

Session IV November 3, 2021 Prayer's Empowerment: Pray – How? Part 2

Reminders about our session format: our discussion is adapted as well as quoted.
Session I discussed Pray – Why? Session II included Pray – Where? In Session III, we discussed the empowerment of prayer when we pray *how* Jesus instructed and modeled for us. Tonight we'll go deeper into the empowerment of prayer.

Session IV Devotions/Chapters included from *The Book on Prayer*:

13. How's the Fire?
14. Your Prayer is Heard
15. Prayer is a Four Lane Highway
16. Heaven's Password

Pray How? With spiritual fire: Leviticus 6:13 – “the fire shall ever be burning upon the altar; it shall never _____.”

Last time we were together we discussed how a model for our effective, fervent prayer could be found in I Kings 18, when Elijah called down fire from Heaven to prove God's power. Remember, Elijah began by *repairing the altar*, then he prayed _____ (with fire in his own spirit) and God answered _____ (with a bolt of lightning, perhaps?).

What God _____, He sets ablaze. page 154

If HE lights the fire, we have to keep it stoked and tended. We can't neglect the fire of the altar when we become distracted or burdened by the world and let our _____ for prayer get cold. [poem page 158]

Pray How? With prevailing constancy. Daniel 10:12.

What does it mean to prevail?

- To be greater in strength or influence, to _____
- To be most common or frequent
- To be in use or current

In Daniel chapter 10, Daniel is giving a testimony of prevailing prayer. He describes how he had a vision revealed to him, but it was going to take a while. So Daniel went into mourning – fasting certain foods, praying with purpose and constancy. Daniel’s prayer life had been described earlier in the book, chapter 6, as happening morning, noon and night, with windows open, looking toward Jerusalem. So we can believe that while Daniel prayed for the vision to come to pass, he followed the same pattern of prayer.

Then in verse 10 of that chapter is when a messenger from God appeared only to Daniel, and told him “thy words (prayers) were _____, and I am come for thy words.” The messenger goes on to foretell of exactly how the vision will come to pass in the form of favor on Daniel in multiple earthly kingdoms.

So, Daniel’s prevailing prayer:

- Caused him to triumph and have influence
- Caused the Heavenly messenger to triumph – what if he had to fight all the way to David, and if David had stopped praying the angel might not have made it?
- Was the most common and frequent part of his life at that time (in use) and in times past

Daniel kept praying until the answer came. The response was delayed, but Daniel kept praying. We once called this prevailing prayer: those continuous, incessant prayers that do not stop until the _____ . page 162

We should pray:

- In faith (James 5:15)
- In the Spirit (Jude 20)
- Fervently and earnestly (James 5:16)
- Boldly (Hebrews 4:16)
- Positively (Acts 3:6-7)

This may offend you, but I have come to the conclusion that Heaven does not listen to half-hearted prayers. page 165

If we pray prevailing prayers, they will be common and frequent, they will be currently in use, and they will cause us to triumph!

Pray How? On the Prayer Highway!

If prayer was a road, it is not a _____ highway. Preferably, it has many lanes, each leading from you to God and earth to Heaven. page 173

I Timothy 2:1-4

- 1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men;
- 2 For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.
- 3 For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;
- 4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

We can imagine Paul writing to Timothy and laying out four “lanes” of prayer – on the Prayer Highway. Of course, the Bible mentions other types of prayer that all deserve study, but these four types in the passage can give us the fundamentals.

Supplication – a petition or entreaty. The supplicant has a heartfelt, genuine, and urgent need. Supplication is like the “_____” to God, and you should pray this way when you have a vital need and you know God is the only Source.

Prayers – from the Greek “*proseuche*” this means both a prayer to God and a place of prayer in the New Testament, so it’s more like the “_____” of meeting with God regularly. We should pray this way because He is God our Friend, and He wants to meet with us all day and every day.

Intercessions – an intervention, standing in the gap for someone else. This might be a steeply inclined road where the going is slow. The lane is critically hard to

travel, but it's worth it to us because we are going to God *for* someone who may not be able to go for themselves, and we love them.

Giving of thanks – a “constant consciousness that everything we are, have, and hold” are because of God’s grace and goodness. [like Acts 17:28] Thankfulness is like the _____ to the Prayer Highway, yet it is its own lane, as well, when we get lost in His presence. When should we be in this lane? When we are “depressed, confused, sorrowful, sick, lonely, overwhelmed, or distracted.” Wait, what? Help me with examples of how this has worked for you.

Pray How? In Surrender: Matthew 26:39

Who was praying here? _____

Remember that if we want to learn *how* to pray, we follow the instruction and the examples of Jesus. He is praying in this passage and saying:

- Not me.
- Not about me.
- Not my will.
- Not my way.
- Not my rights.
- Not my opinion.
- Not my hopes.
- Not my dreams.

I surrender all of these. Surrender is a _____ for the way you and I should live. Surrender is Heaven’s password. page 184

“Resist the devil and he will flee.” Where is that from?
James 4:7. But the first portion of the verse is “Submit yourselves therefore to God”. Without submission to God’s authority, we are not strong enough to resist the enemy’s temptation to put him on the run, anyway.

The degree of our victory is in direct proportion to our surrender.
Let go and let God. page 187

Where do we have trouble letting go? Money? Family? Life?

We must let go of our past to let God heal our yesterdays. My past? Jesus has nailed that to the Tree.
We let go of our future to let God plan our tomorrows. My future? Jesus is my hope for tomorrow.
We let go of our present to let God order our steps today. My present? Jesus is my present help in the time of need. pages 191-192

All to Jesus, I surrender. All to Him I freely give.
I will ever love and trust Him, In His presence daily live.
I surrender all, I surrender all. All to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

The empowerment of prayer is in the “how” – fervent, constant, focused, and surrendered.