19a) (Present)**

- 1. The word “exceeding” (ὑπερβάλλω) to surpass in throwing; to throw over or beyond anything; to surpass, exceed, or excel.

2. The word “greatness” comes from the word μέγεθος from which we get the word “Mega.”
  3. The word “power” (δύναμις) refers to efficiency in strength, power, or ability.
  4. God’s power is without limits (Eph. 3:20).
  5. The three words Paul uses to describe God’s power {Power (δύναμις) an entity or being that functions in a remarkable manner.
    - a. Working (ἐνέργεια) is the state or quality of being active, working, operating, or action.
    - b. Mighty (ισχύς) the capability to function effectively.
    - c. Power (κράτος) is the ability to exhibit or express resident strength or might.
    - d. All these words are joined to our hope and inheritance for the purpose of showing that there was no way God would disappoint our hope or fail to grant our inheritance.
    - f. God is powerful enough to do what He promised.
    - g. This marvelous power is toward us who believe.
- E. God’s power is demonstrated in Christ.
1. He raised Him from the dead (vs. 20a).
    - a. The resurrection of Christ from the dead was the crowning proof of Jesus’ deity (Rom. 1:4).
    - b. Many throughout Bible history had been raised from the dead.
      - (1) Widow of Zarephath’s son (1 Kings 17:22).
      - (2) Son of a Shunammite (2 Kings 4:32-35).
      - (3) Daughter of Jairus (Mk. 5:21-24, 35-43).
      - (4) The widow of Nain’s son (Lk. 7:11-16).
      - (5) Lazarus (Jn. 11:1-45).
      - (6) Tabitha (Acts 9:36-43).
    - c. Jesus was the first to be resurrected never to die again (Rom. 6:9; Rev. 1:17-18).
  2. God exalted Him by seating Him at His right hand in heaven (vs. 20b-21).
    - a. The right hand of God is a position of favor, power, and victory (Exod. 15:6; Psa. 20:6; 89:13; 118:16).
      - (1) Jesus is seated at the right hand of God (Mark 16:19).
    - b. The extent of His exaltation. Far above...
      - (1) Principality (ἀρχή) an authority figure who initiates activity or process, a ruler, authority.
      - (2) Power (ἐξουσία) bearer of ruling authority over the powers of the spirit world.
      - (3) Might (δύναμις) an entity or being that functions in a remarkable manner.
      - (4) Dominion (κυριότης) is a special class of angelic powers.
      - (5) Every name (Isa. 9:6; Matt. 1:21; Acts 4:12).
    - c. It seems that Paul is stating that Christ is above everything and everyone in heaven and on earth, in both the spiritual and physical worlds.
    - d. These things are true in this age and also in the age to come.
  3. God put all things under His feet (vs. 22).
    - a. The phrase “put all things under” (ὑποτάσσω) is a military term meaning to put in subjection under one, as troops are put under the commanding officer.
    - b. Jesus is truly Lord of all (Matt. 28:18).
  4. God made Him to be head over all things to the church.

- a. Christ being the head of the church refers to His authority over the church (Col. 3:17).
- b. The word “fullness” signifies that which is filled. The church is filled by Christ with blessings and salvation.
  - (1) He is head over all things to the church.
  - (2) It’s worship, its laws, its plan of salvation, its moral standards.
  - (3) No pope, bishop, church council, convention, synod, prophet, preacher, or anyone else dares to rob Christ of any of the authority God gave to Him.
  - (4) The things that the Father did for the Son, He does for Christians today (Eph. 2:4-6).

**Conclusion:**

1. Every Christian needs his understanding of Jesus deepened.
2. Can you think of a greater petition to lay before God?
3. Why not pray that the understanding of Jesus will be deepened in all your brethren?



# “Paul’s Prayer for The Philippians”

(Philippians 1:3-11).

## Introduction:

1. How often do you pray for your brethren?
2. Do we realize how important it is to pray for our brethren? (1 Sam. 12:23)
3. The apostle Paul recognized how important it was to pray for his brethren.
4. Such can be seen in his letter to the church at Philippi.

## Discussion:

### I. The Attitude of Paul.

- A. Sincere (vs. 3-4, 9).
  1. Such can be seen in Paul’s continual remembrance of those at Philippi in his prayers.
  2. The words thanks and pray are present active verbs.
- B. Joy (vs. 4).
  1. The word “joy” (χαρά) refers to gladness or the cause or occasion for joy.
  2. Joy is the feeling you get that draws a smile upon your face and on the inside because something good has happened or is about to happen.
  3. When you pray for individuals with “joy” it brings them joy (1:25-26).
  4. How? The people you pray for must be your joy (Phil. 4:1).
- C. Confidence (vs. 6).
  1. The word “confidence” (πείθω – Perfect tense) means to persuade.
  2. Every prayer that we utter ought to be a prayer of confidence!
- D. Righteous (vs. 7).
  1. The word “right” (δίκαιος) is the word from which we get “righteous.”
  2. Paul prayed according to God’s standards.
  3. Paul was not going to pray for things against God’s will.
- E. Affection (vs. 7-8).
  1. “I have you in my heart.”
    - a. The Old Testament High Priest wore an ephod over his chest.
    - b. On the ephod were twelve stones, representing the twelve tribes of Israel.
  2. The depth of Paul’s affection.
    - a. The word “affection” (σπλάγγνον) refers to tender mercies.
    - b. Paul had the same affection for them as Christ did.
    - c. Such can be seen in the phrase “long for” (ἐπιποθέω – 9 times in NT) which means to desire.
    - d. Five of the nine times it is found, it is used in the sense of longing to see someone (Rom. 1:11; 1 Thess. 3:6; 2 Tim. 1:4).

