

1 Thes 5:16-18 - 16 Rejoice always; 17 pray without ceasing; 18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thes 5:25 - Brethren, pray for us.

Rom 12:12 - ...(be) devoted to prayer...

Eph 6:18 - With all prayer and petition pray at all times..

Col 1:9 - ...we have not ceased to pray for you...

Col 4:2 - Devote yourselves to prayer...

SIMPLE DEFINITION OF PRAYER

Prayer is personal communication with God.

Two important emphases concerning PRAYER:

I. THE COMPREHENSIVE BREADTH OF PRAYER

17 Pray without ceasing...

Pray = requests (petition and intercession); confession; praise; adoration; thanksgiving

Two important emphases concerning PRAYER:

I. THE COMPREHENSIVE BREADTH OF PRAYER

II. THE CONTINUAL ATTITUDE OF PRAYER

17...without ceasing pray

1:3 – constantly bearing in mind your work of faith...

2:13 - For this reason we also constantly thank God...

*Rom 1:9 - For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son, is my witness as to how **unceasingly** I make mention of you...*

*Luke 18:1 - ...He was telling them a parable to show that **at all times** they ought to pray...*

J.B. LIGHTFOOT: *It is not in the moving of the lips, but in the elevation of the heart to God, that the essence of prayer consists. Thus amidst the commonest duties and recreations of life it is still possible to be engaged in prayer.*

***Matt 6:6** - ... when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret.,.*

***Acts 2:42** –(The large number saved on the Day of Pentecost) were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

***Acts 4:23–24 – 23** When (Peter and John) had been released, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. **24** And when they heard this, they lifted their voices to God with one accord ...*

GEOFFREY B. WILSON: *Believers are so to cultivate a spirit of constant prayerfulness that their whole lives will be permeated by the presence of God.*

***Matt 14:23** - After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to **pray**; and when it was evening, He was there alone.*

***Mark 1:35** - In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and was **praying** there.*

***Luke 5:16** - But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and **pray**.*

*Acts 1:14 - These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to **prayer**...*

*Acts 6:4 - But we will devote ourselves to **prayer** and to the ministry of the word.*

1. THE FOUNDATION OF PRAYER

Heb 10:19–22 - 19 Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith...

1 Tim 2:5 - For there is ... one mediator ... between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...

Does God hear the prayers of those who do not trust in Jesus?

Prov 15:8 - The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is His delight.

Prov 15:29 - The LORD is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous.

1 Pet 3:12 - FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE TOWARD THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER, BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL.

What about OT believers who lived and died BEFORE Jesus the Messiah came?

Psa 116:1 - I love the LORD, because He hears My voice and my supplications.

Matt 6:9 - Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven...

2. THE MOTIVATIONS FOR PRAYER

What kind of heart is motivated to pray?

2. THE MOTIVATIONS FOR PRAYER

A HUMBLE HEART

Expressed in our sense of dependency.

Expressed in our desire for God's glory.

John 14:13 - Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

James 4:3 - You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

2. THE MOTIVATIONS FOR PRAYER

A HUMBLE HEART

A GRATEFUL HEART

Psa 95:2 - Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving...

Psa 100:4 - Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him...

Phil 1:3–4 - 3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always offering prayer with joy...

2. THE MOTIVATIONS FOR PRAYER

A BURDENED HEART - because of conviction over sin

Psa 32:3, 5 - 3 When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. ... 5 I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"; and You forgave the guilt of my sin.

Prov 28:13 - He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.

1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

2. THE MOTIVATIONS FOR PRAYER

A BURDENED HEART - because of lost people

Acts 26:18 – (We pray that God would) *open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins...*

Rom 10:1 - ... *my prayer to God for them is for their salvation.*

2. THE MOTIVATIONS FOR PRAYER

A BURDENED HEART - because of the state of the world

2. THE MOTIVATIONS FOR PRAYER

A HUMBLE HEART

A GRATEFUL HEART

A BURDENED HEART

AN EAGER HEART

2. THE MOTIVATIONS FOR PRAYER

AN EAGER HEART – an eagerness for fellowship

Psa 42:1–2 - 1 As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for You, O God. 2 My soul thirsts for God...

Psa 63:1 - O God...My soul thirsts for You...

2. THE MOTIVATIONS FOR PRAYER

AN EAGER HEART – an eagerness to grow spiritually

Eph 3:14, 16–17, 19 - 14 ...I bow my knees before the Father ... 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 so that ... you, being rooted and grounded in love ... 19 ...may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

Col 1:9–10 - 9 ...we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects...

2. THE MOTIVATIONS FOR PRAYER

AN EAGER HEART – an eagerness to be *used*...to participate in God's activity in the world.

2 Chron 7:14 - and 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, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

WAYNE GRUDEM: *If we pray little, it is probably because we do not really believe that prayer accomplishes much at all.*

2. THE MOTIVATIONS FOR PRAYER

A HUMBLE HEART

A GRATEFUL HEART

A BURDENED HEART

AN EAGER HEART

A NEEDY HEART

2. THE MOTIVATIONS FOR PRAYER

A HUMBLE HEART

A GRATEFUL HEART

A BURDENED HEART

AN EAGER HEART

A NEEDY HEART – we have SPIRITUAL needs

Wisdom

James 1:5 - But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

2. THE MOTIVATIONS FOR PRAYER

A HUMBLE HEART

A GRATEFUL HEART

A BURDENED HEART

AN EAGER HEART

A NEEDY HEART – we have SPIRITUAL needs

Direction

Prov 16:9 - The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.

2. THE MOTIVATIONS FOR PRAYER

A NEEDY HEART – we have SPIRITUAL needs

Relief from fear and worry

Phil 4:6–7 - 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Psa 4:1 - ... You have relieved me in my distress...

2. THE MOTIVATIONS FOR PRAYER

A HUMBLE HEART

A GRATEFUL HEART

A BURDENED HEART

AN EAGER HEART

A NEEDY HEART – we have PRACTICAL needs

Luke 11:9-13

Matt 6:11 - Give us this day our daily bread.

D.A. CARSON: *It is exceedingly important to remember that prayer is not magic, and that God is personal as well as sovereign. Remember that the Bible simultaneously pictures God as utterly sovereign and also as a prayer-hearing, prayer-answering God.*

S.D. GORDON: *The greatest thing anyone can do for God and for man is to pray. It is not the only thing. But it is the chief thing.*

JOEL BEEKE: *Devote yourself to prayer. The devil will fear you, and God will hear you.*

JOHN BUNYAN: *You can do more than pray, after you have prayed, But you cannot do more than pray, until you have prayed.*

Heb 4:16 - ...let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

