

Prayer
Lesson 38

1. Prayer is one of the highest _____ and most important _____ of the Christian life.
2. Prayer is dependence upon _____, not _____.
3. _____ are not the important part of prayer. The _____ of prayer is what God sees and understands.
4. Prayer accomplishes far more than all the _____ in the world.
5. _____ and _____ are two different things.
Acts 9:11
 - a. _____ prayed many prayers as a _____.
 - b. His first _____ began after his _____.
6. The disciples asked Christ to _____ to pray. Luke 11:1
7. Prayer is a _____ meant for all who love the Lord and we should _____ of this privilege. Luke 18:1
8. The following are some _____ Christ gave with regard to praying. Matthew 6:5-8
 - a. Don't pray to _____ to your religiosity because that will have its own reward. Matthew 6:5 (What is it?)
 - b. Pray _____ as opposed to hypocritically. (vs. 6)
 - c. Do not pray _____, _____, _____ prayers. (vs. 7)
(vain repetition)
9. The Lord's Prayer is a _____ prayer, it was not designed to be repeated corporately as a part of a _____. Matthew 5:9
10. It is not wrong to repeat it as such _____, but note that Christ said, "This is _____ you should pray, not _____ you should pray."
11. If the "Lord's Prayer," better called the _____ prayer, is the _____, what format should our prayers follow? Matthew 6:9-13

- a. _____ and recognition of who He is. (vs. 9)
 - b. Prayer for _____ to be done in _____ situations. (vs. 10)
 - c. Request for _____ to be met. (vs. 11)
 - d. _____ for sins committed; with the prerequisite that _____ others. (vs. 12)
 - e. Protection from the _____. (vs. 13)
 - f. A restatement of _____. (vs. 13b)
12. _____ is essential to _____ of prayer. James 1:6
13. Faith must rest in _____. God _____ answer prayer. Matthew 7:7
14. We must pray _____ His will. 1 John 5:14

* If, when you pray, you are walking in fellowship with God and you are harboring no known sin; if you are living a life of obedience to God's Word and are seeking to do all that you know He wants you to seek and do; You can be confident that what you pray _____ according to His will and you can expect Him to answer.

15. When you pray in the _____ you will not "ask amiss" (ask with the wrong motive). James 4:3
16. God's desire for us is to be _____ in our prayers. Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17
17. God cannot hear your prayer when there is _____. Ps. 66:18
18. When we pray we pray in the _____ Jesus. John 16:23 & 24

* What does it mean to pray in the name of Jesus? Does it simply mean to use His name as a "rote" conclusion to every prayer? No, the concept is far more inclusive than that. The understanding of "in Jesus' name" is at least twofold:

- 1. Praying in the authority Christ gives.
- 2. Praying in union with Him.

To put it yet another way, to pray "in Jesus' name" means I pray this because I believe Jesus would pray this way if He were making the request.

Conclusion

Prayer is discovering God's will -- not trying to change His mind. Prayer is coming to God in absolute faith that what we need will be given to us in answer to our prayers. The Bible definitely teaches that our prayers should be according to His will (1 John 5:14-15).

God always answers prayer. The prayers of faith, the believing prayer for the glory of God, is always answered. The prayer for something that is not good for us is answered with a "no." The prayer for something or someone is often delayed until God knows that by answering the prayer it will work for good.

So, the three answers to prayer are:

- *Yes*, your prayer is in the will of God.
- *No*, to answer your prayer would do you no good.
- *Wait*, God knows what is best and at what point we can accept His positive answer.

Some find a conflict with Matthew 6:8. If the Father knows what we have need of, why should we pray and ask God? Because God is God, He knows all things before we even think of them. He is still our Father and He wants us to ask Him, pray to Him. Read Matthew 7:7-8 again. *Communion* with God opens the way for *Petition*, which opens our concern for others, which is *Intercession*.

Prayer should be as much an attitude as an outward act. The person who communes with God in silence almost constantly is the one who has discovered the secret of prayer.