### II. A Prayer of Thanksgiving (vs. 3-8).

- A. Paul’s Prayer involved “thanks.”
  1. The word “thanks” (εὐχαριστέω) means to have gratitude.
  2. How this word is used in the Bible (Lk. 17:16).
- B. Paul thanked God for...
  1. Their fellowship in the Gospel (vs. 5).
    - a. The word “fellowship” (κοινωνία) means joint participation or sharing.
    - b. Paul thanked God for their support (Phil. 4:15-16).

- c. "From the first day until now."
  - (1) The first day would have reference to when the church began in Philippi (Acts 16).
- 2. Confidence that God would complete a good work in them.
  - a. The duration of this confidence – "until the day of Jesus Christ."
- 3. They were "partakers of grace."
  - a. They didn't turn their backs on Paul when bad things happened.

### III. A Prayer of Supplication (vs. 9-11).

(The word "requests" (δέησις) is the word from which we get supplication.)

#### A. That Their Love May Abound (vs. 9).

- 1. Love.
  - a. The word love (ἀγάπη) is used here in the most comprehensive way (Not just talking about love for God or brethren).
  - b. The quality of warm regard for and interest in another, esteem, affection, and regard.
- 2. Abound.
  - a. The word abound { 1:9, 26; 4:12, 18 } (περισσεύω) means to exceed a fixed number of measures, to be left over and above a certain number or measure; to make abundant or excellent. "Abounding" is used as a flower going from a bud to full bloom.
  - b. "Yet more and more."
    - (1) Paul desired that there be no limit to the growth or increase of the Philippians' love. It was to be continuous (more and more).
    - (2) True love is not something you possess. True love constantly grows and increases.
- 3. The domain of love (In knowledge and all judgment).
  - a. "In knowledge."
    - (1) This was a favorite word of the apostle Paul's.
    - (2) It is found some fifteen times in his letters.
    - (3) Knowledge (ἐπίγνωσις) is precise and correct knowledge. It is limited to religious or moral things, a consciousness of sin...knowledge of God and Christ.
  - b. "All judgment" - (αἴσθησις).
    - (1) In the OT, this word means practical understanding which is keenly aware of the circumstances of action, manifesting itself, particularly in the discretion of speech (Prov. 5:2; 14:7; 15:7).
    - (2) As used in Philippians, it might be used as "tact" or "the feeling for the actual situation at the time." Experience.
- 4. Paul's prayer is that their love may abound for the right things and in the right way!

#### B. That They May Approve the Things That Are Excellent (v. 10a).

- 1. What are excellent things?
  - a. The word "excellent" (διαφέρω) means the things that excel, that is, those things that differ by surpassing others, vital things (Rom. 2:18).
  - b. Some excellent things: God (Psa. 76:4), the things of God (Isa. 12:5), the righteous (Prov. 12:26), love (1 Cor. 12:31).

2. The word “approve” (δοκιμάζω) means to make a critical examination of something; to determine genuineness, put to the test, examine, to draw a conclusion about worth based on testing.
- C. That They May Be Sincere & Without Offense (vs. 10b).
1. “Sincere” (εἰλικρινεῖς) means to be sincere, without hidden motives or pretense, pure. It involves: Having perfect openness toward God and man and a clear conscience. (not hypocritical)
  2. “Without offense” (ἀπόσκοπος) means to be without fault because of not giving offense and not causing offense; not causing to stumble; not leading others to sin by one's mode of life (Rom. 14:13).
  3. Such virtues will be found in those who are...
    - a. Abounding in love still more and more, in knowledge and all discernment!
    - b. Approving the things that are excellent by their conduct!
  4. Paul’s concern is that these virtues will last “Till the day of Christ.”
    - a. This is the second time in this epistle Paul has referred to this "day" (Phil. 1:6).
    - b. He is referring to the day when Christ comes again, a day of "destruction" for some, but "glory" for others! (2 Thess. 1:7-12).
- D. Being Filled with the Fruits of Righteousness (vs. 11).
1. What are the fruits of righteousness?
    - a. “Righteousness” (δικαιοσύνη) is the condition acceptable to God.
    - b. “Fruits of Righteousness” (Mat. 7:15-16; Gal. 5:22-23).
  2. “Being filled” (πληρόω) {Perfect Passive Participle} to make full, to fill up, to fill to the full, to cause to abound, to furnish or supply liberally {The idea is that of a glass of water running over}.
  3. Result of being filled with the fruits of righteousness (The result of a right relationship with God).
    - a. Abounding in love yet more and more in knowledge and all discernment.
    - b. Approving the things that are excellent.
    - c. Being sincere and without offense.
    - d. Notice again the "stair-like" progressive parallelism!
  4. Such fruits are possible only by Jesus Christ.
    - a. For without Him, we would not know what true love is! (1 Jn. 3:16)
    - b. For without Him, we would not have the ability to demonstrate what is excellent ( Phil. 4:13).
  5. Such fruits are to be offered “To the glory and praise of God.”
    - a. Just as Jesus said in letting our light shine (Matt. 5:16)
    - b. Just as Peter wrote in speaking of our good works (1 Pet .2:12).
    - c. And rightfully so, for it is God who through the gift of His Son has...
      - (1) Shown us what love is.
      - (2) Taught us what things are excellent in His sight.
      - (3) Empowered us to be able to demonstrate the excellence of His Will, that we may be sincere and without offense!

