

Lesson 4 - Prayer

What is Prayer?

The dictionary says that prayer is to *address God with adoration, confession, supplication, or thanksgiving*. In other words, prayer is simply talking to God. Prayer is not repeating certain words or being in a certain position. Prayer is just telling God what is on your heart. Reading a prayer to God would be like reading a conversation with your best friend. God just wants us to talk to Him. When we talk to God we praise Him for what He is, we thank Him for what He has done for us, we ask for forgiveness of our sins, we pray for others and we ask Him for what we need.

Jesus gave us a model prayer to follow. He did not give it for us to repeat the words, but He gave it to us so that we might know how to pray in our own words.

The Model Prayer.

Matthew 6:9-13:

After this _____ therefore _____ ye: Our
_____ which art in _____,
be thy _____. Thy _____ come. Thy _____
be _____ in _____, as it is in _____.
_____ us this _____ our _____.
And _____ us our _____, as we _____
our _____. And lead us not into _____, but
_____ us from _____: For _____ is the
_____, and the _____ and the _____, for
_____. Amen.

Assignment: Read the account of Elijah and the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel in I Kings 18:21-40 and answer these questions.

1. How many prophets of Baal were there? v.22 _____

2. How long did the prophets of Baal pray? v.26 _____

3. What did Elijah pour on his offering? vs.33-34 _____

4. How many words were in Elijah's prayer? v.36 _____

5. In answer to Elijah's prayer, what five things were consumed? v.38

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

(5) _____

Why Should We Pray?

If for no other reason, we should pray because God asks us. It is His desire for us to talk to Him. It is only natural for us to talk to those we love.

We are commanded to pray.

1 Thessalonians 5:17:

_____ without _____.

We pray to praise God.

Hebrews 13:15:

By _____ therefore let us _____ the _____
of _____ to _____, that is,
the _____ of our _____ giving _____ to his
_____.

We pray to thank God.

Ephesians 5:20:

Giving _____ always for all _____ unto _____

and the _____ in the _____ of our _____
_____;

We pray to confess our sins.

1 John 1:9:

If we _____ our _____, he is _____
and _____ to _____ us our _____ and to
_____ us from all _____.

We pray for others.

Romans 10:1:

Brethren, my _____ and _____
to _____ for _____ is, that they might be _____.

We pray for ourselves.

John 15:7:

If ye _____ in me, and my _____
in you, ye shall _____ what ye will, and it _____ be _____
unto you.

Assignment: Read John chapter 17. This was Jesus' prayer just a few hours before He went to the cross.

1. What two things had Jesus done while He was on earth? v.4

(1) _____

(2) _____

2. What did Jesus give to us that He had received from the Father? v.8

3. What did Jesus not pray that we should be taken out of? v.15

4. What did He pray that we should be kept from? v. 15 _____

5. Are we of the world? v. 16 _____

6. For whom was Jesus praying? v.20 _____

How Should We Pray?

Prayer is not the outward position of the body but comes from the sharing of our hearts with God. We can pray at anytime and in any place. We can pray while we work, while we walk or while we are still. We can pray in a large crowd or by ourselves.

We should pray in humility.

Luke 18:13:

And the publican, _____ afar _____, would not _____
up so much as his _____ unto _____, but _____
upon his _____, saying, _____ be _____
to me a _____.

We should pray believing.

Mark 11:24:

Therefore I say unto you, What _____ soever ye _____,
when ye _____, _____ that ye _____
them, and ye _____ have them.

We should pray in Jesus' name.

John 14:14:

If ye shall _____ anything in my _____, I _____ do it.

We should pray in His will.

1 John 5:14:

And this is the _____ that we have in him, that, if we _____ any thing _____ to his _____, he _____ us:

We should pray from the heart.

Matthew 6:7:

But when ye _____, use not _____, as the _____ do: for they _____ that they shall be for their much _____.

Assignment: Look up the following Scriptures and give the bodily positions the people were in while they were praying.

- Numbers 20:6 _____
- 1 Kings 18:42 _____
- Luke 18:13 _____
- John 17:1 _____
- Acts 7:60 _____

When Should We Pray?

We can pray to God anytime day or night. We should be in a spirit of prayer all of the time. We can come to God in prayer in good times or in bad times, when we are in need or just want to thank Him for something.

We should pray in time of trouble.

Matthew 14:29-30:

And he said,_____. And when _____ was _____ down out of the _____, he _____

on the _____, to go to _____. But when he _____ the _____ boisterous, he was _____; and beginning to _____, he _____, saying _____, _____ me.

We should pray in time of sorrow.

Psalm 116:3-4:

The _____ of _____ compassed me, and the _____ of _____ gat hold upon me: I found _____ and _____. Then _____ I upon the _____ of the _____; O _____, I beseech thee, _____ my _____.

We should pray in time of need.

Matthew 6:8:

Be not ye therefore _____ unto them: for your _____ what _____ ye have _____ of, before ye _____ him.

We should pray in time of rejoicing.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18:

Rejoice _____ without _____. In _____ give _____: for this is the _____ of _____ in _____ concerning you.

Assignment: Look up the following Scripture and tell the time of day that these prayers were made.

Psalm 55: 17 _____

Mark 1:35 _____

Luke 6:12 _____

Acts 16:25 _____

1 Thessalonians 3:10 _____

Our Personal Quiet Time.

Every child of God should maintain a daily quiet time with the Father. This is sometime called our personal devotions. It should include reading some from the Word of God and spending some time talking to the Lord. If possible this should be done alone and at the same time each day. Earlyly in the morning is a good time to meet with the Lord. It does not need to be a long time, but it needs to be done every day.

A time alone with the Father.

Matthew 6:6:

But thou, when thou _____, enter into thy _____, and when thou hast _____ thy _____, to thy _____ which is in _____; and thy _____ which _____ in _____ shall _____ thee _____.

A set time each day.

Daniel 6:10:

Now when _____ knew that the writing was signed, he went into his _____: and his windows being _____ in his _____ toward _____, he _____ upon his _____ times a _____, and _____, and gave _____ before his _____, as he did _____.

A time for Bible reading.

Psalm 119:11:

Thy _____ have I _____ in mine _____ that I might not _____ against _____.

A time to pray.

Philippians 4:6:

Be _____ for _____; but in _____ by _____ and _____ with _____ let your _____ be made known unto _____.

Assignment: Read Matthew 6:5-15 and answer the following questions.

1. Why do the hypocrites pray? v.5 _____
2. If we pray in secret how will the Lord reward us? v.6 _____
3. What are we not to use when we pray? v.7 _____
4. What must we do if we would be forgiven? v. 15 _____

DO THE TEST FOR LESSON 4