

**Prayerful**  
**(How to pray according to the will of God)**  
**July 13, 2014**  
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Good morning, Lighthouse! Are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

**Romans 8:26-27**

26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: **for we know not what we should pray for as we ought:** but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints **according to *the will of God.***

How is your prayer life this morning? How many of us do you suppose, if we were to be brutally honest, would have to say, “I don’t feel like I really know how to pray”.

**Hebrews 4:16** Challenges us to come to God in prayer and tells us that when we do, we are entering the very throne room of God. **Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.**

It is common for many of us to feel very inadequate when it comes to entering the literal

presence; the very throne room of God as we pray.

We feel so unworthy to come before Him; which is understandable since we indeed are unworthy.

Except we come in the name of Jesus; the only ONE who IS worthy, we have no access to God at all.

Prayer is sadly an often neglected subject. We don't very often teach on actually how to pray.

We are told to pray. We are told to pray without ceasing and to often confess our sins; but not that much on actually how to properly go about it.

Today is going to be all about prayer; just like God wants us to be faithful; and we can! God also wants us to be a prayerful people; and indeed also we can.

I dare say that if we were well versed about how to pray and we were skilled in prayer and comfortable with an active and consistent prayer life, there would likely be a lot more of us attending prayer time at the end of our services every week and we would see a lot more answers from God.

James said in **James 4:2** ... ye have not, because ye ask not.

Ladies and gentlemen, prayer makes a difference. Just with the limited skills we have, we have seen and continue to see prayers answered every day.

**James 5:16** ...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Again this week; today's message is almost exclusively for saved people. I say 'almost' because of you present here today who are going to become saved either today or somewhere in the near future.

God has made no promise to hear or answer the prayer of the unsaved. Since it is only in Christ that we can come to the Father, it makes perfect sense that if you are not in Christ, you simply have no access to God.

**John 14:6** Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

So, today, we are going to try and learn enough about prayer to actually change our prayer life; the Lord sure has been changing my prayer life lately and I know He wants to improve yours as well.

If God offered you either real access to God in prayer or a million dollars cash in the bank; which would you choose?

If you are saved and wise, you would surely choose prayer; access to God in prayer is truly priceless!

First we are going to look at:

## I. The Content of Prayer.

*A. Prayer is basically conversation or communication with God.*

1. deēsis

*deh'-ay-sis*

From [G1189](#); a *petition*: - prayer, request, supplication.

2. Prayer is actually a legal term as well as a spiritual term.

3. A legal petition to a judge is called a prayer.

4. As far as today, we will talk about prayer to God

5. There is another word often translated to pray or prayer as in

**1Thessalonians 5:17** *Pray without ceasing.*

6. That word is proseuchomai

*pros-yoo'-khom-ahee*

From [G4314](#) and [G2172](#); to *pray to God*, that is, *supplicate, worship*: - pray (X earnestly, for), make prayer.

7. This is the one we will primarily concentrate on today.

*B. There are basically three kinds of prayer.*

**1 Timothy 2:1** I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

1. First is simply what we call prayer. This is general conversation with God.

- a. This includes giving of thanks.
- b. It includes praises of various sort.
- c. It covers all manner of conversation; crying out; telling God how you feel.
- d. It also includes that aspect of a conversation with God that is most often neglected; which is listening.

2. The second type of prayer is supplications.

a. This is *deēsis*

*deh'-ay-sis*

From [G1189](#); a *petition*: - prayer, request, supplication.

b. I find this best described as 'asking for stuff'.

c. Lord we need this and Lord I need you to do that; when you pray the most

often prayed prayer among Christians which is for finances; that is called supplication.

3. The third type of prayer in intercession; this is when you pray for others.

4. We are to pray for each other, for authorities, for our enemies; at one time or another we are called upon to pray for just about everybody.

## II. Then there is our example prayer.

*A. What you have heard of as “The Lord’s Prayer” is really our example or model prayer.*

### 1. Matthew 6:5-13

2. **5** And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites *are*: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

**6** But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

**7** But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen *do*: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

2. As you can see, when you actually enter the throne room of God in prayer, the first order is to exalt Him and seek for His will to be done.

3. Asking for needs, forgiveness and protection and then closing with more exaltation is the example Jesus set before us as a general guide to follow, NOT something to be repeated over and over which He warns us against in verse 6.

