

DRAWING NEAR TO GOD THROUGH PRAYER (Luke 18:1-8)
January 28, 2024

MAIN IDEA—Prayer is a primary way we draw near to God.

MEMORY VERSES—Mt. 7:7-8

1. THE WHAT & WHY OF PRAYER.

What is prayer? Prayer is communication with God, personally and corporately. There are various types of prayers. There are prayers of Adoration that praise God for His greatness and character [Ps. 27:1]; there are prayers of Confession that admit our sin and our need for God's mercy [Lk. 18:13]; there are prayers of Thanksgiving for God's blessings [Rom. 1:8]; and prayers of Supplication for others or ourselves [Lk. 11:3]. A.C.T.S.

J.I. Packer—God made us and has redeemed us for fellowship with Himself, and that is what prayer is...God foreordains the means as well as the end, and our prayer is foreordained as the means whereby He brings His sovereign will to pass.

Why should we pray? >God's word tells us to persist in prayer [Mt. 7:7-8; Phil. 4:6-8; Col. 4:2; James 5:13-18]

>The Lord Jesus Christ set the expectation for us to pray in the Sermon on the Mount [Matt. 6:5-7]

>Prayer expresses our faith in God and is a way to increase our trust in Him.

>Prayer brings us into deeper fellowship with God and the fruit of our prayers proves that we are Christ's disciples. Jn. 15:7-8.

>Prayer is how we engage in Spiritual warfare [Eph. 6:18].

>Through prayer God allows us as His creation to be involved in activities that are eternally important. Mt. 6:10; Lk. 12:32

2. JESUS' EXAMPLE OF PRAYER—Jesus lived a life filled with prayer. He prayed early in the morning in quiet places (See Mk. 1:35), after work [Mk. 6:45-46], in the midst of success and popularity (See Lk. 5:15-16), before making major decisions (Lk. 6:12-13). He prayed consistently and honestly (Lk. 22:39-44).

3. THE EARLY CHURCH'S EXAMPLE OF PRAYER—The early church diligently and earnestly practiced prayer. Led by the Holy Spirit, they demonstrated an intense commitment to scripture, prayer, and fellowship as they shared the Gospel locally and worldwide. Their daily lives were bathed in prayer.

Acts 1:14, Acts 2:4, Acts 2:42-47, Acts 3:1, Acts 6:4, Acts 12

4. HOW TO PRAY EFFECTIVELY—There are different elements involved in effective prayer such as: praying in Jesus' name (**Jn. 14:13-14**), praying in faith (**Mt. 21:22**), praying boldly (**Heb. 4:16**), pray unselfishly (**James 4:2-3**), praying reverently and humbly (**Lk.18:13**), and certainly the Lord wants us to pray persistently (**See Lk. 18:8**)!

5. WHAT TO PRAY—God clearly tells us what to pray for through the scriptures.

1 Jn. 5:14-15

*Jesus taught his disciples the model prayer in the Sermon on the Mount. This basic prayer has all the elements of prayer (ACTS). The prayer starts with adoration, then moves to 6 petitions that reveal proper priorities. The first 3 petitions focus on God's Sovereignty as our King [**Mt. 6:9-10**]. The final 3 petitions focus on Personal Needs in a community context [**Mt. 11-13**].