**Conclusion:**

1. Paul expressed his thanks for the brethren at Philippi.
2. As a result of his gratitude he prayed...
  - a. That Their Love May Abound.
  - b. That They May Approve the Things That Are Excellent.
  - c. That They May Be Sincere & Without Offense.
  - d. That They May Be Filled with the Fruits of Righteousness.
3. Do we have gratitude for our brethren?
4. Why not pray for them as Paul did?

# “Paul’s Prayer for The Colossians”

(Text: Col. 1:9-14)

## Introduction:

1. In Paul’s letters, he customarily let his readers know that he prayed for them (Rom. 1:9-10; Eph. 1:16; Phil. 1:4; 1 Thess. 1:2; 2 Tim. 1:3; Philemon 1:4).
2. Let us consider Paul’s prayer for those at Colossae.

## Discussion:

### I. The Association.

- A. He had never met them (1:4; 2:1).
- B. What did he know about the people at Colossae?
  1. They were saints and faithful brethren (1:2).
  2. They had a great faith (1:4).
  3. They had a great love for all the saints (1:4).
  4. They needed prayer.
- C. Application:
  1. It is not necessary for one to know the one about whom he is praying.
  2. All we need to know is they need our prayers.

### II. The Classification.

- A. It was a prayer of “thanksgiving” (1:3).
- B. Things for which Paul thanked God.
  1. Their faith in Christ Jesus (vs. 4).
    - a. What a reputation to have!
    - b. How could they have such an attitude?
      - (1) Their faith was steadfast (Col. 2:5).
    - c. What kind of faith do we have?
  2. Their love for all the saints (vs. 4).
    - a. When one has faith in God, it is only natural that he has love for his brethren.
    - b. Notice that this love was not just for those who were members there at Colossae, but for all the saints.
    - c. Can the same be said of us (Jn. 13:34-35; 1 Jn. 3:14, 23; 1 Thess. 4:9-10).
  3. Their hope (vs. 5-6).
    - a. The word “hope” means confident expectation,
    - b. As defined in this passage, Paul was grateful for the hope that was laid up in heaven for the Colossians (1 Pet. 1:3-5; Matt. 6:19-20).
    - c. When Christians live by faith in Christ, that faith will produce love for others, which results in the hope of a home in heaven.
  4. They were fruitful (vs. 6).
    - a. The words “is bringing forth fruit” mean that the gospel is alive and fruitful.
    - b. It also stresses the continuous activity of the gospel due to its inherent power.
    - c. The Gospel motivated the Colossians to bear fruit (vs. 6).
      - (1) Fruit bearing is a true sign of discipleship (Jn. 15:8).
      - (2) The key to bearing fruit.
  5. Epaphras, their minister (vs. 7-8).
    - a. The Colossians had learned the Gospel through Epaphras.
    - b. What do we know about Epaphras?

- (1) He was a dear fellow servant.
  - (2) He was a faithful minister of Christ for those at Colossae (4:12-13).
  - (3) He had declared to Paul and Timothy the love of those at Colosse.
- C. It was a prayer of “Supplication.”
- 1. The phrase “to ask” (αἰτέω) means not only to desire but to ask in the sense of to beg.
- D. Things for which Paul asked God.
- 1. Knowledge.
    - a. This is knowledge of God’s will.
    - b. What is God’s will?
      - (1) God’s sovereign power (Dan. 4:35).
      - (2) God’s desire for man (Matt. 7:21; 1 Jn. 2:17).
    - c. A lack of knowledge brings destruction (Hosea 4:6).
  - 2. Value.
    - a. The word “worthy” (ἀξίως) means having weight, worth, or value.
    - b. What is a life of value to the Lord?
      - (1) Live fully pleasing him (vs. 10).
      - (2) Bearing fruit in every good work (vs. 10).
        - (a) Not just one, but every good work (Tit. 3:1).
        - (b) We were created for this purpose (Eph. 2:10).
        - (c) In doing so, we glorify God (Matt. 5:16).
      - (3) Increasing in the knowledge of God (vs. 10).
        - (a) The word “increasing” means to become greater, to increase like plants and infants.
        - (b) We need to grow in our knowledge of God (2 Pet. 3:18; Jer. 9:23-24).
      - (4) Strengthened with all power (vs. 11).
        - (a) There is great power available for the Christian (2 Tim. 1:7-8; Phil. 4:13).
        - (b) The greatest of this power – “According to His glorious power.” (Eph. 3:20-21)
        - (c) The purpose of this power – “For the attaining of steadfastness and patience with joy.”
      - (5) Giving Thanks to the Father (vs. 12).

