

2018 TRANSITIONING :

Moving from Where We Are...

...to Where God Wants Us

Through PRAYER – Lesson 2

In the Greek New Testament there are several words that describe prayer. The most common of these are *proseuche* (pronounced – pra•seuch) (“prayer”) and *proseuchemai* (pronounced – pra•see•co•my) (“I pray”). The basic idea is to bring _____, and in prayer this pertains to bringing up requests. In Greek culture an offering was brought with a prayer that it be accepted. Later the idea changed, so that the thing brought to God was prayer.

The second word relating to prayer is *deomai* (day•o•my) which is often translated in the King James Version with the old word “beseech”. The idea is to “_____” or “_____”. It is the intensity of the request which is emphasized. The basic urgent need is presented in this prayer. If anything, *deomai* is stronger than *proseuchomai*.

Bible usage: *proseucho* and *proseuchomai*

Prayer is primarily addressed to God, as a model prayer which the Lord taught His disciples (Matt. 6:6-13; Lk. 11:2-4). In prayer we cry to God, “Abba Father”. Read Romans 8:15; Gal. 4:6. _____

Paul also emphasized a need for prayer to God the Father (Eph. 3:14). _____

Prayer is also directed to Jesus Christ in the New Testament. In the Gospels, many petitions were directed to Jesus, as though they were prayers. Who cried out for help? What was their situation? (Matthew 14:30). _____

In 2 Cor. 12:8 what did Paul pray for release from? and what was God’s answer?

The New Testament teaches many things about prayer. First, it will be heard by whom (Jn. 16:24)? _____. Prayer must be offered in what (Matt. 21:22)? _____. It is necessary to pray according to what two things revealed in John 15:7 and I John 5:14, 15.

Prayer should be accompanied by what according to Luke 18:10-14? _____

The Scriptures reveal that prayer is labor intensive. What word(s) did Paul use to describe it (Rom. 15:30)? _____

Sin certainly hinders the effectiveness of prayer. This is true of tension between people. Read and explain (Matt. 5:23-25). _____

Wrong motives also hinder prayers from being answered (James 4:3). Write the verse. _____

Within marriage, a man who is unkind to his wife can expect no answers to his prayers (I Peter 3:7). Write the verse. _____

Bible usage: *deomai* ("beg" or "beseech")

The most outstanding use is in James 5:16, where the effectiveness of prayer is emphasized. _____

Usually this word speaks of *intensive* prayer. A leprous person begged Christ for healing (Lk. 5:12). _____

A desperate father *pleaded* for his demon-possessed son (Lk. 9:38). _____

In the end times, this earnest sort of prayer will become *increasingly appropriate* (Lk. 21:36). _____

This word often involves *intercession* on behalf of someone else. Paul prayed for whom with great intensity (Rom. 10:1)? _____

Believers engaged in active intercession for whom (2 Cor. 1:11). _____

Paul felt that his what was owing to intercessory prayers (Eph. 6:18-20; Phil. 1:19)? _____

In light of this, what did Paul do (Phil. 1:4)? _____

How to Pray

We are invited to pray.

There are four things we understand about prayer.

1. God wants us to pray.

God wants us to pray in the same way that a loving parent wants to hear his or her child's request—with an earnest desire to answer if he or she should (I Thess. 5:17).

2. God will answer prayers.

His invitation to us to pray is a valid one, though not without qualifications (Matt. 7:7-11).

3. Some things will interfere with our prayers. Prayer hindrances include the following:

- willingly harboring personal sin (Ps. 66:18) _____
 - wrong motives (Jas. 4:3) _____
 - treating one's wife badly (I Pet. 3:7) _____
 - rejection of God's Word (Prov. 28:9) _____
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4. We are to pray according to Jesus' instructions.

Matthew 6:5-6

- We are to pray _____ not to be _____.
- It's not wrong to pray in public, but it is when it's just so people will hear and think you're spiritual.

See if you can match excerpts of the verses (write them on the line) with the headings (Mt. 6:9-13).

- Worship _____
- Yield _____
- Request _____
- Confess _____
- Flee _____
- Acknowledge _____

We are to do each of these things—in a spontaneous and personal way as we pray to God.

Knowing God's Will Through Prayer The heart and prayer

We may deduce or conclude from the Bible that it is not the *length* of our prayers, the *position* in which we pray, the *words* we use in our prayers, or whether our prayers are *sung*, *said* or *unspoken* that matters most. It is the state of our hearts that counts.

I Peter 3:15_ "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:" _____

Preparing your heart for prayer

• We need _____ hearts for prayer (Proverbs 28:13)_ "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."

• We need _____ hearts (Psalm 51:17)_ "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise."

• We need _____ hearts (I John 3:24)_ "And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us."

• We need _____ hearts (Acts 7:60)_ "And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep."

Prayer requests

Jesus taught people to pray on their own, and to pray with others and for others.

Matthew 18:19-20 _____

The power of group prayer in Acts

• *Before* the Holy Spirit came (Acts 1:14) _____

• Prayer that experienced a *strange phenomenon* (Acts 4:31) _____

• A *commissioning service* (Acts 13:3) _____

Pray without ceasing. (I Thessalonians 5:17-18)

There should be no time or place, when you cannot pray.

Bibliography:

1. New Testament Words, WM Barclay, 1976 Westminster John Knox Press
2. Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, 1952 Barbour and Company, Inc.
3. New Christians Handbook, Max Anders, Thomas Nelson Publishers 1999