

Joy, Peace & Prayer

Sermons Preached

by Dave Lueloff

How to Have Joy

Live as if you were living already for the second time and as if you had acted the first time as wrongly as you are about to act now. (Dennis Prager).

A painter tries to convey a picture of the world as he sees it. And an ophthalmologist tries to help the vision of the patient to see the world as it really is. And a preacher tries to get you to see the world through the eyes of God.

The definition of *philosophy* is the *love of wisdom*. One has said, "He who has a *why* to live for, can bear almost any *how*."

You cannot control what happens to you in life, but you can control what you will feel and do about what happens to you.

There is a philosophy of this world and a philosophy that is of God. Jesus Christ gave us words to live our life by.

➤ Dealing with Self

Lucifer – self took him down

Isaiah 14:13-14 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Antichrist is referred to as the *Willful King*

Daniel 11:36 And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.

Self maybe your worst enemy – it can keep you from anything of eternal value.

To follow Jesus – is to leave all. It is a decision of the heart. In the following case, it meant literally leaving all.

Mark 1:16-18 Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men. And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him.

Mark 1:19-20 And when he had gone a little further thence, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending their nets. And straightway he called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after him.

Giving all for salvation / Giving all for service

- **Giving of Self**

Matthew 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Matthew 16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

John 12:24-25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

- **Putting Others Ahead of Self**

Matthew 20:26-27 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:

Matthew 20:28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

- **Life of Christ Living Thru You**

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Hebrews 4:9-11 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God *did* from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

God does not give us a command and then not give us the tools or the ability to do what he asks.

The Holy Ghost is our helper to give us the *ability to do*.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

- **Blessedness is on the inside** (Read Matt. 5:3-12, Eph. 5:18-20)

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:

Blessings do not come to those filled with self; rather to those filled with the Spirit.

How to Have Joy

➤ Purpose – Finding it

Don't aim for success; but rather realize that true success comes from obeying the Bible.

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt **meditate therein day and night**, that thou mayest **observe to do** according to **all** that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and **then thou shalt have good success**.

Psalms 1:2-3 But his **delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night**. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and **whatsoever he doeth shall prosper**.

Matthew 7:24-25 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

If you do the above – you will be a person of faith! It is within your grasp.

Find what gives purpose and then prioritize it.

Luke 10:40-42 But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But **one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her**.

Matthew 6:19-20 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But **lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Practice the Pareto Principle – 20% of activity will give 80% of reward.

Most underestimate the unimportance of nearly everything in our lives. Here are two things that give us purpose.

1. **Salvation** – Purpose on a personal level

Matthew 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Salvation is simple, but not easy – as selfishness gets in the way. (Read Luke 14:25-33)

Are you willing to count the cost? Deny yourself? Forsake all? Bear your cross?

2. Part of the Body of Christ - Purpose on a united effort

Ephesians 4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

1 Corinthians 12:12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also *is* Christ.

Each member makes up the entire body of the church.

3-Fold Task of the Local Church – feed the flock, preach to every creature & teach all nations

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to **feed the church of God**, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and **preach the gospel to every creature**.

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and **teach all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

N.T. exhortation of the purpose of the local church

Ephesians 4:11-12 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the **perfecting of the saints**, for the **work of the ministry**, for the **edifying of the body of Christ**:

Acts 5:28 Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, **ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine**, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.

Acts 17:6 And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, **These that have turned the world upside down** are come hither also;

Acts 20:27 For I have not shunned to **declare unto you all the counsel of God**.

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to **feed the church of God**, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Philippians 4:15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no **church communicated with me as concerning giving** and receiving, but ye only.

Acts 14:23 And when they had **ordained them elders in every church**, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

Acts 13:49 And the **word of the Lord was published throughout all the region**.

Find your niche and do your part within your church

How to Have Joy

➤ **Joy Defined** -- Greek word: chara, "joy," chairō, "to rejoice" (compare charis, "grace")

"The passion or emotion excited by the acquisition or expectation of good; that excitement of pleasurable feelings which is caused by success, good fortune, the gratification of desire or some good possessed, or by a rational prospect of possessing what we love or desire; gladness; exultation; exhilaration of spirits." WEBSTER'S 1828 DICTIONARY

There is a *Biblical joy* - found only in one's relationship with God. Joy, like the grace of God or love cannot be fully expressed. It is easier to experience these graces rather than to explain them.