### **III. The Repetition.**

- A. Praying always (vs. 3).
  - 1. The word “always” (πάντοτε) means at all times or forever.
- B. Do not cease to pray (vs. 9).
  - 1. The word “cease” (παύω) means to stop.

### **Conclusion:**

- 1. Paul’s prayer for the brethren at Colossae included a prayer of “thanksgiving and a prayer of Supplication.
- 2. Let us pray prayers thanksgiving and Supplication for our brethren today.

# “The Parable of Two Prayers”

(Text: Luke 18:9-14)

## Introduction:

1. In Luke 18, there are two parables that deal with the subject of prayer...
  - a. "The Persistent Widow" (Lk 18:1-8).
  - b. "The Pharisee And The Tax Collector" (Lk 18:9-14).
2. In "The Persistent Widow."
  - a. Jesus encouraged us to "pray and not lose heart" (Lk 18:1).
  - b. He taught the value of persevering in prayer
3. In the parable before us now, known as "The Pharisee And The Tax-Collector" ...
  - a. Jesus illustrated the spirit that ought to pervade our prayers
  - b. He teaches us how and in what manner we ought to pray to be heard by God (Lk 18:14).

[Without the proper spirit, our perseverance in prayer will be for nothing. This second parable on prayer is therefore very important, and worthy of our consideration as we begin with...]

## Discussion:

### I. Two Men.

- A. It is about two different men.
  1. They both go to the temple to pray (Lk 18:10).
  2. One is a Pharisee, the other a tax-collector
    - a. Pharisees were a religious sect, noted for their strict observance of the Law and the traditions of the elders
    - b. Tax collectors were considered by the Pharisees to be extortioners and traitors
      - 1) Extortioners, because they collected more than was required, for personal gain.
      - 2) Traitors, because while Jews they represented an occupying power (Rome).

### II. Two Prayers.

- A. The purpose of this parable is not about prayer.
- B. It was toward those who trusted in themselves.
- C. Involved in this teaching is prayer (vs. 10-11).

### III. Two Attitudes.

- A. The attitude of the Pharisee (Vs. 11-12).
  1. He thanks God that he is not like others
    - a. Especially extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even the tax collector nearby –
    - b. Thus he reveals his disdain for others (Lk. 18:9).
  2. He recounts his good deeds
    - a. "I fast twice a week" - the Law required only an annual fast (Lev 16:29).
    - b. "I give tithes of all that I possess." - The Law required only a tithe on certain items; this man gave tithes on ALL he possessed (Deut. 14:22-23) Thus he reveals how he trusted in his self-righteousness (Lk 18:9).

- B. The Attitude of the tax collector (vs. 13).
  - 1. He expressed his repentance and humility in what he did.
    - a. He stood "afar off."
    - b. He would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven (lifting one's eyes to heaven was a common posture for prayer at that time).
    - c. He beat his breast in anguish over his sins.
  - 2. He expressed his repentance and humility in what he said.
    - a. Calling himself a sinner.
    - b. Pleading God for mercy.

#### **IV. Two Results.**

- A. The tax collector goes home "justified" (Lk 18:14a).
  - 1. The term as used in the forensic sense means "not guilty!"
  - 2. He had received that wonderful blessedness described by David (Psa. 32:1-2).
- B. The Pharisee also goes home...with nothing!
  - 1. He might as well stayed home.
  - 2. The most he might have gotten was the reward of being seen by men (Matt. 6:5).

[The meaning and purpose of this parable are very clear, both from the introductory statement by Jesus in Lk 18:9, and the concluding remark in Lk 18:14... "for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." But to reinforce the point, here are a few thoughts relating to...]

#### **V. The Parable Explained.**

- A. Jesus warns against self-righteousness.
  - 1. The Pharisee trusted in his own good works, but it was to no avail.
  - 2. He should have recalled the words of Isaiah (Isa 64:6).
  - 3. We should remember the words of Jesus and Paul (Lk 17:10; Ep 2:8-10; Tit 3:3-5).
- B. Jesus warns against arrogance.
  - 1. The Pharisees despised others, including the tax collector
  - 2. He should have recalled the words of Solomon (Pr 8:13; 16:18; 29:23).
  - 3. We should remember the words of Jesus and James (Lk 14: 11; Jm 2:1-9).
- C. Jesus teaches the value of humility.
  - 1. He had taught the value of humility before others in the parable of "Taking The Lowest Place" (Lk 14:7-11).
  - 2. Now He teaches the value of humility before God!
    - a. An important principle espoused in Isaiah (Isa 57:15; 66:1-2).
    - b. And extolled by Mary His mother in "The Magnificat" (Lk 1:46-55).

