

Session III October 20, 2021

Prayer's Necessity: Pray – How? Part 1

Reminders about our session format: our discussion is adapted as well as quoted.

Session I discussed Pray – Why? Because He calls us, because He longs to hear our voice and to know we seek His face in our ever-present desire to be with HIM as He longs to be with us. Session II included chapters around Pray – Where? God wants everyone to have a dedicated place of prayer, a secret place, where the fragrance of His presence surrounds us like the loveliest of roses.

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

10. When we Pray, Say.....
11. Practice the Power of Two or Three
12. The Five Components of Effective Prayer

Pray How? The way Jesus prayed in Luke 11 and Matthew 6: *The Lord's Prayer*.

⁹ After this manner therefore pray ye:

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

¹⁰ Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Note that Jesus' instruction wasn't meant to be "recite this over and over again every time you pray." But He gave precise guidance for _____ to use and _____ to follow.

Salutation

"*Our Father Which Art in Heaven*" We greet Him, we acknowledge that we know who He is and that we can call Him "Abba, Father" because of the Spirit of _____ (Romans 8:15).

First Part: Focus on God

"*Hallowed be thy name.*" We acknowledge that His name is the only One worthy of _____, that He is the only One who can save and heal and deliver and provide.

“Thy Kingdom Come.” We ask the Lord to _____ in our hearts, to be ruler over our thoughts and actions. We also remind ourselves that we are ready for Him to return SOON.

“Thy Will be done in earth as it is in heaven.” We ask for God to do miracles here on earth, to remind us that there is a huge difference between heaven and earth but He can show us His power even while we live in this limited world.

In the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus indicates we are to pray Heaven’s _____ into _____ existence, not vice versa. page 119

Second Part: Focus on our needs

“Give us this day our daily bread.” We need _____.

“Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.” We need _____.

“Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.” We need to not _____ to the temptations that we face.

Closing Salutation and the Final Word

“For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, Forever. Amen.”

Amen = Let it Be! It shall be! Yes! Yes! Yes!

Be straightforward in your prayers. Simple is not _____. page 123

Pray How? In agreement with others, Matthew 18:19-20.

Multiplied prayers are not just 1 plus 1 equals 2.

Agreeing with another in prayer is like _____ – the whole is more than the sum of the parts. Or, 1 plus 1 equals 3 or 15 or 197.

Sometimes we think of a life devoted to prayer as a life devoted to _____. But the Bible gives numerous instructions on how to be with “one another” as we see His kingdom on earth. In James 5:16, James advises us to “pray one for another.”

We do life together. We worship together. We pray together. Through our agreement in prayer, we see the Heavens unlocked. page 129

Is someone willing to share examples of how God multiplied prayers when you were in agreement with someone?

I think the testimony of God's answered prayers is made so much more powerful when someone knows the need before they know the miracle.

Pray How? Effectively! James 5:16.

We all agree that prayer is a priority, and should be a standard in our lives. But then, what are the reasons that we *don't* pray as much as we should? Because we don't get what we want, or because our prayers aren't compelling.

Powerless prayers are like motorless cars. Eventually, you get tired of pretending you're going somewhere when you're only standing still. page 136

Elijah is used as an example by James in 5:17-18.

Note: Elijah is also pronounced Elias in Hebrew, so James is reminding us of Elijah the prophet whose life and ministry are described in 1 Kings, chapter 17 and on.

God was _____ with the Israelites and with King Ahab and Queen Jezebel, because of idol worship and turning away from God. Elijah delivered the word of God to Ahab, including a prophecy or promise that a drought would come – as a consequence and as a wake-up call. Then Elijah prayed as instructed, and no rain fell for 3 and a half years.

At the appointed time, Elijah was led back to Israel to demonstrate God's power and to help Israel return to God. This is the showdown with the prophets of the false idol Baal, described in 1 Kings 18. Elijah showed us five components of effective prayer.

Component #1 – Repent (Repair the Altar)

In 1 Kings chapters 17 and 18, the children of Israel were worshipping the false god Baal and offering sacrifice on altars dedicated to him. Elijah, however, before he showed the one true God's power, started by rebuilding the altar of the Lord

that had broken (1 Kings 18:30). There had to be the right place to lay the sacrifice.

Component #2 – Offer Words (Prepare the Sacrifice)

Elijah's sacrifice was a bullock. Today, our sacrifice is _____
– body and mind – Romans 12:1-2. We offer the fruit of our lips in prayer (Hebrews 13:15). Our words matter, and “vain repetitions” do not please God because they do not connect us to Him. Instead, they put up a barrier because they allow distracted thoughts when we aren't concentrating on the words.

Component #3 – Claim the Promise (Pray Again)

The same God who stopped the rain when Elijah prayed, is the God who intended to show His power by sending the rain again. The promise of rain was there before the drought came. So Elijah knew the rain would come, even if he couldn't see any _____ that it was on the way.

God makes many promises; many will never be fulfilled. The reason is that all promises ... must be saturated with prayer. Heaven's _____ are filled with promises for which no one has prayed or is praying. ^{pg. 143}

Component #4 – Exercise Faith (Kneel on the Promise)

Elijah prayed one time for the rain to stop, and he prayed seven times for the rain to come to end the drought. In the process of praying for the rain to come back, he separated himself from the crowd and went to his own secret place (Mount Carmel), and knelt down (1 Kings 18:42). He didn't make a show of doubt or of excessive crying out to God, but he put his face to the ground as he knelt and waited.

Component #5 – Expectancy (Eyes Up)

While Elijah was kneeling, his servant was watching the skies. _____
times Elijah told him to go look up. Elijah knew the promise would be revealed as

long as they kept expecting it! All it took was a cloud the size of a man's hand to convince him that the rain was on the way.

*That is the necessity of prayer. To pray how HE _____ and
_____.*