Nehemiah 8:10 ...for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

Psalms 16:11 ...in thy presence *is* fulness of joy; at thy right hand *there are* pleasures for evermore.

Psalms 43:4 Then will I go unto the altar of God, unto God my exceeding joy: yea, upon the harp will I praise thee, O God my God.

Luke 24:50-52 And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy:

Joy give one the deepest springs of emotion, including the feeling of exultant gladness which often finds outward expression in such actions as leaping, shouting, and singing. Joy is repeatedly shown to be the natural outcome of fellowship with God, Who is the source of this joy. ISBE

"Joy, or gladness, is what man craves and is set upon finding; and he does find it when he finds God, and only then. He retains it too in proportion as he grows in the knowledge of God. God is the author of true joy as of every good and perfect gift.

True joy is unknown in the world in its present state; but there is a day coming when sorrow, suffering, death, and all the gloomy fruits of sin, will be done away, and God Himself will wipe away all tears and fill the universe with joy unclouded and eternal." MORRISH

➤ **Source of Joy**

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

"In Christ, the Christian *rejoices with joy unspeakable and full of glory*, in spite of his temporary afflictions. Christian joy is no mere gaiety that knows no gloom, but is the result of the triumph of faith over adverse and trying circumstances, which, instead of hindering, actually enhance it. Even our Lord Himself - for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame" ISBE

John 15:11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and *that* your joy might be full.

➤ **Jesus wants you to have Joy**

John 16:24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

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.

1 Peter 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:

1 John 1:3-4 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

➤ **Joy in spite of Affliction**

Luke 6:22-23 Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you *from their company*, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward *is* great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.

Acts 13:50-52 But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts. But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.

1 Thessalonians 1:6 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

1 Peter 4:12-13 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

➤ **Joy in Salvation**

Isaiah 61:3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

Matthew 13:44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Psalms 51:12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me *with thy* free spirit.

➤ Joy in Music

1 Samuel 18:6 And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick.

1 Kings 1:40 And all the people came up after him, and the people piped with pipes, and rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth rent with the sound of them.

Isaiah 55:12 For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap *their* hands.

Isaiah 65:14 Behold, my servants shall sing for joy of heart, but ye shall cry for sorrow of heart, and shall howl for vexation of spirit.

➤ Joy in Victory

2 Chronicles 20:27 Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat in the forefront of them, to go again to Jerusalem with joy; for the LORD had made them to rejoice over their enemies.

Psalms 5:11 But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.

Psalms 30:5 For his anger *endureth but* a moment; in his favour *is* life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy *cometh* in the morning.

Acts 8:6-8 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed *with them*: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in that city.

➤ Joy in the 2nd Coming

John 16:20-22 Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world. And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

How to Have Joy

Joy in Obedience

Nehemiah 12:43 Also that day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced: for God had made them rejoice with great joy: the wives also and the children rejoiced: so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off.

Ezra 6:16 And the children of Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the rest of the children of the captivity, kept the dedication of this house of God with joy,

Acts 5:32 ...and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

Joy in Giving

1 Chronicles 29:9 Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy.

2 Corinthians 9:7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

Cheerful: ἡλαρός **hilaros** – **we get the word *hilarious* from.** Giving & joy go hand in hand. One cannot disobey the plain teaching of tithing and have joy:

Malachi 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

This is only for the saved – a truly unsaved person will not understand how joy can come from giving. Obedience to the Lord in your pocketbook brings joy – yes even a hilarious spirit. There comes a grace with giving and many become joyful givers to the work of the Lord.

ILL Father buys son an order of fries – Son told dad, “Hey, those are my fries” when dad reached for one.

Son doesn't know where those fries came from. I bought them; they are mine.
I have power to take them away if I want to.
I have power to give him a whole lot more – I could buy 20 fries.
I don't need those fries – I could go buy my own.

Everything we have:

God has given / God can take away / God can give more / God doesn't' need your money

Learn to give – but give your heart to the Lord first. 2 Cor. 8:5

Life will go on whether you give or not. Ps. 24:1 / Deut. 8:18 / 1 Pet. 1:18-19

Giving is an opportunity for you! The Creator made a way for you to give to Him! What wisdom He has.

