

# 2018 TRANSITIONING :

Moving from Where We Are...

...to Where God Wants Us

## Through PRAYER

"...men ought always to pray, and not faint." Luke 18:1b

I. What is prayer?

- Prayer is *communication* (the use of words, sounds, signs, behaviors to express or exchange information or to express ideas, thoughts, feelings, etc. to someone else) with God.
- Prayer is *dialogue* (conversation between two or more people) between God and people, especially His covenant partners.

Talking and listening to God, an intimate fellowship with God (I Kings 8:28; Matt. 21:22).

---

---

---

Calls for faith and a right relationship with God (Ps. 66:18; Jas. 5:16).

---

---

---

- If you are a *Christian*, a *believer*, a *disciple* of Christ, prayer should be as natural as breathing.  
Martin Luther suggests: "As a shoemaker makes a shoe, and a tailor makes a coat, so ought a Christian to pray. Prayer is the daily business of a Christian."

- It is through *prayer* that we (Christians) recognize our dependence upon our Creator. We have every reason to express gratitude for God's blessings. But there are other reasons to respond to God than this. We respond to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God for us. There is no substitute for \_\_\_\_\_; not *good works*, nor *service* to others.

Effective prayer must be a scripturally based response of those saved by grace to the living God who can hear and \_\_\_\_\_ on the basis of what Christ did for

sinner on the cross. The most *meaningful* \_\_\_\_\_ comes from the heart that trusts in God. A *confident* prayer life is built on the foundation of Christ's work and words.

I. What is prayer (continued)

- Prayer, essentially, is...
- \_\_\_\_\_, a desire to enter into conscious and intimate relationship with the Thou who is our \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 63:1-8, Lk. 6:12; I John 1:3). \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

God desires man's fellowship (Rev. 3:20). \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- Prayer, essentially, is...
- \_\_\_\_\_, the praise of God because of His greatness and \_\_\_\_\_. The Book of Psalms is a collection of man's loving praise as he contemplates his Creator and Savior, and His attributes of pity, power, and purity.

- Prayer is \_\_\_\_\_, the outpouring of gratitude to God because of His grace, mercy, and \_\_\_\_\_. Psalm 103 is an expression of the emotion stirred up by unmerited blessings.

- Prayer is \_\_\_\_\_ as sinful man acknowledges his \_\_\_\_\_ disobedience. David's penitential candor in Psalm 51 voices the common experience of *transgression* (something that is against a command or a law) followed by grief-stricken *remorse* (deep regret or guilt for a wrong committed) before God. What is David seeking from God in his petition? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- Prayer is \_\_\_\_\_ which we may define as petition on behalf of one's neighbor, entreaty for his good, his beatitude. Consider Paul's burden for Israel (Romans 9:1-2; 10:1) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- Prayer, finally, is \_\_\_\_\_. As a man abandons his own desires, he surrenders his will to God's will. Consider Matthew 6:10b and the last phrase of 26:39. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

II. Six elements of effective prayer...

- We must be aware of whom we are talking to when we pray. We do not pray to the Holy Spirit. According to Matthew 6:9 and Philippians 4:6, to whom should our prayer be directed? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

- What is our relationship to God in Matthew 6:9 and in John 1:12 and how is it made possible? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

- Be yourself when you pray. Be *reverent* (showing deep and solemn respect), but natural! What does the last phrase of Matt. 6:9 teach about reverence? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

- John 14:13 teaches us to pray in whose name? \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer in Jesus' name is more than just adding his name to the end of the prayer. It is to pray the prayer we believe Jesus would pray if He were wording the petition. It is praying that is *consistent* (in agreement with) with the *life* and *teachings* of Jesus.

- What is the *fourth element of effective prayer* according to Matthew 21:22 and James 1:6? \_\_\_\_\_

---

- A fifth element of effective prayer is illustrated in one of Jesus' parables, recorded in Luke 11:5-10. Read, and explain: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

- A sixth element of effective prayer is *forethought*. We must give due consideration to what we will say before we pray. The Bible does say in Romans 8:26 that the Holy Spirit makes *intercession* (the action of pleading on behalf of another person) for us, but that promise refers to those times when we have problems (the Bible calls them *infirmities*) and we do not know *what* to pray for as a solution or where to even begin asking God for help. We should not pray *blanket prayers* such

as...“Lord *bless* my family” or “*remember* the sick”, be specific. Effective prayers demand prior *consideration* and *forethought*, if we expect an answer.

- God answers prayer in any of four different ways. Read the following scriptures and explain how God may answer prayer:

Matthew 8:5-13 \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

II Corinthians 12:7-9 \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

Psalms 27:14 and Psalm 40:1 \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

Jeremiah 33:3 and Ephesians 3:20 \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

Remember God says “yes”, sometimes He says “no”, sometimes He says “wait”, and sometimes He answers with *more* than what we asked.

### Memory Verse: Jeremiah 33:3

#### Bibliography

1. Compact Bible Dictionary, Youngblood, R.F.; Bruce, E.E.; Harrison, R.K. Thomas Nelson Publishers 2004
2. Zondervan’s Compact Bible Dictionary by Zondervan 1993
3. Journey to Discipleship, Hagle, Tommy C. 1995
4. the Student Bible Dictionary, Dockery, K.; Goodwin, J.P., Barbour Publishing 1993