

# Be a Disciple: Prayer

## The Purpose of Prayer

### Connection with God

“The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.” Psalm 145:18

### Blessings

“You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive; because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.” James 4:2-3

### Full Joy

“Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.” John 16:24

### Peace of Mind

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.” Phil 4:6-7

### The Glory of God

And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. John 14:13  
*Which of these reasons to pray motivate you most? What other reasons can you think of for praying?*

## A Plan for Prayer

When Jesus taught his disciples how to pray in Matthew 6:5-13 he showed us a model of different important types of prayer. An acrostic of PRAY can be used to remember these different parts.

*“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” –Matt 6:5-13*

- **P- Praise and thanksgiving-** (praise God for who is and what he has done)- “Hallowed by your name”
- **R- Repent-** (confess and turn away from your sin) “forgive us our debts”
- **A-Ask-** (Ask for others and yourself) “Give us today our daily bread” “Deliver us from evil”
- **Y-Yield-** (yield control to the Holy Spirit and spend time listening for his direction) “Your will be done”

## How to keep a Prayer List

Answered pray fuels the faith of believers and unbelievers. We should be asking God for specific things and experiencing the joy of having him answer.

Asked- Date	Answered- Date
My friend Bob to believe- July 19th	Bob believes! August 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Provide finances for my college- July 2nd	God provided! July 20th

## A Place For Prayer

“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” Matt 6:5-6

*Why should we have a place for prayer? What does Jesus tell us will happen if we do this?*

**Discipleship Challenge:** Make a prayer list like the one above. Try and pray for the things on it everyday this week. Do a Soap Quiet Time everyday this week. Memorize: John 16:24

### **Persistence in Prayer**

"Suppose you went to a friend's house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You say to him, 'A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit, and I have nothing for him to eat.' And suppose he calls out from his bedroom, 'Don't bother me. The door is locked for the night, and my family and I are all in bed. I can't help you.' But I tell you this—though he won't do it for friendship's sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence." Luke 11:5-8  
*What role does persistence play in prayer? Why do we often give up praying for things?*

### **The Payoff of Persistent Prayer**

"And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. "You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him." Luke 11:9:13 *What does God promise us if we continue to pray for the right things? What is the difference between the man in the bed and the way the Father is described in this passage?*

### **Personal Prayer**

"When you pray, don't babble on and on as people of other religions do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!" Matt 6:7-8  
*Why are we tempted to babble? What kind of prayers does God desire from us?*

### **Powerful Prayers**

#### **According to God's Word**

"Stay joined to me and let my teachings become part of you. Then you can pray for whatever you want, and your prayer will be answered." John 15:7

#### **According to God's Will**

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him." 1 John 5:14-15

#### **According to God's Promises**

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." Heb 11:6  
*Why do our prayers so often not get answered? How can we improve our prayers? Which of these power points are you weakest in?*

### **Partnering in Prayer**

"Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results." James 5:16  
*What is the benefit of praying as a group? Who are you going to practice praying with?*

### **Practicing God's Presence in Prayer**

"Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus." 1 Thess 5:16-18  
*Why is it important to pray as you are going throughout the day? What keeps you from doing this?*

### **Personal Prayer Plan**

*When (period), where (place), and with whom (people) will you pray?  
How will you record your progress?*

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### **Recommended Books on Prayer**

The Hour that Changes the World-Dick Eastman  
The Kneeling Christian –Author Unknown  
Too Busy Not to Pray- Bill Hybels

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