

Prayer and godliness

Prayer's role for life

- Filling God's desire

- Heb 13:6 ... for with such sacrifices God is well pleased

- Filling man's desire

- Mat 5 Happy or blessed are the poor, mournful, meek and hungry after righteousness

OT vs NT

- **Shadow or type – sacrifices from the Levite priests**
 - ◆ **Heb 10:11 And every priest stands daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins (Lev 1:5-9)**
 - ◆ **Num 8:23-25 from age 25 to 50**
- **Substance, reality or antitype – sacrifices from Christians**
 - ◆ **1Pe 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.**

Sacrifice of prayer

- 1. It can accomplish good for our enemies. Mat 5:44**
- 2. Provide for more preachers and teachers. Mat 9:38 pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest**
- 3. Accomplish good for children. Mat 19:13 put His hands on them and pray - suffer little children**
- 4. May avoid misfortune Rev 3:10 or other calamity Mat 24:20 or Zep 2:3 hidden from wrath**
- 5. Survive temptation. Mat 26:41 spirit is willing but flesh is weak – will this make you strong?**
- 6. Christians receive forgiveness of sins. Acts 8:22 pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart be forgiven thee, 1Jo 1:9**
- 7. Give our spirits opportunity to talk to God. Rom 8:26 intercession with groanings, 1Cor 14:14,15 pray in spirit, not understanding, came from God Ecc 12:7 God gave us our spirit**
- 8. Cause other Christians to grow spiritually. Col 1:9 pray that others may be filled with wisdom and spiritual understanding, Rev 3:8 a little strength can be stronger.**

What is prayer?

The thing formed has a way to talk to the One who formed it. Rom 9:20

- **David, man after God's own heart Act 13:22 His prayer 2Sa 7:18-29 after Nathan received word from God commending David for his desire to build a temple.**
- **Godly Solomon 1Ki 10:24, His prayer 1Ki 8:22-54 at the dedication of the temple he built 7:51**
- **Godly Hezekiah 2Ki 18:1-6, his prayer 2Ki 19:15-19 after receiving the letter from the rabsheka of Sennacherib of Assyria**
- **God, the Son: to the Father in John 17 - minds of deity communicating before suffering of the cross and we are invited to listen in.**
 - ◆ **Glorify deity - vs 1, 4, 5, 10, 22, 24, Prayer for followers - 16-22**

Where to pray

- **Alone - (in your closet) Mat 6:6 to your Father in secret**
 - ◆ **Examine conscience, 2Co 13:5, Joh 8:9 writing on the ground consciences convicted**
- **When assembled - Act 12:5 prayers without ceasing for Peter were made by the assembly**
 - ◆ **Luk 19:45, 46 “My house is a house of prayer”, 1Ti 3:15 House of God = assembly of family**
- **At home - husband and wife, along with fasting - 1Co 7:5**
 - ◆ **1Pe 3:7 husband's prayers can be hindered by disputes with his wife – “Understand her” Is a command! Like learning your trade**

Prayer posture is mentioned

- **God's Word makes mention of various postures – we can choose. What is meant by Rom 14:11, Phs 2:10 about knees?**
- **Kneeling with hands spread to heaven in prayer 1 Kings 8:54; 2 Chr. 6:13, Act 20:36, 21:5**
- **Bowing the head, the body and falling prostrate Gen. 24:26, 52; Ex. 4:31; 12:27; Matt. 26:39; Mark 14:35**
- **Standing and spreading out the hands 1 Kings 8:22, Ps. 28:2; 63:4; 88:9; 1 Tim. 2:8**
- **Standing (2Ch 20:9, Mark 11:25)**
- **Doesn't matter as long as its in spirit and according to God's will. Joh 4:21-24, 1Jo 5:14-15**
- **Humbling youself is the hard part. Jam 4:6**

Prayer's appeal

- If prayer were like eating, we would not need this lesson.
- For the spiritual man, prayer becomes natural like eating, but for the natural man, it is of no real value. Rom 8:5-9 flesh vs spirit
- A natural man relies on this world – for every problem there is a man-made solution.
- For a natural man, prayer to God would be like elevator talk with total strangers - rainy isn't it? Traffic was horrible this morning...
- Natural men sometimes pretend to talk to God. A pretense of piety for gain by godliness. Mat 6:5 for display 1Ti 6:5 for gain
 - ◆ The false teachers use prayer for gain to teach people to pray for wealth and health – Jam 4 asking amiss

Prayer must be learned

God's will must be known before prayer – do we know God's will for:

- **Forgiveness – Mat 6:12-14**
- **Spreading the gospel? Mat 9:38 pray to Lord of the harvest, souls saved from Satan's sting. One lost sheep Luk 15:4, Jam 5:14, 20**
- **For strengthening the saints? Act 18:23, For unity among the saints? 1Co 1:10**
- **For God to be glorified among the nations? Eph 3:10, Rev 15:4**
- **Enduring life – like pain of childbirth Jn 16:21 short suffering compared to long joy, Act 5:41, Rom 8:17, Phi 1:29, 2Ti 3:12, 1Pe 3:14, 4:19, Rev 2:10**
- **Food and clothing – Mat 6:25-33**

Prayer is not easy

Prayer is not just talking. For some, talking appeals to the flesh - they talk a lot, using phrases like OMG! Are they spiritual minded?

We must discipline our thoughts to approach God. Joh 4:24 It is not so easy to pray according to the Spirit. If it's just like talking, why would it be difficult? Luk 18:11 pharisee and the publican both stood and prayed to God. One probably practiced praying more and was condemned. We must know the mind of the Spirit first. We all think and talk. No problem; so why do most people, by their own admission, fail to pray like they should?

Because:

1. Talking to the God about innermost thoughts (our heart, our prideful rebellion)
2. Responding to God after listening to Him through His Word, each step of faith by prayer
3. Learning to come face to face with ourselves as God sees us Heb 4:12 Naked
4. Admitting that God exists and that He listens. (someone's listening on the phone)
5. Getting to know what God wants to hear from us (knowing God's plans and heart)

ACTS – prayer outline

- **A**doration - Our father who art in heaven, hallowed, ...for thine is... We are created by God to glorify God, just as the church was created to demonstrate the wisdom of God Eph 3;10
- **C**onfession – Confess Christ, Phi 2:11 and confess our sins as we forgive others, 1Jo 1:8,9, Act 8:22 – confessing is agreeing or assenting to God's truth or charge
- **T**hanksgiving - Greek Eucharisto – giving of thanks Joh 6:11, 23, count blessings: Mighty works of God, love of Christ, patience, discipline as sons, gospel, salvation, hope of heaven
- **S**upplication (pleading) - for ourselves - "Give us our daily food" and for others Jam 5:20, 1Jo 5:14-16 God's will to save, Col 1:9 prayer for brethren, Mat 5:44 for enemies. God has desires for all men 2b saved 1Ti 2:4 we should desire the same.