*B. Our access to God in prayer has conditions.*

**1. Isaiah 59:1-2**

1 Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your

sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear.

2. We must practice **1John 1:9**: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. And we must practice it always.

2. We cannot hold grudges or harbor unforgiveness toward others.

**Matthew 6:14-15**

14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

3. Sin in our life greatly limits our prayers being heard and answered.

**Proverb 28:13** He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh *them* shall have mercy.

**III. Next, we see that our prayers must be according to the will of God.**

*A. Every Christian wonders and seeks and needs to know God's will for his or her life.*

1. We are instructed to pray according to the will of God.



2. **1John 5:14** And this is the confidence that we **have in him, that, if we ask any thing according** to his will, he heareth us:

4. That is what asking in Jesus name actually means:

**John 14:13-14**

13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do *it*.

*B. If you really want to know how to pray according to the will of God, there is one sure place to find out.*

1. To see this we must go to the real “Lord’s prayer”.

2. Just before Jesus went to the cross, He prayed for us...to see prayer according to the will of God, all you need do is look at what Jesus prayed.

3. It’s a little bit long, but we need to read it all:

**John 17:1-26**

John 17:1 These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

John 17:2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

- John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.
- John 17:4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.
- John 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.
- John 17:6 I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.
- John 17:7 Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee.
- John 17:8 For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.
- John 17:9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.
- John 17:10 And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.
- John 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we *are*.
- John 17:12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

- John 17:13 And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.
- John 17:14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.
- John 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.
- John 17:16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.
- John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.
- John 17:18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.
- John 17:19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.
- John 17:20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;
- John 17:21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.
- John 17:22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:
- John 17:23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

**John 17:24** Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

**John 17:25** O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me.

**John 17:26** And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare *it*: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

*C. Look carefully at what Jesus, IS God incarnate, prayed for on our behalf; this is God's will above all.*

1. First on His list Jesus prayed for our unity. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we *are*.

a. Jesus established His Church, empowered it to be multiplied all the way to the end of the world and guaranteed it to last.

b. Why? To be the vehicle through which we may truly practice being one in Christ.

c. Our being united together as one body, our love for each other as Jesus loved us, our loyalty to each other and

to the Lord IS the will of God and it is at the very top of His list!

d. **Psalm 133:1** ...Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* for brethren to dwell together in unity!

2. Jesus prayed next for our joy!

a. **John 17:13** And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

b. This is not the prayer of a harsh, condemning, judgmental God; this is pure love!

c. Jesus wants you happy!  
**1John 1:4** And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

d. **1Peter 1:8** Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

3. Because we preach and stand for the truth, Jesus knows the world will hate us! Jesus prayed next for our protection.

**John 17:15** I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world,

but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

- a. We do not have to be afraid!
- b. **Romans 8:31** What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?

#### 4. Jesus prayed next for our sanctification.

##### a. **John 17:17-19**

17 **Sanctify** them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that **they also might be sanctified through the truth.**

b. What is sanctify? hagiāzō

*hag-ee-ad'-zo*

From G40; to *make holy*, that is, (ceremonially) *purify* or *consecrate*; (mentally) to *venerate*: - hallow, be holy, sanctify.

c. Through knowing and understanding the truth, God wants to mold us into the image of His own Son.

d. **1Peter 1:15** But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

e. **1John 3:3** And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

f. This is why we must never abandon or compromise the truth; there is nothing greater to stand for!

4. And lastly Jesus prayed that we might be with Him.

**John 17:24** Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

a. Right now Jesus is with us. He is in us through His Holy Spirit.

b. He promised to never leave or forsake us.

c. One day soon, we will be with him where He is!

### **In Conclusion:**

**Do you believe that the Father will answer what Jesus prayed?**

**Do you realize that Jesus prayed specifically for us here today?**

**John 17:20** Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

**So how do we apply what we have learned?**

**We confess our sins.**

**We thank and praise God and recognize His greatness.**

**We take Him our cares and our burdens.**

**We lay our petitions at His feet.**

**We pray most of all for each other and that we may truly be one; loyal, true and loving...Lord make us a musketeer church; one for all and all for one.**

**We pray for joy and peace.**

**We pray for healing and protection.**

**And we pray for the Lord to mold us according to the image of His own Son!**

**Let us go forth today a prayerful people;  
Amen!**