#### **Conclusion:**

- 1. In this parable of "The Pharisee And The Tax Collector", we have seen...
  - a. The Pharisee prayed as one who needed no forgiveness and got none.
  - b. The tax collector prayed as one who needed forgiveness, and he received it.
- 2. Do we need forgiveness, even as Jesus' disciples?
  - a. Of course we do! (1 Jn 1:8-10).
  - b. Then let us pray with the humility of the tax collector, who prayed like the man after God's own heart (David)...



# The Prayer of Jabez

(Text: 1 Chronicles 4:9-10)

## Introduction:

1. Prayer is one of the greatest blessings of a Christian.
2. How great it is to be able to call upon our heavenly Father and know that He will hear and answer our prayers (1 Pet. 3:12; 1 Jn. 5:14).
3. Though there are many prayers in the Bible, that are noteworthy, one of my favorite prayers is the prayer of Jabez (1 Chronicles 4:9-10).

## Discussion:

### I. What do we Know About Jabez?

(This is the only time in Scripture where his name is mentioned; therefore, everything that we know about Jabez is found within this text.)

- A. First, Jabez was from the family of Judah (vs. 1).
  1. What do we know about the tribe of Judah? (Gen. 49:8-12).
    - a. Praise (vs. 8a).
    - b. Victory (vs. 8b).
    - c. Courage (vs. 9).
    - d. Eternal Rule (vs. 10).
  2. Jesus was from the tribe of Judah (Heb. 7:14).
- B. Second, the Bible states that Jabez was “honorable” (vs. 9).
  1. The underlying meaning of the word “honorable” (found 106 times in OT) is to be heavy or weighty.
    - a. It refers to a person who is impressive or worthy of respect.
    - b. It is one of the attributes of God (Psa. 104:1).
  2. What did Jabez do to gain this title?
    - a. First, he was righteous.
      - (1) The Proverb writer states, “ He who follows righteousness and mercy finds life, righteousness, and honor.” (Prov. 21:21)
      - (2) The word righteousness refers to one who is in a right relationship with God and is continuing to live in a way that pleases God (Psa. 119:172).
    - b. Second, he was humble. “The fear of the LORD *is* the instruction of wisdom, And before honor *is* humility.” (Prov. 15:33)
      - (1) According to this passage, before one can be endowed with honor, he must be humble; therefore, Jabez was humble.
    - c. Third, he feared the Lord (Prov. 22:4).
    - d. Fourth, he called on the name of the Lord.
      - (1) The word “called” has several different meanings.
        - (a) It can refer to worship (Gen. 12:8; 13:4).
        - (b) It can also refer to obedience (Acts 2:21; 22:16).
        - (c) It can refer to prayer (1 Chron. 4:9-10).
      - (2) The word “called” is an imperfect verb which represents an action in progress.
      - (3) It also denotes a habitual or customary action, which implies that prayer was a regular part of Jabez’s life.

## II. What was the Request of Jabez?

### A. *Jabez prayed for Prosperity.*

1. The word “bless” in the Old Testament, when used by man toward God means to kneel before.
2. When God uses it toward man it means to endue with power for success, prosperity, or longevity.
3. As one reads the Scriptures, one sees that it is God’s nature to bless His people.
  - a. He blessed Adam and Eve (Gen. 1:22), Noah (Gen. 9:1), and Abraham (Gen. 12:2).
4. Jabez was asking God to do what He has always done; to bless His people.
5. Christians today should make the same request.
  - a. God promises to bless those who are righteous (Psa. 5:12) and those who fear Him (Psa. 115:13); therefore, we should ask for the blessings of God each day of our lives.

### B. *Second, Jabez prayed for Progress.*

1. The word “enlarge” means to multiply or to increase. The word “territory” can refer to land or possessions.
2. We should pray for the progress of the Kingdom of God (the Church).

### C. *Third, Jabez prayed for Presence.*

1. He asked that the hand of the Lord would be with him.
2. Jabez is asking for God’s presence in his life, which is something that God has always promised.
3. God promised to be with Moses and Aaron (Exod. 4:15), Israel (Deut. 31:6), Joshua (Josh. 1:9), and many others.
4. Jabez knew that Just as God had been with all His faithful followers in the past, He would likewise be with him.
5. The Bible teaches that God promises to be with Christians today (Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5; 2 Cor. 13:11); therefore, each day of our lives, we should ask God to be with us.
6. When the hand of the Lord is with you, great things can be accomplished

### D. *Fourth, Jabez prayed for Protection.*

1. The word “keep” means to do, to make, to accomplish to complete. It is a verb that describes the process of construction.
2. Jabez knew that God protected His people and He would protect him; therefore, he asked God to keep him from evil.
3. The Lord has made the same promise to Christians today. The Bible states, “But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard *you* from the evil one.” (2 Thess. 3:3). The Psalmist states, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” (Psa. 46:1).
4. As Jabez prayed for the protection of the Lord, Christians today should do the same.