How to Have Joy

Review

Joy is found in personal purpose & being in a church that has an effective missions' program.

Joy is found in spite of affliction; in salvation; in music; in victory; in the 2nd coming; in obedience; and in giving.

Here is the conclusion of this series.

Joy in Heaven

Luke 15:7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

Zephaniah 3:17 The LORD thy God in the midst of thee *is* mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

Joy in Heaven when we get there

Matthew 25:21 His lord said unto him, Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Jude 1:24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

We will need to pass through the Northern Lights on our way to the celestial city in the North.

Job 26:7 He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, *and* hangeth the earth upon nothing.

Joy helped sustain Christ in His suffering on the cross

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame...

Inner joy will help get you through the heartaches of this life.

Joy in Witnessing

Give your testimony / use tracts / witness about the Blood of Jesus = Joy

If you are headed to heaven forever, it is imperative that we warn the lost. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you and help you. He will create opportunities if you are available.

How to Get Joy

Be Saved / Obey the Promptings of the Holy Spirit / Obey the Word of God as it Speak to You

Acts 5:32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and *so is* also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

Acts 16:23-25 And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast *them* into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

Paul wrote:

Philippians 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and **the fellowship of his sufferings**, being made conformable unto his death;

Paul and Silas sang after a severe beating. Inner joy caused this to happen. How is your life? We convince ourselves that living for ourselves will make us happy. The only true lasting joy is a supernatural response to events on this earth.

Your amount of joy will be in proportion to you living out:

Matthew 16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Carnality / Spirituality

A carnal Christian is one that lives via the flesh. He / she will have outward actions like a lost person. One never knows who is saved, as saved people can live like unsaved. However, one cannot fake joy. It is the evidence of Jesus Christ living in the heart and obedience to the Lord.

Pleasure in Sin

There is pleasure in sin for a season; but joy is lost after that pleasure goes away and leaves you empty.

Hebrews 11:25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

Prov. 5:3 For the lips of a strange woman drop *as* an honeycomb, and her mouth *is* smoother than oil:

Prov. 5:11-13 And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed, And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof; And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me!

The best life is one of joy!

How to Have Peace

There are 2 different aspects to peace –

Peace with God at salvation &

Peace of God after salvation

Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Philippians 4:7 And the **peace of God**, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

➤ **Peace with God** **Source is Salvation in Christ Jesus**

Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have **peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ**:

Romans 5:10 For if, **when we were enemies**, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear.

Isaiah 57:15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, **whose name is Holy**; I dwell in the high and holy *place*, with him also *that is* of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

- God loves us in spite of our rebellion against Him

Romans 5:6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time **Christ died for the ungodly**.

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, **while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us**.

Romans 5:10 For if, when we were enemies, we were **reconciled to God by the death of his Son**, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

Colossians 1:21 And you, that were sometime **alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works**, yet now hath **he reconciled**

Romans 8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

- God pleads with each to turn to Christ and be saved

2 Corinthians 5:20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, **as though God did beseech you by us**: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, **be ye reconciled to God**.

Isaiah 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and **him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.**

John 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, *but* **grace** and truth **came by Jesus Christ.**

Romans 5:20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But **where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:**

1 John 5:11-12 And this is the record, that God hath given to us **eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and** he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

➤ **Peace of God**

After salvation, sin, self, unbelief and worldliness can separate us from God and we lose our peace.

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? **whosoever** therefore will be a **friend of the world is the enemy of God.**

In James 4:4, adultery indicates that one is a saved person (married to Jesus Christ). Hence a saved person can be an enemy of God – and not have the peace of God in their heart, all the while that Jesus Christ does dwell in their heart.

Romans 7:4 Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be **married to another**, *even* to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. (Spiritual marriage – marriage on earth is a picture of our relationship to God!)

Therefore a saved person can be an enemy of God and lose the peace of God.

1 John 2:15-17 Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For **all that is in the world**, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but **he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.**

- Peace of God is available to all the saved. The pathway to peace:

Philippians 4:6-7 Be careful for nothing; **but in every thing** by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. **And the peace of God**, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

1 John 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, **we have fellowship one with another**, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Matthew 5:8 Blessed *are* the **pure in heart**: for they shall see God.

