

Lesson 1

Who Should Pray?

This is an easy question. We know the answer is everyone should pray.

So why are most people so hesitant?

Why do faithful men and women often feel they are lacking something in their prayer life?

Remember the Creator in your youth
Call upon Him while he is near

Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:6
Isaiah 55:6

To Whom Will God Listen?

Does God hear all the prayers uttered by everyone?

Well in one sense yes, because God hears all, knows all and sees all. But, in the sense that truly matters, God hearing and acting upon our prayers, He tells us who He will listen to.

Sin separates us from God, that He will not hear
But, Christ reconciles us with God
He hears those who seek Him
The house of God can boldly approach
Because we keep his commandments

Isaiah 59:1-3
Ephesians 2:14-18
Acts 10:1-4
Hebrews 10:19-22, 4:14-16
1 John 3:22

Why Should We Pray?

This seems to stop many people who know they should pray but don't know what good it will do. It may be because of a lack of faith or simply a lack of understanding, like Jesus disciples who asked Him to teach them to pray (Luke 11:1).

To thank God
To resist temptation
To receive the peace of God
For wisdom
To heal the sick
To restore us from sin
To give glory to God

Colossians 4:2
Matthew 26:41
Philippians 4:5-7
James 1:5
James 5:13-15
James 5:16; Acts 8:22
Matthew 6:9-13

Lesson 2

How Should We Pray?

Should my body be in a particular position when I pray?

Standing	1 Kgs 8:22; Mark 11:25; Luke 18:11,13
Kneeling	Dan 6:10; Ps 95:6; Lk 22:41; Eph 3:14
Sitting	2 Samuel 7:18
Falling on face	Matthew 26:39
Looking up	Psalm 5:3, John 11:41
Lifting up hands	1 Kgs 8:22; Neh 8:6; Ps 28:2; 1Tim 2:8

What should my heart be like?

Faithful	James 1:6-8
Holy	1 Timothy 2:8
Humble	Luke 18:9-14
Repentant	Acts 8:22
Bold in Christ	Hebrews 4:14-16
Confident in God	1 John 5:14-15
Submissive to God	Luke 22:42

The important thing is *the posture of the heart*. It is much easier to bow the knees than to bow the heart in submission to God. While the outward posture *can* be evidence of the inward spiritual attitude, it is not always so. Again, the important thing is the posture of the heart.¹

How Should We Not Pray?

What things should be avoided when praying? Since having a humble heart is important, it would follow that an arrogant heart should be avoided.

This Pharisee prayed with himself	Luke 18:11-12
Do <u>not</u> pray to be seen by others	Matthew 6:5-6
Do <u>not</u> use vain repetitions	Matthew 6:7-8
We should not pray for sin leading to death	1 John 5:16

¹Wiersbe, W. W. *Prayer : Basic Training*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 1988.

Lesson 3

Where Should I Pray?

Privately:

In your room

Matthew 6:5-6

On your roof

Acts 10:9

On a mountain

Matthew 14:23

In a solitary place

Mark 1:35

Public:

Gathered in homes and in church

Acts 12:5-12, 13:3

Everywhere

1 Timothy 2:8

Spoken that everyone may understand

1 Corinthians 14:14-16

Questions

1. What are some differences in public and private prayers?
2. Why are men specified by Paul to pray everywhere?
3. What is the point about lifting up “holy hands”?
4. When should we pray privately instead of publicly and vice versa?

Lesson 4

When Should I Pray?

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 tells us there is a time for every purpose under heaven.

What is the one thing all these times have in common? PRAYER!!!

Birth - Judges 13:8

Death - Matthew 14:13, 23

Evening, Morning, and Noon

Psalm 55:17; Dan 6:10; Acts 10:9

Day and Night

Psalm 88:1

Without ceasing

1 Thessalonians 5:17

What is Prayer?

From 1 Timothy 2:1

Supplications ~ To make a request because of want or need.

Prayers ~ Any kind of talking to God.

Intercessions ~ To make petition or plead for another.

Giving of Thanks ~ Expressing ones gratitude to God.

Questions

1. Should we commit to certain times in the day to pray as David and Daniel did?

2. Write down a prayer that does not make supplication, intercession or give thanks.

Lesson 5

Who Should We Pray For?

All men 1 Timothy 2:1

Kings 1 Timothy 2:2

All in authority 1 Timothy 2:2

Notice especially verses 3 and 4 in 1 Timothy 2. One reason we ought to be praying for everyone is God desires all to come to knowledge of the truth.

All saints Ephesians 6:18

Workers 2 Corinthians 1:11

Suffering, Sick, & Sinners James 5:13-16; 1 John 5:16

Enemies Matthew 5:44

Ourselves Matthew 6:9-13; Acts 4:23-31

Questions

1. Write down a prayer you might make for an enemy.

2. Write down a prayer for an authority figure.

Lesson 6 ~ Examples of Prayer

Supplications

Solomon requests wisdom 1 Kings 3:5-9
Paul requests healing 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Prayers

Psalm 102 – Especially notice the prayers that do not ask for anything.

Intercessions

Moses intercession for Israel Exodus 32:11-13, 30-33

Thanks & Praise

Psalm 92
Psalm 116

A prayer of David: A man after God's own heart

Psalm 25

A prayer of Jesus John 17

Jesus' prayer for Himself (1-5)
Jesus' prayer for His disciples (6-19)
Jesus' prayer for His church (20-26)

The Model Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

Questions

1. Who did Jesus pray for in John 17, and who didn't he pray for?
2. Name at least three points Jesus taught to pray about in his model prayer.
3. Write down a supplication you might ask of God.

Lesson 7 ~ How Does God Answer Prayer?

He May Refuse To Hear

Because they refused to hear His words	Zechariah 7:12-13
Because of our evil deeds	Micah 3:4
Because we ask in doubt	James 1:6-7
Because we ask amiss, for pleasure	James 4:1-4

If We Abide in Jesus It Will Be Done

If we abide in Jesus, it will be done	John 15:7
Because we please Him	1 John 3:22
And we ask according to His will	1 John 5:14-15
The Spirit also makes intercession for us	Romans 8:26-28

How Will Answer Come From God?

The command goes out	Daniel 9:20-23
Angels are ministering spirits	Hebrews 1:14
The answer may be NO	2 Corinthians 12:7-10
God gives answer in lots	Pr 16:33
Prayer set the parameters of answer	Genesis 24:12 -52
They determined the will of God, Set the parameters of the choice, Prayed for the answer in lots	Acts 1:16-26

1. Assume you are going to pray for God's help in finding someone to marry, how would you know the right person when he or she came along?

2. Pretend you are an Evangelist, and you must choose which congregation would be best to preach for. Write down a supplication you would ask God.