### **III. The Result of Jabez's Prayer.**

- A. The conclusion of Jabez's prayer is most encouraging.  
"So God granted him what he requested."
- B. Christians can have confidence in prayer.
  - 1. If we live honorable lives and have an active prayer life, God will hear us and give us the things we need.
  - 2. In the words of the apostle John, "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us." (1 Jn. 5:14)

#### **Conclusion:**

- 1. What a beautiful prayer.
- 2. Jabez prayed for the prosperity, progress, presence, and protection of the Lord.
- 3. These are things we all need in our lives.
- 4. Why not pray for them as Jabez did?

# **“A Prayer of Repentance”**

(Text: Psalms 51:1-19)

## **Introduction:**

1. Do you remember the joy and the relief you experienced when you were baptized?
  - a. Knowing that your sins had been washed away by the blood of Christ.
2. Sin often enters the lives of Christians, robbing them of that joy.
3. How do we regain that joy?
4. David understood the pain of being robbed of the joy of salvation.
5. In Psalm 51, David pleaded that God would Restore to him the joy of salvation,
6. What was involved in David's plea for restored joy?

## **Discussion:**

### **I. A Plea (vs. 1-5)**

#### **A. Forgiveness.**

1. Transgressions.
  - a. This refers to rebellion against God.
2. Iniquity.
  - a. This refers to unrighteousness of heart and life. It is a deed violating law and justice. An act of unrighteousness.
3. Sin
  - a. This means to miss the mark or to wander from the path of uprightness. Any act contrary to the will and law of God.
4. David is pleading for forgiveness of his sins.

#### **B. Foundation of his plea.**

1. Mercy (vs. 1a).
  - a. The word “mercy” means to be gracious, to show favor, or to have pity upon.
  - b. The mercy of God brings forgiveness (Psa. 25:7; 86:6).
2. Lovingkindness (vs 1).
  - a. This word means faithfulness.
3. Tender mercies.
  - a. This word means compassion (Lam. 3:22-23).
4. Acknowledgement of sin (vs. 3-4).
  - a. This word means to know, to perceive, and to understand.
  - b. David did not try to hide his sin.
  - c. He was willing to confess it (1 Jn. 1:8-10).
  - d. David understood that all sin is ultimately against God (Matt. 25:31-46).
5. Acceptance of the consequences (vs. 4).
6. Deep conscience of sin (vs. 5).
  - a. David is not saying that his birth was illegitimate, neither was he saying that he was guilty of sin the moment he was born.
  - b. David is expressing the way he felt because of sin.
  - c. Paul felt the same way (Rom. 7:24; 1 Tim. 1:15).

### **II. A Prayer (vs. 6-12).**

#### **A. Wisdom (vs. 6).**

1. God desires that we be completely truthful (Jn. 8:32-34).
2. Such requires “wisdom.”

- B. Forgiveness (vs. 7, 9).
  - 1. "Hide" means to conceal or to cover.
  - 2. "Blot out" means to wipe away.
- C. Renewed Joy (vs. 8).
- D. Clean Heart (vs. 10).
- E. Renewed Spirit (vs. 10).
- F. God's Presence (vs. 11).
- G. Holy Spirit's Presence (vs. 11).
- H. The Joy of Salvation (vs. 12).

### **III. A Promise (vs. 13-19).**

- A. Teach (vs. 13).
  - 1. David would teach sinners the way of God.
  - 2. His purpose was to convert and bring back to God.
  - 3. Such should be our purpose today (Gal. 6:1-2; Jam. 5:19-20).
- B. Gratitude (vs. 14-15).
  - 1. The word praise is an expression of gratitude for acts of kindness.
  - 2. When we recognize the forgiveness of God, we should thank God.
- C. Sacrifice (vs. 16-19).
  - 1. The kind of sacrifices that please God are sacrifices of righteousness.
  - 2. Such is a result of a humble and repentant heart.

### **Conclusion:**

- 1. Have you lost the joy of your salvation because of sin?
- 2. Why not plead for forgiveness knowing that God will not restore your joy but He will give you so much more?

# Prayer Saturated Decisions

## Introduction:

1. Life is filled with decisions.
2. It has been estimated that the average adult makes approximately 35,000 decisions every day (Not certain about the accuracy of that statistic, but we do make a lot).
3. Life is continuously throwing decisions our way.
4. Have you ever made a decision you regretted?
5. Wouldn't it be great if, at the end of the day, we could look back and be pleased with every decision we've made? YES!!!
6. Is that even possible? I believe it is. How?
7. Wisdom!
  - a. Wisdom is defined as the skill of living well in God's world. It is about making not just good decisions but the best decisions in life.
  - b. The source of wisdom is God (Prov. 2:6-7).
  - c. The way we obtain wisdom is through prayer (Jam. 1:5-6).
8. The way we make the best decisions in life is through prayer.
  - a. We must saturate our lives and the decisions we make with prayer (Psa. 5:3; 55:17; Rom. 12:12; 1 Thess. 5:17).
  - b. Prayer is the way we stay in tune with God (Song: Sweet Hour of Prayer).