- Obedience to the Lord and confessing sin keeps our heart clean.

Isa 26:3 Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with **all** thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

- Live a life that gives you peace.

Isaiah 57:20-21 But the wicked *are* like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. ***There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.***

UNSAVED:

There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked. Isaiah 48:22

SAVED:

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. John 14:27

Ingredients to Prayer

Luke 11:1 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.**

Luke 11:2-4 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. Give us day by day our daily bread. 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.

Philippians 4:6-7 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by **prayer** and **supplication** with **thanksgiving** let **your requests be made known** unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Prayer is many faceted. Here are some ingredients we should have when we pray to God.

Confession

Psalms 32:5 I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

Nehemiah 9:2-3 And the seed of Israel separated themselves from all strangers, and stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers. And they stood up in their place, and read in the book of the law of the LORD their God *one* fourth part of the day; and *another* fourth part they confessed, and worshipped the LORD their God.

Submission

Luke 22:42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

Matthew 6:10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven.

Praise

Psalms 145:1-2 David's *Psalms* of praise. I will extol thee, my God, O king; and I will bless thy name for ever and ever. Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever.

Psalms 146:1-2 Praise ye the LORD. Praise the LORD, O my soul. While I live will I praise the LORD: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.

Psalms 150:1-2 Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.

Thanksgiving

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

Ephesians 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Colossians 4:2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

Asking

Matthew 7:7-8 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Luke 18:1-5 And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

Intercession

Job 16:21 O that one might plead for a man with God, as a man *pleadeth* for his neighbour!

Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Colossians 1:9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard *it*, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

Philippians 1:9 And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and *in* all judgment;

2 Timothy 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve from *my* forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;

Confession Submission Praise Thanksgiving Asking Intercession

Luke 11:2-4 And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed (PRAISE) be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will (SUBMISSION) be done, as in heaven, so in earth. Give us day by day our daily bread (ASKING). And forgive us our sins (CONFESSION); for we also forgive every one (INTERCESSION) that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

When you pray, spend time with each aspect:

Confession / Submission / Praise / Thanksgiving / Asking / Intercession

Importunity

Importunity: Pressing solicitation; urgent request; application for a claim or favor, which is urged with troublesome frequency or pertinacity. (Webster's 1828)

Pertinacity: Firm or unyielding adherence to opinion or purpose; obstinacy.

Obstinacy : A fixedness in opinion or resolution that cannot be shaken at all, or not without great difficulty; firm and usually unreasonable adherence to an opinion, purpose or system; a fixedness that will not yield to persuasion, arguments or other means.

Luke 18:1-5 And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

This widow is great in helplessness and hopelessness. She has zero influence to move an unjust judge.

Luke 18:6-7 And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

Luke 11:9-10 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. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Luke 11:9-10 is in response to Luke 11:5-8

Luke 11:5-8 And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.

Luke 11:8 I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his **importunity** he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.

The friend asks at midnight. His pleas are strong and demanding of the great necessity of food. Success comes from importunity.

Matthew 15:21-28 tells of another example of importunity.

Matthew 15:27-28 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

Her unworthiness and humble approach moves the Lord to an answer to her prayer.

Importunity is persistent:

Luke 18:7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

Luke 11:8 I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.

Importunity also possesses pressing on, restless desire, patience, passion, not just a need but a necessity and the waiting for an answer.

Genesis 32:24-26 And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.

With importunity, there is an increased desire in the asking.

Luke 11:9 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.

Luke 11:5-8 And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.

The friend needed bread – Jesus is the Bread of life. Friend, lend me three loaves – he asks for bread for his friend. Many need Jesus Christ – and we could say, “I have nothing to set before him.”

The real need we have to get the Bread of life is the Holy Spirit.

Luke 11:13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

The need in our life is the Holy Spirit to help us as we witness. The conclusion of this teaching on prayer by Jesus Christ is that God the Father will give the Holy Spirit to them that ask – ask, seek, knock....

See also Luke 18:38-43

Times of Prayer

Review: Importunity with Confession / Submission / Praise / Thanksgiving / Asking / Intercession

1. Pray Always

1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit...

