

PRAYER PRACTICE
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“Call unto me and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not.” Jeremiah 33:3

One of the great things that Jesus did was prayer. Not only daily but He set aside times to get alone to pray. I know we all fall far short in time and effort when it comes to praying. After hearing many sermons on it do we really do enough? I think not. When I was a horn tooting boy my mother would seek to inspire me with “practice makes perfect.” It led to a lifetime of trumpet competence which has blessed untold multitudes in my musical career. I don’t think it strange therefore to speak of practice when it comes to our prayers. Some are good at it while others are still in the kindergarten of prayer. Certainly we all can learn to pray by checking out the instructions of the Bible. We need to **Know The Word.** John 15:7 teaches “*If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*” Notice we gain power and blessing in prayer by knowing the scriptures and hanging our requests among them. We all need to study the Bible more for daily direction in our lives, but in the above verse it determines the answers to our prayers. We also need to remember we are to **Pray Through Christ.** “*If ye ask anything in my name I will do it*” John 14:14. Were it not for Christ you and I would have no access to the Father. It is by His mercies that Jesus made a way to the holy presence of the creator of the universe. The Holy Spirit has His part in our prayers but it is the shed blood of Christ that empowers our words to the throne. That is why to pray right you have to live right. You remember that when you were a kid. After a monster acting day your parents were not eager to please you.

Put your hand in the hand of Jesus and you will have great effectiveness in prayer. We also need to **Desire His Will.** Jesus prayed, “*Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done*” Luke 22:42. Even the King of Kings submitted his will to His Father. We often use the phrase about God’s will but need to remember prayers are answered as we keep in line with the will of God. In every detail God always knows best. Next we notice we are to **Pray In Faith.** Matt. 9:29 says “*According to your faith, so be it unto you.*” Jesus was speaking to blind men and their faith in Him was the key to healing. I am afraid sometimes we get so tired and in a mechanical way rattle off prayer words not expecting much to happen. We often read of great prayer warriors in history and the great things their lives achieved. In every case their prayers had been so honed and directed by faith the Lord was happy to answer. Dear friend, let’s work hard at increasing our faith and see our prayers greatly answered. We are further told to **Pray Boldly.** We are urged to “*come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in the time of need*” Heb. 4:16. Never forget we are children of God, royalty, set aside by God’s grace as His favored children from the rest of lost humanity. Like the little boy who argued, “My dad is bigger than your dad.” No task is too large to bring to our heavenly father. No problem is too involved or even too small to escape His interest. Our cry will not interrupt Him in His daily routine. When it comes to prayer, be bold! Almost in the same line is **Don’t Hesitate.** Phil 4:6 “*Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known unto God.*” Sounds to me like He is interested in all that is working in our lives, and we are not to hold back in asking. Just like staring at the computer screen so blank as we begin typing. It

was ready for us to lay down this message, whatever we desired. Just do it! Don't delay and don't linger but bring all your efforts and prayers together. When it comes to praying just throw caution to the wind. Ask with thanksgiving whatever your desire may be. Then we are told to **Pray Big**. In Psa 81:10 God made a great promise to His own. *"I am the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it."* The Jewish people had suffered much, but He wanted them to know He was able to do more great things for them. This is so very true with us today. There is no end to His promises and no limitation to His blessing. No problem is too big that God cannot handle it nor challenge too large for His touch in our behalf. And lastly, I thought of one more to practice in praying. **Don't Give Up**. In Luke 11:8 Jesus was telling of a man who went to another's house in need. The man that lived there was already in bed with His children, but arose because of the persistence of the one in need. The scripture says *"Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will arise and give him as many as he needeth."* The very next verse promises us, *"Ask and it shall be given you ; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."* For every one that *asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."* The more you practice these truths I have pointed out, the better you will become in putting your prayer requests before God. Now let me give you a study of your own. Look up the verses and profit by their instruction.

Hindrances to prayer:

- (1). Unforgiving Spirit.....Mark 11:25.
- (2). Wrong Motives.....James 4:3.
- (3). Unconfessed Sins.....Psm. 66:18.
- (4). Lack of Faith.....James 1:6.
- (5). Lack of Fervency.....James 5:16.

Now check for Whom We Should Pray!

PRAY FOR:

- (1). Pray For enemies.....Matt. 5:44.
- (2). Pray for our friends.....James 5:16.
- (3). Pray for your family.....III John 4.
- (4). Pray for our leaders.....Heb. 13:7.
- (5). Pray for yourself.....Matt. 26:41.

Remember Prayer Is :

A Privilege.

A Work of Faith.

An Opportunity:

A Service:

Set AsideA Place.....And a Time:

Pray in three areas:

Private.....Family.....Corporate:

Ask God to bless your church.

Ask God to save souls.

Ask God to protect and use your family.

Prayer is....

A productive task.

A joyful relationship.

A source of strength.

A commitment to victory.

SO REMEMBER:

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