## Discussion:

### I. Recognition.

- A. There is power in prayer (Jam. 5:16!)
  1. A "righteous man" is in a right relationship with God.
  2. It is "effective" (ἐνεργέω) to put forth power; to produce an active effect (Eph. 3:20; Phil. 2:13)
    - a. It "avails" (ισχύω) strong, powerful, able, and robust.
- B. There is confidence in prayer.
  1. The word "confidence" (παρρησία) means to speak with openness, frankness; not being afraid to speak all that one thinks.
  2. Verses encouraging Prayer (1 Chron. 16:11; Psa. 17:6; 34:15, 17; 116:1-2; Jer. 29:12; Lk. 6:12; 18: 1; Rom. 12:12; Eph. 6:18; Col. 4:2; 1 Thess. 5:16-17; Heb. 4:16; 1 Jn. 5:14-15).
  3. These verses are written to give God's people confidence in prayer!
- C. The Early church prayed (Acts 2:42; 6:4).
  1. They understood the power of prayer and we as Christians should do the same today.

### II. Demonstration.

- A. Israel (Jud. 20:27, 35).
- B. David (1 Sam. 23:2, 4; 30:8; 2 Sam. 2:1; 5:19).
- C. Jabez (1 Chron. 4:10).
- D. Jesus (Lk. 6:12-13; Eph. 2:20).
- E. God has promised to help us (Matt. 7:7-8; Jn. 14:13-14; Matt. 21:22).

### **III. Illustration.**

(Consider some times in our lives when we need to saturate our decisions with prayer.)

#### **A. Salvation.**

1. Prayer does “NOT” save the alien sinner from sin, but it does open doors of opportunity to teach the lost.
2. Paul prayed for the salvation of his brethren (Rom. 10:1)
3. Prayer opens doors to teach the gospel (Col. 4:3).

#### **B. Restoration.**

1. The Bible speaks of the possibility of wandering away from the truth (Jam. 5:19-20).
2. What do we do? Pray!!! (Psa. 51:12; 85:4).

#### **C. Temptation.**

1. Everyone is tempted (Jam. 1:14).
2. With every temptation, there is the possibility of sin (Jam. 1:15).
3. How do we avoid sin when we are tempted? Pray!!! (Matt. 6:13; 26:41).
4. When do we pray?
  - a. We can pray during the time of temptation (Psa. 50:15).
  - b. We shouldn't wait until we are met with the temptation.
  - c. The reason we fail in our battle with temptation is because we wait too long to pray. Many of us already know our weaknesses. We know our spiritual deficiencies and we need to be praying about those things (2 Pet. 2:9).

#### **D. Trials.**

1. The prosperity gospel doctrine states that God's children will always be happy, never sad, healthy and never sick, rich and never poor.
2. Christianity does not shelter us from the harsh realities of sickness, suffering and death (Acts 14:21-22).
3. What do we do during suffering and sickness? Pray!!! (Jam. 5:13-15).
4. Consider Jesus (Matt. 26:38).
  - a. How was He able to endure His trials? Prayer!!! (Matt. 26: ; Heb. 5:7).
  - b. Prayer empowered Jesus to endure the cross and it will empower us also.

#### **E. Faithfulness (Col. 4:12).**

#### **F. Death.**

1. We know that death is a certainty (Heb. 9:27).
2. When we are threatened with death, we can pray (2 Cor. 1:8-11).

### **Conclusion:**

1. How do we saturate our decisions with prayer?
2. We make prayer a part of our every day life (Psa. 55:17; 5:3).

# A Prayer for the New Year

## Introduction:

1. There is no doubt that 2020 has been a year like we have never known before.
2. Social distancing, isolation, sheltering at home, and quarantine have become familiar terms.
3. Too many people we know have become sick and too many have died from COVID-19.
4. As 2020 has come to a close and we are in a new year, let us remember that we serve a God who...
  - a. Makes all things new (Rev. 21:5).
  - b. Is able to do new things in our lives (Isa. 43:18-19).
  - c. Has promised to give us the things we need in life (Matt. 7:7-8; Jn. 14:13-14).

## Discussion:

### I. A Prayer to Keep God First.

- A. The command (Matt. 6:33).
- B. The meaning.
  1. Putting God first is realizing it's all about Him.
  2. Everything in my life is to be directed to Him.

### II. A Prayer for Faith.

- A. We recognize the importance of faith (Heb. 11:6).
- B. It is difficult to have a flourishing faith during difficult times, but not impossible (Job 1:20-22).
- C. We should pray that our faith would be increased (Lk. 17:5; Acts 6:8).
- D. Faith is the victory (1 Jn. 5:4).

### III. A Prayer for Trust.

- A. The command (Prov. 3:5).
- B. It is difficult to trust when we have had a year like 2020, but not impossible.
  1. Consider the condition of Job.
  2. Consider his response (Job 13:15).
- C. True blessings come to those who trust in the Lord (Psa. 2:12; 40:4).