Luke 18:1 And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that **men ought always to pray**, and not to faint;

This would be in the same category as walking with God. Your constant companion in this life ought to be One that you talk to throughout the day – walk with God.

Luke 18:7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, **which cry day and night unto him**...

2. Pray at Scheduled Times

Mark 1:35 And **in the morning, rising up a great while before day**, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

Psalms 55:17 Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.

Psalms 119:164 Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments.

Acts 3:1 ...Peter and John went up together into the temple at **the hour of prayer**, *being the ninth hour*.

The Jewish day was divided into twelve equal parts; of course the ninth hour would be about three o'clock, P.M. This was the hour of evening prayer. Morning prayer was offered at nine o'clock.

3. Pray in Your Closet

Matthew 6:6 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.

Mark 1:35 And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and **departed into a solitary place, and there prayed**.

Psalms 91:1 He that **delleth in the secret place of the most High** shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. (Also referred to as the *Throne of Grace* & *The Holiest* – Heb. 4:16, 10:19)

A relationship with the Lord must be cultivated. You cannot live off of the spirituality of another. Each must get to know God in a personal way. The Lord does not micro manage your life and there are various personalities. Let each glean from the Scriptures and implement his/her own agenda to spend time in prayer with the Lord. All should walk with God and pray as they pilgrim thru this world.

Purpose in Prayer

Matt. 6:5 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...**

Matt. 6:7 But when ye pray, **use not vain repetitions**, as the heathen *do*: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

Matt. 6:9 After this manner therefore **pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven**, Hallowed be thy name.

What is the purpose in prayer? To ask / to praise God / to thank God / to confess sin / to pray for others.... All these are good and right; but the main thing is: Get the ear of God.

We must be a child of God

God the Father hears from His child – only saved people can truly say, “Our Father...”

Romans 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Sin prevents the Lord from hearing us

Isaiah 59:1-2 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear.

Psalms 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear *me*:

Deuteronomy 28:15-23 But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that...thy heaven that *is* over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that *is* under thee *shall be* iron.

We will sin – it is what will we do after we sin. God is a forgiving God. But we must confess and seek the Lord's forgiveness....

We need to get the ear of God – Note Solomon:

2 Chronicles 6:13 For Solomon had made a brasen scaffold, of five cubits long, and five cubits broad, and three cubits high, and had set it in the midst of the court: and upon it he stood, and kneeled down upon his knees before all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven,

2 Chronicles 7:1 Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house.

Solomon prayed to dedicate the Temple 2 Chr. 6:14 – 42. A king prayed in humility before Jehovah!

2Ch 6:21 Hearken therefore unto the supplications of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, which they shall make toward this place: hear thou from thy dwelling place, *even* from heaven; and **when thou hearest, forgive.**

2Ch 6:23 Then **hear thou from heaven...**

2Ch 6:25 Then **hear thou from the heavens, and forgive the sin** of thy people Israel...

2Ch 6:27 Then **hear thou from heaven, and forgive the sin** of thy servants, and of thy people Israel...

2Ch 6:30 Then **hear thou from heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive,** and render unto every man according unto all his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for **thou only knowest the hearts** of the children of men:)

2Ch 6:33 Then **hear thou from the heavens, even** from thy dwelling place...

2Ch 6:35 Then **hear thou from the heavens** their prayer and their supplication...

2 Ch 6:39 Then **hear thou from the heavens, even** from thy dwelling place, their prayer and their supplications, and maintain their cause, **and forgive thy people which have sinned** against thee.

If you have unforgiveness in your heart, your prayers will not be heard

Mark 11:25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

If you mistreat your spouse, your prayers can be hindered

1 Peter 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with *them* according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

We must ask – we must pray to get an answer

James 4:2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

It must be the will of God

1 John 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:

1 John 5:15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

Not the will of yourself – your own selfish desires

James 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts.

We can pray for the lost to be saved – and God will work on their heart

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

If you do not get the ear of God, then you are just speaking into the air

Potential of Prayer

Ephesians 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Jeremiah 33:3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

Matthew 7:7-8 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Matthew 21:22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Mark 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*.

John 14:13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified...

John 15:16 ...that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

John 16:24 ...have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

God has given a blank check when it comes to prayer. Then why are our prayers not answered? It would seem, we could just ask and, lo and behold, it is done.

