

Wednesday with the Word @ Wheat Street

Teacher: Rev. Ralph Basui Watkins
Servant Pastor / Teaching Pastor

The Power of Prayer: The Key to a Life Well Lived

How is your prayer life?

When do you pray?

What do you pray about?

Why do you pray?

What do you get from prayer?

Is prayer a central element in your life as a Christian?

If you pull out your calendar are there dates and times designated for time with God in prayer?

Prayer: Prayer is a conversation with God led by and empowered by the Holy Spirit as we seek to know and live in God's will.

Luke 11:1-4 CEV

When Jesus had finished praying, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his followers to pray."

2 So Jesus told them, "Pray in this way:

'Father, help us
to honor your name.

Come and set up
your kingdom.

3
Give us each day
the food we need.

4
Forgive our sins,
as we forgive everyone
who has done wrong to us.
And keep us
from being tempted.'" CEV

Luke 11:1-4 NRSV

And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

2 And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

3 Give us day by day our daily bread.

4 And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. KJV

Teach Me How to Pray: A Model for Prayer

The first thing we notice is that John taught his disciple to pray.

Secondly we notice that the one thing the Disciples sought from Jesus, asked of Jesus, was to be taught to pray. They wanted to know how to pray. They knew that prayer was a primary spiritual discipline that would sustain them, keep them, direct them and empower them.

What do we see in this prayer that stands out?

What is the template for prayer, as taught by Jesus?

How should we pray and what should we pray about?

This Prayer is:

- About what God wants and not what we want
- Half of what Jesus tells us to do in prayer is worship God
- Keep God Holy, keep God first and primary in our daily walk
- Ask that God's kingdom and God's will will be done and that we will be in God's will
- God is the center of attention in this prayer
- The prayer calls for us to recognize our need for forgiveness and to receive that forgiveness as we repent / turn from our sins
- We seek and thank God for our "daily bread" - one day at a time with God - don't fret about the future but rather thank God for God's presence in our present - live in and stay in the moment
- Recognize God's power to free us from evil / power over evil
- There is nothing in this prayer about getting stuff from God
- The prayer is focused on God and God being GOD and God's will be done!

A Model for Prayer: Seven Observable Principles that Inform Our Practice

1. Recognize the sovereignty of God (God is God and God has the right / power to do what God wants to do)
2. Reverence God
3. Seek to know and be in God's will
4. Thank God for God's daily provision / live in the grace and power of the present

5. Seek God forgiveness, and correction as you repent of your sins (wrongdoings, missteps, proclivity, and mess)
6. Accept God's forgiveness
7. Seek God's guidance to lead you away from your sin issues and into a life that is more in line with God's way and God's will for your life

Jesus Prayer Practice and Principles

1. Pray in the Temple:

Luke 2:37 And now she (Anna) was eighty-four years old. Night and day she served God in the temple by praying and often going without eating.

2. Find a Place and Time to Regularly Pray:

Luke 5:16 But Jesus would often go to some place where he could be alone and pray

Luke 6:12 About that time Jesus went off to a mountain to pray, and he spent the whole night there.

Mark 1:35 Very early the next morning, Jesus got up and went to a place where he could be alone and pray.

3. Pray for Those You Want to Curse or who Curse You:

Luke 6:28 Ask God to bless anyone who curses you, and pray for everyone who is cruel to you.

Matthew 5:44 But I tell you to love your enemies and pray for anyone who mistreats you.

List the people who get your nerves the most, bring the worse out of you or make you want to cuss. List there names and pray for them everyday, pray for them not on them. Let love be your guide as you pray:

I am praying for.....

4. Find Folk You Can Pray With:

Luke 9:28-29 About eight days later Jesus took Peter, John, and James with him and went up on a mountain to pray. **29** While he was praying, his face changed, and his clothes became shining white.

My Prayer Partners:

Peter:
James:
John:

Pray Earnestly:

Pray with all your heart, especially when things get hard or confusing. When you don't know what to do, which way to turn or God's will appears to be confusing, don't think it strange to wrestle with God in prayer. Don't stop praying until you get clarity.

