

KEYS TO IMPROVING YOUR PRAYER LIFE

Select Passages • October 14, 2007 • Pastor Mike Newman

October 7, 2007..... "The Power of Prayer"
October 14, 2007..... "Keys to Improving Your Prayer Life"
October 21, 2007..... "Five Conditions of Answered Prayer"
October 28, 2007..... "Answers to Common Questions About Prayer"

rethink
PRAYER
let's talk about it

Luke 11:1-11 (NLT) ¹Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As he finished, one of his disciples came to him and said, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." ²Jesus said, "This is how you should pray: "Father, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. ³Give us each day the food we need, ⁴and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation." ⁵Then, teaching them more about prayer, he used this story: "Suppose you went to a friend's house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You say to him, ⁶'A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit, and I have nothing for him to eat.' ⁷And suppose he calls out from his bedroom, 'Don't bother me. The door is locked for the night, and my family and I are all in bed. I can't help you.' ⁸But I tell you this—though he won't do it for friendship's sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence. ⁹And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹"You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead?"

Matthew 5:1-2 (NLT) ¹One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, ²and he began to teach them.

Matthew 6:5-13 (NLT) ⁵"When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. ⁶But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you. ⁷"When you pray, don't babble on and on as people of other religions do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. ⁸Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him! ⁹Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. ¹⁰May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us today the food we need, ¹²and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. ¹³And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NLT) ¹⁷Never stop praying.

Four Biblical Principles:

- 1) Pray for the _____.
✓ See Matthew 6:5
- 2) Figure out the best _____ for you to pray.
✓ See Matthew 6:6 and 1 Thessalonians 5:17

When you look at the Bible, it seems to teach us that there are really two parts to a person's prayer life. There is the "never stop praying" part and the "set aside time to pray" part and both are important for us in our spiritual journey.
- 3) Pray with _____ and sincerely communicate with God what is on your heart
✓ See Matthew 6:7-8 and Luke 11:5-11



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Matthew 6:9-13 (NLT) ⁹Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. ¹⁰May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us today the food we need, ¹²and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. ¹³And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.

Psalms 139:23-24 (NLT) ²³Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT) ⁶Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. ⁷Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

Psalms 103:2 (NLT) ²Let all that I am praise the LORD; may I never forget the good things he does for me.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NLT) ¹⁸Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

Luke 17:11-19 (NLT) ¹¹As Jesus continued on toward Jerusalem, he reached the border between Galilee and Samaria. ¹²As he entered a village there, ten lepers stood at a distance, ¹³crying out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" ¹⁴He looked at them and said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed of their leprosy. ¹⁵One of them, when he saw that he was healed, came back to Jesus, shouting, "Praise God!" ¹⁶He fell to the ground at Jesus' feet, thanking him for what he had done. This man was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Jesus asked, "Didn't I heal ten men? Where are the other nine?" ¹⁸Has no one returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹And Jesus said to the man, "Stand up and go. Your faith has healed you."

For more information about what it means to become a follower of Christ or what to do after you make a decision to follow Jesus, speak to one of the elders or pastors following the service today (they can be found by the prayer room in the church lobby) or contact the church office (717-762-7147) to set up an appointment. You may also request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey on our website by clicking on the "Beginning Your Journey" link.

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4) Pray with _____ in what you communicate to God.

✓ See Matthew 6:9-13

Notice what Jesus said should be included in our prayers....

- Acknowledge God's power and position as God
- Pray for God's will to be done
- Ask for God's provision — telling Him our wants and needs
- Confess our sins
- Pray for God's help to stand against temptation
- Pray for protection from the evil one

A Practical Way To Approach A Balanced Prayer Life:

A— _____

C— _____

(See Psalm 139:23-24)

T— _____

(See Philippians 4:6-7, Psalm 103:2, 1 Thess. 5:18, and Luke 17:11-19)

S— _____

Four Different Categories of Requests:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Of all the things we have talked about today, the most important is probably our need to commit to "Just Do It!"



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