Here are some requirements for our prayers to get answered.

We must not have unconfessed sin

Psalms 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear *me*:

We must not have unforgiveness

Mark 11:25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

We must ask

John 16:24 ...have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

Matt. 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

We must use Importunity

Matthew 7:7-8 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

It must be the will of God

1 John 5:14-15 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

It must not be for our own selfish desires (Solomon asked for wisdom)

1 Kings 3:11-13 And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment; Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee. And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour...

We must allow the Word of God to abide in us & for us to abide in Christ

John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

We must obey whatsoever is commanded of us in the Bible

John 15:14-16 Ye are **my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you**. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends...Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: **that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.**

What humans consider a hard thing

2 Kings 2:9-10 And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: *nevertheless*, if thou see me *when I am* taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be *so*.

What God considers a light thing

2 Kings 3:18 And this is *but* a light thing in the sight of the LORD: he will deliver the Moabites also into your hand.

Luke 18:27 And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.

Jeremiah 32:27 Behold, I *am* the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?

Expect great things from God , Attempt great things for God. (William Carey)

Man's Extremity are God's Opportunities

Prayer & Faith

Psalms 78:2 I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:

We cannot bring the precise New Testament ideas of the word "parable" to bear upon the word as used in this psalm, and yet its meaning is very exact. The parable is treated as a setting of truth which veils or hides the truth, and compels the hearer to search, if he would find it. A parable is truth like a *nut*. The kernel of truth can only be reached by those who will break the shell. PULPIT HELPS

Bible truths are discovered by those who truly seek.

Proverbs 2:1-5 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, *and* apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, *and* liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as *for* hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

Difficult truths that are discovered for the one who truly seeks...and finds:

Salvation / Baptism / Church & it's Authority / Which Bible Version / Answered Prayer
Which Church I Should Attend / Effective Missions Program

"Whatsoever" verses on prayer:

Matt. 16:19; 18:18; 21:22; Mark 11:23; John 14:13; 15:16; 16:23; 1 John 3:22; 5:15

All Faith / Doubt Not – 1 Cor. 13:2; Matt. 21:21; Mark 11:23

The totality of Bible teaching on the promise of "whatsoever ye shall ask..." was covered last week.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Hebrews 3:12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

When it is the will of God – we rest upon that and pray for God to answer.

1 John 5:14-15 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

The will of God is discovered via 1) the general will of God from the plain teaching of the Word of God and 2) the specific will of God from the indwelling Holy Spirit.

We exercise faith by obeying the above. We seek answers to prayers by the above.

Romans 4:20-21 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

Saving faith – mix it with the Word of God:

Hebrews 4:1-2 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left *us* of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard *it*.

Unbelief is typical for humans.

Luke 24:10-11 It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary *the mother* of James, and other *women that were* with them, which told these things unto the apostles. And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.

Luke 24:25-26 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

Luke 24:40-41 And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them *his* hands and *his* feet. And while they **yet believed not for joy**, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat?

Their joy was so great, and his appearance was so sudden and unexpected, that they were bewildered, and still sought more evidence of the truth of what they *wished* to believe. This is nature. We have similar expressions in our language. *The news is too good to be true; or, I cannot believe it; it is too much for me.* BARNES NOTES

Mark 9:24 And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.

Luke 17:5 And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.

Mark 11:22 And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.

Romans 10:17 So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

We acknowledge our unbelief, but we do not emphasize it and dwell upon it.

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith...

Peter was imprisoned shortly after James was killed. Read Acts 12:1-10

Acts 12:5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

What was the response of this “great church at Jerusalem?” Read the account in Acts 12:11-17

Humans have always been humans! Unbelief is typical. Strive to be a person of faith. Trust God. Have faith in God. Seek the Lord.

God, the Creator of 100 billion galaxies and Savior of your soul wants you to pray in faith in Him.

Mark 11:22 And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.

Expect great things from God , Attempt great things for God. (William Carey)

Prayer & Trouble

In troubles, you will either draw closer to the Lord or rely upon self and rebellion which will affect your whole body. Troubles either soften or harden our hearts. We submit to the Potter as Clay. We need to hunker down until the calamities are done.

Psalms 57:1 Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until *these* calamities be overpast.

