

Greater Christ Temple's COLLEGE OF THE SCRIPTURES

2940 S. Anthony Blvd. Fort Wayne, IN 46806

11/28/2018

Wednesday Bible Study

11:30 AM & 6:00 PM

Fundamental Christian Living pt. 2

"Prayer" (Lesson 1)

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pastor / teacher



GreaterCTC.org



Fundamental Christian Living

Part 2

Prayer

(Lesson 1)

- Prayer (Gk.: “proseuche”) is “communion with God”.
- Through prayer we actually experience relationship with God. The quality of our prayer life then determines the quality of our relationship with God. Prayer is talking with God (not talking to God, or talking at God). Prayer includes listening to God.

- Prayer is enjoying the presence of God. It takes many forms, for example: praise, confession, thanksgiving, petition (asking for things), waiting (silent listening and sensing God) and warfare, we even have the privilege of praying with the Spirit in a language unknown to us.
- Prayer is not simply saying words. It is not repeating formulas. God is looking for passionate relationship and heartfelt communication:

James 5:16-17 (NLT)

...The **earnest** prayer of a **righteous** person has **great power** and produces **wonderful results**.

- God does not respond to a person who attempts to use prayer like a magic formula or incantation (spells, witchcraft):

Matthew 6:7-8

7 And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen *do*.

For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

8 "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

- There is, unfortunately, much so called “prayer” that never reaches God:

Proverbs 28:9

One who turns away his ear from hearing the law,

Even his prayer *is* an abomination.

- Prayer, then, is when a person who has been clothed with the righteousness of Christ makes **heartfelt** communication with God, including both **speaking to God** and **listening to God**, thusly, cultivating a **relationship** with God through true **communion** (common union) with God.
 - Communion = Joint participation, fellowship, the sharing or exchanging of intimate thoughts and feelings, especially when the exchange is on a mental or spiritual level.

The Secret of Answered Prayer

Luke 11:9-10

⁹ And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. ¹⁰ For every one that ⁵

asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

- **Ask** – Make your request known.
- **Seek** – Look for it. Since your request was made in the spirit, you must look in the spirit for the fulfillment of it.
- **Knock** – Take **action** to achieve / obtain it. A person who knocks on a door doesn't just stand there wishing the door would open, but instead takes action, proactively using their energy and forcefulness to set things in motion that will influence the likelihood that the door will be opened.

Why Do I Need To Pray?

1. We pray because we love God.

We spend time with God in prayer and communication because we

love Him. Just as a man and woman who are in love desire to be together and communicate, so we, if we love God, will desire to be with Him and to fellowship with Him in proportion to our love for Him.

2. We pray because we depend on God. God is our source.

He is our life (Colossians 3:4). Through prayer we receive the comfort, the strength and all the other resources that we need in life – both naturally and spiritually. Prayer (relationship to God) is as necessary to spiritual life as oxygen is to natural life.

3. We need to pray in order to resist temptation.

Much sin is the result of prayerlessness:

Matthew 26:41

41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak."

4. We need to pray because it is necessary for people to invite God to act in salvation.

Satan is actively blinding the minds of mankind to the gospel, teaching our youth to doubt anything biblical, and pushing for legislation that will stop Christians from being able to share their faith anywhere. It is necessary that we combat this strategy with prayers that God will open a door for the gospel and cause it to be effective:

2 Thessalonians 3:1-2

1 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run *swiftly* and be glorified, just as *it is* with you, **2** and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith.

Colossians 4:3

3 meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains

5. We need to pray because God commands us to pray.

Luke 18:1

Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart

1 Thessalonians 5:17

17 pray without ceasing

- Prayer is so vital to all that God wants to do on the earth, and so essential to us, that God commands us to do it all the time! We should even deny ourselves sleep and food sometimes in order to pray more and with greater power.

(Luke 6:12/Luke 21:36/Colossians 4:2)