



Word on Wednesday Bible Study

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Prayer is the Key & Faith Unlocks the Door

The shortest prayer in the Bible is Matthew 14:30

The longest prayer in the Bible is Nehemiah 9:5-38

Prayer is the second most powerful weapon that a child has at his disposal for Christian maturity. The Word of God is the most powerful weapon the Christian has. Without a knowledge of the Word of God, a Christian will have an ineffective prayer life. Prayer is essential for spiritual warfare and should be as natural as breathing for the child of God.

What is Prayer? Mathew 7:7

Prayer is asking and receiving, it is talking with God. It is making your request known unto Him in faith. The above scripture is so simple on the surface that we are in danger of failing to recognize its immensity. Our Lord instructs the believer to ask, seek, and knock because these three words cover the whole spectrum of prayer.

A. Prayer is asking and receiving

- a. When you know the will of God regarding a need, whether it be material or spiritual, you can ask and receive. This is prayer according to the revealed will of God. (1 John 5:14-15)

B. Prayer is seeking and finding

- a. When you do not know the will of God regarding a need, whether it be material or spiritual, then you are to seek His will and pray concerning this need until you find it. This is a prayer for a knowledge of the unrevealed will of God in a specific need. (Col. 3:11, Jer. 29:12-13)

C. Prayer is knocking and opening

- a. When you know the will of God and yet you find a closed door, you are to knock and keep knocking until God opens the door. This is a tenacious prayer for mountain-moving faith. Knocking prayer perseveres until the impossible becomes possible. This is a miracle-working prayer (Matt 17:14-21). All things are possible when you ASK, SEEK, AND KNOCK.

Why Pray? Luke 18:1

- a. Because Jesus said, "Men ought to always pray". Prayer is imperative. You are commanded to pray. (Matthew 26:41)
- b. Because prayer is the only way to get things from God. "Ye have not because ye ask not" (James 4:2)
- c. Because there is joy in prayer (John 16:24)
- d. Because prayer will deliver you out of troubles (Psalm 34:6)

- e. Because prayer can unlock the treasure chest of God's wisdom (James 1:5)
- f. Because prayer is a channel of power (Jeremiah 33:3)
- g. Because it is a sin not to pray (1 Samuel 12:23)
- h. Because sinners can be saved when they pray in faith (Romans 10:13-14)
- i. Because Jesus, while here in the flesh, prayed often to the Father. Now, if Jesus, the Son of God, needed to pray, then we should "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

How to Pray Matthew - 6:9-13

"After this manner, therefore, pray ye." Our Lord gave this as a model prayer after one of His disciples said unto Him, "Lord, teach us to pray as John taught his disciples (Luke 11:1)

- a. We are to pray to Our Father which art in heaven", because He is All-wise, All-loving, and All-powerful. We are also instructed to pray in the name of Jesus. (John 14:13-14), depending on the mediative influence of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:26-27)
- b. We are to pray for His will to be done in everything (Romans 8:28)
- c. We are to pray for the coming of the Kingdom (Matt. 25:31-46)
- d. We are to pray for our daily necessities
- e. We are to pray for the leading of the Lord and deliverance from evil.
- f. We are to pray in faith, for "Without faith it is impossible to please Him. (Hebrews 11:5-6). The model prayer is brief, to the point, and not repetitious. It is the perfect prayer.

Where to Pray - Acts 12:5

There was a remarkable change in the prayer life of the disciples after the resurrection of Jesus, and it is noted again after Pentecost. Before the death of Jesus, the disciples slept while Jesus prayed in the Garden (Matthew 26:36-46). But after His death and resurrection:

- a. They assembled in the upper room, waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit, and they prayed. We should always pray when assembled with believers (Acts 1:13-14)
- b. They prayed as they went from house to house (Acts 2:42-47)
- c. They prayed in the church when Peter was in prison (Acts 12:5-9)
- d. Paul and Silas prayed in prison (Acts 16:25). Here we see Christians praying in the presence of unbelievers, but not to be heard by them. Never pray to please others present; pray only to please God.
- e. The important place to pray is any place where you can be alone with God (Matt 6:6)
- f. We are instructed to pray in all places (1 Timothy 2:8). It is a great joy to be able to talk with God at any time, any place, and under any condition, and to know that He will hear and answer.

Hinderance to Prayer - 1 Peter 3:7

When prayers are not answered, you should examine yourself in light of God's Word. If you find anything not pleasing to God, confess it, believing God for forgiveness, that your prayers may be answered. (1 John 1:9)

- A. An unharmonious relationship between husband and wife will hinder prayer (1 Peter 3:1-7)
- B. Selfishness will hinder prayer (James 4:3)
- C. An unforgiving spirit will hinder prayer. (Matt. 5:22-24) Many Christians go without an answer to prayer because they have wronged others or have been wronged and have failed to humble themselves and seek reconciliation.
- D. Unbelief will hinder prayer (James 1:6-7, Hebrews 11:6)
- E. Known sin in the heart will hinder prayer. (Isaiah 59:1-2, Psalm 66:18) When you go to pray, go to God in all humility. Ask Him to reveal anything in your life that is not pleasing to Him. Then judge it, confess it, call it by name, and forsake it. Pray in all simplicity and earnestness, believing and God will hear and answer.

Does God Answer All Prayers— John 15:7

The Bible is filled with answered prayers from Genesis to Revelation. You are commanded to pray, and God has promised to answer (Jeremiah 33:3). In the above Scripture (John 15:7), there are two requirements for answered prayer. First, you are to abide in Him; that is, to continue in Him. It means to remain in His perfect will at all costs. (Romans 12:1-2) Second, His words are to abide in you; they are to become a vital part of your life. You are to be filled with and guided by His words. (Colossians 3:16-17). Meet these two requirements, and your prayers will be answered.

- A. The answer is sometimes immediate. Peter walking on the water to go to Jesus, and as he began to sink, he prayed “Lord save me.” The answer was immediate (Matt 14:22-31)
- B. The answer is sometimes delayed. The delay is according to His will (Romans 8:28). The resurrection of Lazarus is a good example of delayed answer to prayer. Lazarus was sick, and Mary and Martha sent for Jesus to come and heal him. But Jesus delayed coming until Lazarus was dead in the tomb for four days. Then he came and raised Lazarus from the dead. The answer was delayed but not denied (John 11:1-44)
- C. The answer is sometimes “NO.” When God answers with a NO, He always accompanies the answer with peace. (Philippians 4:6-7, II Corinthians 12:7-10)
- D. The answer is sometimes different from what you expect. You pray for patience, and God sends tribulation because “tribulation worketh patience” (Romans 5:3). God answers all your prayers – not according to your wishes, but according to His perfect will.

I pray that you will find this information useful in your Christian life. May God bless all who read and study this material. Be a blessing and pass it on.