### IV. A Prayer for Strength.

- A. Life has the power to zap us of our strength, both physically and spiritually.
  1. When we are weakened, we need strength, but not just any strength.
  2. We need the strength of the Lord!
- B. God has promised to strengthen us (Isa. 41:10).
- C. The Lord's strength is renewable (Isa. 40:31).
- D. We are unstoppable with the Lord's strength (Phil. 4:13).

### V. A Prayer for Wisdom.

- A. The power of wisdom (Prov. 4:7; 8:11; 3:19).
- B. Wisdom defined.
  1. Wisdom is the ability to make good decisions in life.
  2. Such is why those who find wisdom are happy (Prov. 3:13).
- C. Why not ask God for wisdom in the new year (Prov. 2:6-7).

### VI. A Prayer for Hope.

- A. Hope is most powerful (1 Cor. 13:13).
- B. Hope defined: confident expectation.



- C. It is through Hope that we...
  - 1. Are saved (Rom. 8:24).
  - 2. Have courage and Strength (Psa. 31:24).
  - 3. Protection (Psa. 33:18).
  - 4. Stability (Heb. 6:19).
- C. Hope doesn't disappoint (Rom. 5:5).

**VII. A Prayer for Salvation.**

- A. There are countless lost souls.
- B. God desires that all be saved (1 Tim. 2:3-4; 2 Pet. 3:9).
- C. Paul prayed that Israel would be saved (Rom. 10:1).

**VIII. A Prayer for Love.**

- A. Love is most powerful (1 Cor. 13:13).
- B. It is through love that others know we are disciples (Jn. 13:34-35).

**IX. A Prayer for Blessings.**

- A. Every day God blesses us (Psa. 68:19).
- B. God has the power to bless us with a great year (Psa. 65:11; Jer. 29:11; Mal. 3:10).

**X. A Prayer for God's Presence.**

- A. The promise (Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5).
- B. There is great power in the presence of the Lord (Psa. 68:8).
- C. Let us pray for His presence in our lives (Psa. 51:11).

**Conclusion:**

- 1. This year can be the best ever if we will saturate our days with prayer.
- 2. Let us pray as if everything depends on God and live as if everything depends on us.

# Thanksgiving Worship Service

(Wednesday Night Service)

## Announcements:

### Song Leader:

Song: "Our God, He Is Alive" (Song # 523)

Prayer:

Song: "Hallelujah Praise Jehovah" (Song # 200)

Scripture Reading: (1 Chronicles 29:11-13)

Prayer:

### Song Leader:

Song: "O Worship the King" (Song # 501)

Prayer:

Song: "Let Me Live Close to Thee" (Song # 391)

Scripture Reading: (Psalm 100:1-5)

Prayer:

### Song Leader:

Song: "How Great Thou Art" (Song # 226)

Prayer:

Song: "I Stand Amazed" (Song # 299)

Scripture Reading: (Psalm 95:1-7a)

Prayer:

### Song Leader:

Song: "When Upon Life's Billows" (Song # 118)

Prayer:

Song: "Blessed Assurance" (Song # 71)

Scripture Reading: (1 Chronicles 16:8-12)

Prayer:

## Devotion:

### Song Leader:

Invitation Song: "Come to The Feast" (Song # 23)

Closing Song: "Ring Out the Message" (Song # 833)

## Closing Prayer:

# Prayer For Our Nation Worship Service

(Wednesday Evening Service)

## Announcements:

### Song Leader:

Song # 392 "When Upon Life's Billows"  
Song # 652 "My Country, Tis of Thee"  
Scripture Reading: (Psa. 100)  
Prayer: (Theme: "A Prayer of Thanksgiving")

### Song Leader:

Scripture Reading: (1 Tim. 2:1-4; Psa. 33:12)  
Scripture Reading: (Psalm 2:10-12)  
Song # 191 "Not A Step Without Jesus"  
Song # 242 "Soldiers of Christ Arise"  
Scripture Reading: (Psa. 22:27-28)  
Scripture Reading: (2 Chron. 7:14)  
Prayer: (Theme: "May This Nation Turn Back To God")

### Song Leader:

Scripture Reading: (Dan. 2:20-22)  
Scripture Reading: (Job 12:23-25; Prov. 21:1)  
Song # 8 "This Is My Fathers World"  
Song # 11 "God Holds The Future In His Hands"  
Scripture Reading: ( Phil. 4:6-17)  
Scripture Reading: (Zeph. 3:17)  
Prayer: (Theme: "The Lord Is In Control")

### Song Leader:

Scripture Reading: (Psa. 145:17-18)  
Scripture Reading: (1 John 5:14-15)  
Song # 416 "What A Friend We Have In Jesus"  
Song # 646 "It Is Well With My Soul"  
Scripture Reading: (Mark 11:22-24)  
Scripture Reading: (Jer. 17:7-8)  
Prayer: (Theme: Confidence In Prayer)

## Devotion:

### Song Leader:

Invitation Song: # 285 "O Sometimes The Shadows Are Deep"  
Closing Song: # 651 "America The Beautiful"

## Closing Prayer:

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