

Monday **What Is Prayer?**

There are probably hundreds of recorded prayers in Scripture. Each one can teach us something different about the practice of prayer. However, they all have something in common: they all ask for something. Prayer is asking for something definite from God.

1. Read Matthew 7:7-11 – What three action words are used in verse 7 to teach about prayer?
2. The way those three words are constructed indicates that these are to be continuous actions. What does that teach you about prayer?
3. What promises are given to those who ask and keep on asking, seek and keep on seeking, and knock and keep on knocking?
4. Along with His instruction, Jesus also gave an almost absurd illustration in verses 9-10. What human relationship is given in these verses?
5. What relationship must also first exist between man and God before He will answer our prayers?
6. Would any loving father do the things described in those verses?
7. If a human father knows how to give good things to his children, what does our Heavenly Father certainly know how to do?

Jesus taught that our prayer life should be consistent and on-going. As we are faithful in prayer, we can be sure that God will answer and give us what is best for us. Any loving father would meet the needs of his children, especially our Heavenly Father.

Tuesday **What Is Prayer?**

Jesus gave us instruction about prayer and gave us promises to answer prayer. Peter asked God for something very definite and received an immediate answer to his prayer. What was his request? What was his prayer like?

1. Read Matthew 14:22-33 – Where did Jesus send His Disciples?
2. According to verse 23, what was Jesus going to do?
3. According to verse 24, what was the condition of the sea?
4. Jesus knew that the Disciples were struggling in the storm, so He decided to go to them. He walked to them on the water. How did the Disciples react in verse 26?
5. What was Jesus' response?
6. Peter wanted to know definitely that it really was Jesus. What did he ask Jesus to do?
7. Peter got down out of the boat and walked on the water. What happened when he took his eyes off Jesus?
8. What short prayer did Peter pray when he began to sink?
9. Was the prayer flowery, or did he use big words?
10. What definite thing did Peter ask Jesus to do?
11. Did Peter receive a specific answer to his prayer?

There may be a time in your life when you need God to intervene in your situation immediately. It is acceptable to ask God to save you from a physically dangerous situation. Thankfully, prayers don't have to be long and verbose. They can be short and concise, and God will still hear you.

Wednesday What Is Prayer?

Prayer is asking. True, Biblical prayer asks God to do something definite and specific. The Bible has many examples of people who prayed for very specific things and received very specific answers. Prayer can concern both physical and spiritual needs. Here is an example of a prayer concerning a spiritual need.

1. Read Matthew 15:21-28 – What need did the woman ask Jesus to meet in verse 22?
2. The woman's daughter was demon possessed, and she asked Jesus to heal her daughter. How did Jesus respond to her in verse 23?
3. Jesus was seemingly ignoring the woman. She continued to ask which upset the Disciples. They asked Jesus to send her away. What was Jesus' answer in verse 24?
4. This made the woman very desperate. She walked up to Jesus and worshipped Him. She asked again for His help because she knew that only He could help. What did Jesus say to her pleas for help in verse 26?
5. The woman responded in verse 27 with a tremendous statement of faith. She knew that even though Jesus' primary responsibility was to the Jews, He still had enough to meet her needs. What did the woman receive as a result of her asking in faith?
6. She asked specifically in faith and received exactly what she wanted. What are you asking God to do?

Are you asking in faith? Do you really believe God can do what you are asking Him to do? This woman's daughter had a spiritual need, and God met it. Whatever your need is, God can meet it today just as He did long ago.

Thursday What Is Prayer?

God wants us to pray to Him. He invited us to bring our every need to Him in Philippians 4:6. There is no need that we cannot or should not bring to Him in prayer. There may even be times when we pray for the needs of someone else, and God uses us to meet that need. Here's an example.