Luke 22:39-46

39 Jesus went out to the Mount of Olives, as he often did, and his disciples went with him. **40** When they got there, he told them, "Pray that you won't be tested."

41 Jesus walked on a little way before he knelt down and prayed, **42** "Father, if you will, please don't make me suffer by having me drink from this cup.[f] But do what you want, and not what I want."

43 Then an angel from heaven came to help him. **44** Jesus was in great pain and prayed so sincerely that his sweat fell to the ground like drops of blood.[g]

45 Jesus got up from praying and went over to his disciples. They were asleep and worn out from being so sad. **46** He said to them, "Why are you asleep? Wake up and pray that you won't be tested."

Don't Make Prayer a Public Spectacle:

Pray in Private and God will bless you in Public:

Matthew 6:5-14

5 When you pray, don't be like those show-offs who love to stand up and pray in the meeting places and on the street corners. They do this just to look good. I can assure you that they already have their reward.

6 When you pray, go into a room alone and close the door. Pray to your Father in private. He knows what is done in private, and he will reward you.

7 When you pray, don't talk on and on as people do who don't know God. They think God likes to hear long prayers. **8** Don't be like them. Your Father knows what you need before you ask.

9 You should pray like this:

Our Father in heaven,
help us to honor
your name.

10

Come and set up
your kingdom,
so that everyone on earth
will obey you,
as you are obeyed
in heaven.

11

Give us our food for today.

12

Forgive us for doing wrong,
as we forgive others.

13

Keep us from being tempted
and protect us from evil.

14 If you forgive others for the wrongs they do to you, your Father in heaven will forgive you. **15** But if you don't forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Pray About EVIL: Take Authority Over the Demonic!

When you face evil, don't talk about it, don't gossip about it, don't text about it but rather you have to pray and cast that stuff out:

Mark 9:25-29

25 When Jesus saw that a crowd was gathering fast, he spoke sternly to the evil spirit that had kept the boy from speaking or hearing. He said, "I order you to come out of the boy! Don't ever bother him again."

26 The spirit screamed and made the boy shake all over. Then it went out of him. The boy looked dead, and almost everyone said he was. **27** But Jesus took hold of his hand and helped him stand up.

28 After Jesus and the disciples had gone back home and were alone, they asked him, "Why couldn't we force out that demon?"

29 Jesus answered, "Only prayer can force out that kind of demon."

Speak to your demons

Speak to demons

Call them OUT!

But this is only done by prayer and fasting...not preaching and teaching!

We have to PRAY for this revival to happen!

Prayer is what is going to make this thing happen. Prayer will sustain us, empower us, direct us and protect us. Prayer is the life force.

How is your prayer life?

What are you praying for?

Who are you praying for?

When are you praying?

Why are you praying?

Luke 11:5-13 - Prayer Lesson: Part #2

5 Then Jesus went on to say:

Suppose one of you goes to a friend in the middle of the night and says, "Let me borrow three loaves of bread. **6** A friend of mine has dropped in, and I don't have a thing for him to eat." **7** And suppose your friend answers, "Don't bother me! The door is bolted, and my children and I are in bed. I cannot get up to give you something."

8 He may not get up and give you the bread, just because you are his friend. But he will get up and give you as much as you need, simply because you are not ashamed to keep on asking.

9 So I tell you to ask and you will receive, search and you will find, knock and the door will be opened for you. **10** Everyone who asks will receive, everyone who searches will find, and the door will be opened for everyone who knocks. **11** Which one of you fathers would give your hungry child a snake if the child asked for a fish? **12** Which one of you would give your child a scorpion if the child asked for an egg? **13** As bad as you are, you still know how to give good gifts to your children. But your heavenly Father is even more ready to give the Holy Spirit to anyone who asks.

What should we be asking God for?

What should we be seeking from God?

What should we be searching for in prayer?

Who or what informs the content of our prayers?