

PRAYING ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL

I. PRAYER IS A MAJOR SUBJECT IN GOD'S WORD

- A. Matthew 6:5,7,9; Matthew 7:7; John 14:13-14; John 16:23-24; Colossians 1:9-12
- B. God wants you to pray because it's good for your life, it is one of the means by which God's work is done, and it is that which brings glory to God.

II. THE SPIRITUAL NATURE OF PRAYER

- A. Prayer is spiritual, it's relational, and it's supernatural.
- B. You need to see prayer as personal and relational, as going to God your Father, and praying to One you really want to please and really want to glorify.
- C. You are to pray according to the will, purpose and desire of God.

III. SOME KEYS TO EFFECTIVE PRAYER

- A. Having a humble heart, where you know God is your master, and you are His servant. Matthew 8:2-3, Luke 22:42 - *"yet not My will but Yours be done."*
- B. Wanting God to get all the glory. As you have a heart for the Father to be glorified in Jesus, then God will answer your prayers. John 14:13
- C. Having a close relationship with God – knowing that God loves you and you loving God. Psalm 37:4 – *"Delight yourselves in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart."*
- D. Having God's word in your heart. Meditating on God's word is a key to effective prayer, for it is God's word that specifically tells you God's will. For example – loving God and loving people (Mark 12:30), being humble (James 4:10), rejoicing (1 Thessalonians 4:10), and encouraging others (Hebrews 3:12-13). John 15:7
- E. Doing God's will. See yourself as God's son, as His servant, as being on His team. You're living here on earth because you want God's will to be done. Romans 8:26-27

IV. PRAYING FOR OTHERS - 1 John 5:16-17

A. Be focused on praying for others, for family members, friends, and for people here in the church.

B. The spiritual battle: God wants us to be good fighters, good soldiers for Him, and one of the main ways we fight is by praying, by asking God to fight for us. Nehemiah 4:14

C. Praying with all prayer and petition -- general prayer and specific prayer. Praying for a person's specific needs -- for their faith, for them to be loving God and loving people, for them to be holy, rejoicing, thankful, hopeful, obedient, and to be protected from the enemy. John 17:11-12

D. Pray for all the saints. Ephesians 6:18, 1 Thessalonians 1:2

E. Pray for the leaders. Ephesians 6:19-20, 1 Thessalonians 5:25

OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN,
HALLOWED BE THY NAME.
THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE,
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.
Matthew 6:9-10

SOME QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION

1. What is the main thing you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. Why does God want you to pray?
3. What does it mean when we say that prayer is spiritual and supernatural in nature?
4. Why is wanting to give God glory a key to effective prayer?
5. What does it mean to have a close relationship to God, and why is this important for prayer?
6. A key to praying according to God's will is having God's word in your heart. Explain this.
7. Think about the people you're close to and how you can specifically pray for them. Pray for them.