1. Read Luke 11:5-10 – This passage parallels Matthew 7:7-11, but Luke recorded a teaching illustration that Matthew did not. Jesus told a short parable about a man and two of his friends. What did the man ask from his one friend?
2. Why did he ask for that?
3. Did he ask for the bread to eat it himself?
4. This man asked his friend for food so he could give it away. That's a very selfless prayer. Usually, we ask God to meet our needs, and that is fine, but it is also important to ask God to give us extra so we can help someone else. According to verse 7, was the friend excited about getting out of bed to bring bread for his friend?
5. According to verse 8, why did he eventually give it?
6. This passage is not teaching that God is stingy or unwilling to give us what we need. It is teaching us the importance of not quitting when the answer doesn't come immediately. What promise is given to those who ask and keep on asking, seek and keep on seeking, and knock and keep on knocking?

It is a good thing to remember the needs of others. Don't be afraid to ask God for something extra so you can be the one He uses to help someone else in need, but be sure not to quit asking when the answer doesn't come immediately!

Friday **What Is Prayer?**

Prayer is asking for something definite from God. Our needs are specific, so our prayers should also be specific. Sometimes needs are spiritual; sometimes they are physical. In either case our Heavenly Father is willing and able to meet any of them, even the ones that seem most hopeless.

1. Read Luke 17:11-19 – As Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem, He stopped in a little village. Who met Jesus in that village?
2. Lepers were considered to be hopeless causes. They were cast out of society because their disease was so contagious. There was no known cure for it. Being diagnosed with leprosy was essentially a death sentence. Death was certain. What did they ask Jesus in verse 14?
3. What did Jesus tell them to do?
4. On the surface that may seem like a strange thing to do. Jesus didn't touch them. He didn't tell the leprosy to leave them. He didn't say, "Be healed." He told them to go show themselves to the priest. In the Old Testament, the priests would be the ones to diagnose leprosy. If for some reason a person thought his leprosy was gone, he was to show himself to the priest, and the priest would make the decision whether we would be allowed back into society. How was Jesus' statement, then, the answer to their prayer?
5. When exactly was their leprosy healed?
6. It wasn't until they obeyed in faith that Jesus healed their leprosy. What did one man turn back and do?

The Bible records many instances of people who prayed for physical healing and received it. God is still able today to fix the situations that seem most hopeless!

Saturday **What Is Prayer?**

God hears prayer, and God answers prayer. There is no need that we cannot bring to Him. Sometimes we have been wronged, and the situation needs to be made right. It's easy in those times to try to make it right ourselves, but it is also in those times when we need to pray and ask God to take care of it.

1. Read Luke 18:1-8 – What lesson was Jesus trying to teach with this parable?
2. What does it mean that we are not to faint in prayer?
3. Jesus told about a judge in verse 2. How did He describe the judge?
4. A widow came to the judge in verse 3 and made a request. What was it?
5. Did the judge immediately make the situation right?
6. According to verse 5, why did he eventually grant her request?
7. Here's the moral of the story. If the unjust judge will eventually grant the widow's request, what will our loving Heavenly Father do for His own children?
8. Asking God to avenge your situation is perfectly acceptable. This passage teaches that God will avenge His children. Our responsibility is to wait for God's timing in doing it. What does asking God to avenge your situation and not taking matters into your own hands show Him?

It's easy to want to take matters into your own hands, but asking Him to take care of it shows that you believe His promises. Many of David's prayers were for God to avenge him of his enemies. David let God be God; do the same!

Sunday

What Is Prayer?

God hears and answers prayer! He will meet whatever need you have. The greatest need a person will ever have is the need of a Savior. Though sometimes we need to pray for a long time before God answers, the prayer that asks for salvation is always answered immediately!

1. Read Luke 23:39-43 – Jesus was hanging on the cross at this point. He was crucified with two thieves. What did the first say to Him in verse 39?
2. What did the second thief say to the first in verses 40-41?
3. After their brief conversation, the second thief turned to Jesus with a simple request in verse 42. What was it?
4. The second thief asked Jesus for salvation. What did Jesus tell the man?
5. Was there any waiting period for the answer to his prayer?
6. Did he deserve salvation?
7. Did he have to work for it?
8. Did he have to wait in Purgatory before he was allowed into Heaven?
9. Read Romans 10:13 – To whom has salvation been made available?

Salvation is available to everyone who asks for it. Jesus paid for it with His blood, and the Father offers it freely to all who come to Him in faith. If you have never done that, come to Jesus today and ask for salvation. That prayer will be answered immediately.