

Influencer's Journey

Topic: PRAYER

Luke 18:1 *“And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.”*

1 Thessalonians 5:17 *“Pray without ceasing”*

2 Chronicles 7:14 *“if my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”*

Prayer is God's calling for every Christian. The scriptures are clear about God's desire for us to pray. Prayer comes from God, is channeled through willing people, and returns to God.

What is God's primary means of communication to us? The Bible

What is our main vehicle of communication with Him? Prayer

I. PRINCIPLES OF PRAYER

Romans 8:26 *“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession ^[a]for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”*

A. What does the Holy Spirit do for us?

1. Helps us pray.
2. Intercedes for us.

B. God hears our hearts more than the words in prayer.

Romans 8:27 *“Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”*

1. What application does that have for our prayer life?
 - i. No meaningless repetition. (**Matthew 6:7**)

C. God will always answer.

1. No, I've got something better (**Matthew 26:36-39**)
2. God is more interested in our character than our circumstances.
3. Slow, not right now; hold on. (**John 11:6**)
4. Grow, Get right within.
 - i. Sin (**Psalm 66:18**)
 - ii. Motives (**James 4:3**)
 - iii. Forgiving Others (**Matthew 6:14-15**)
5. Go, yes, I thought you'd never ask (**John 16:24**)

II. STEPS TO A SUCCESSFUL PRAYER

- A. Be specific and stand on God's promises.
 - 1. Pray according to the word of God. (**Joshua 1:8**)
 - 2. Fight the enemy with your faith in God (**1 Timothy 6:12**)
- B. You must ask God for what you want. (**Mark 11:23-24**)
 - 1. Ask, and it shall be given to you. (**Matthew 7:7-8**)
 - 2. Seek, and you shall find.
 - 3. Knock, and it shall be opened.
- C. Be positive in your thinking. (**1 Peter 5:8**)
 - 1. Prepare your mind for action.
 - 2. Reject what arises against God's word (**2 Corinthians 10:5**)
 - 3. Guard your mind.
- D. Mediate on God's promises. (**Proverbs 4:20-22**)
 - 1. Call those things that aren't as though they were.
- E. Continually thank God for the answer. (**Philippians 4:6**)
- F. Make your prayer a statement of faith. (**Hebrews 11:1**)

III. GUIDE TO PRAYER - THE LORD'S PRAYER

A. ADORATION – (Psalms 100)

Matthew 6:9-13 "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."

- 1. Adoration is worshipping God for who He is. Why do we need to do this?
 - i. It changes our attitude when we focus on the positive characteristics of God.
 - ii. It gets our eyes off ourselves. When we focus on the greatness of God, our problems on Earth don't seem as big

B. SURRENDER - Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.

Acts 21:14 "So when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, "The will of the Lord be done."

- 1. Surrender is letting go of our plans or desires and letting God take control.
 - i. Why do we need to surrender? (**Jeremiah 29:11**)
 - ii. Jesus Christ paid a price for our lives; therefore, we must do His will, not ours.

C. SUPPLICATION - Give us this day our daily bread.

Philippians 4:29 *“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”*

1. Supplication is asking God for specific needs regarding others and ourselves.

D. CONFESSION - And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. **1**

John 1:9 *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

1. Why do we need to confess our sins?
 - i. It restores our fellowship with God.
 - ii. To be honest with Him and with ourselves.
 - iii. Thank Him for forgiveness and wisdom to avoid that sin in the future.

E. WARFARE - And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. **John**

17:15 *“I do not pray you should take them out of the world, but that you should keep them from the evil one.”*

1 John 5:18 *“We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.”* 1.

Warfare is defeating the enemy on our knees, so we have the victory on our feet.

2. Why do we need to do spiritual warfare in prayer?
 - i. The battle is not ours, it’s the Lord’s.
 - ii. We must make war in the heavenly places. (**Ephesians 6:12**)

F. THANKSGIVING - For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. **1**

Thessalonians 5:17-18 *“Pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*

1. Thanksgiving is thanking God for what He has done and what He is going to do. This helps us keep an attitude of gratitude and dependency. Here are some areas you might want to express some thankfulness to God:
 - i. Spiritual blessings. (forgiveness, eternal life, healing, ministry, etc.)
 - ii. Material blessings. (house, shoes, job, etc.)
 - iii. Physical blessings. (health, eyes to see, etc.)
 - iv. People in our lives answered prayer.