Psalms 91:1-2 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, *He is* my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

God is closest to those who are broken in heart. Troubles, trials, and testings work to cause us to pray.

Psalms 34:18 The LORD *is* nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Psalms 147:3 He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.

When trouble comes, the Holy Spirit is our prayer helper. Jesus also prays for us.

Romans 8:26 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.

Romans 8:27 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*.

Revelation 2:23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

Romans 8:34 Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Trouble works in our life (Rom. 8:28; 5:1-5). We must keep one eye on eternity (Rev. 21:4-5; Rom. 8:18).

Prayer delivers us out of trouble

Daniel 3:17 If it be *so*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver *us* out of thine hand, O king.

Prayer gives strength to bear trouble

Luke 22:42-43 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

Prayer gives comfort in midst of it

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 Blessed *be* God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

Prayer gives greater patience in our life

Romans 5:3 And not only *so*, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

James 5:11 Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

God answers prayers to those on earth in the midst of trouble. Ps. 107

For the redeemed (vs. 1-8)

Psalms 107:1 O give thanks unto the LORD, for *he is good*: for **his mercy endureth for ever**.

For humanity (vs. 9-31)

Psalms 107:8 Oh that *men* would praise the LORD *for his goodness*, and **for his wonderful works** to the children of men!

His mercy endureth forever – God works on behalf of His children (Ps. 107:1, 107:8)

Psalms 3:5 I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the LORD sustained me.

- When His children go into sin (Read Ps. 106 as an overview)

Psalms 106:1 Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for *he is good*: for his mercy *endureth* for ever.

- The Christian life (Read Ps. 118 as an overview)

Psalms 118:1 O give thanks unto the LORD; for *he is good*: because his mercy *endureth* for ever.

Psalms 118:29 O give thanks unto the LORD; for *he is good*: for his mercy *endureth* for ever.

- They brought the ark back – the presence of God is back (Tabernacle & Temple)

1 Chronicles 16:34 O give thanks unto the LORD; for *he is good*; for his mercy *endureth* for ever.

1 Chronicles 16:41 And with them Heman and Jeduthun, and the rest that were chosen, who were expressed by name, to give thanks to the LORD, because his mercy *endureth* for ever;

2 Chronicles 5:13 It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers *were* as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up *their* voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, *saying*, For *he is good*; for his mercy *endureth* for ever: that *then* the house was filled with a cloud, *even* the house of the LORD;

- Glory of Lord filled the Temple

2 Chronicles 7:3 And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the LORD, *saying*, For *he is good*; for his mercy *endureth* for ever.

- Victory over enemies

2 Chronicles 20:21 And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy *endureth* for ever.

His wonderful works – God works on behalf of humanity (Ps. 107:15, 21, 31)

Rebels vs. 11 (Ps. 107:10-14)

Answer to their prayer: **Psalms 107:14** He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and brake their bands in sunder.

Fools vs. 17 (Ps. 107:17-20)

Answer to their prayer: **Psalms 107:20** He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered *them* from their destructions.

Merchant-Men vs. 23 (Ps. 107 23-29)

Answer to their prayer: **Psalms 107:29** He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still.

I wonder how many times God has helped a sleepy truck driver. How many times has God, the Creator kept you from a “premature” death. He works on the behalf of humanity, in spite of their rejection of Him.

After God helps the rebels, the fools and the sailors, He desires them to acknowledge Him and to be thankful for His divine help. (Ps. 107:15, 21, 31)

God gives temporal help to humanity in times of danger. God works on the behalf of the redeemed.

The redeemed are a special category. Which category are you in?

Rebel / Fool / Sailor / Saved child of God / Godly / Friend of God

Psalms 4:3 But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him.

John 15:14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

***Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness,
and for his wonderful works to the children of men!***

Personal Ingredients in Prayer

Humility

How do we see yourself

Matthew 5:3 Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Psalms 70:5 But I *am* poor and needy: make haste unto me, O God: thou *art* my help and my deliverer...

Psalms 86:1 A Prayer of David. Bow down thine ear, O LORD, hear me: for I *am* poor and needy.

How do we live our life

Ephesians 4:2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

Colossians 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

The Pharisee and the Publican – one given to self-conceit, wrapped up in himself and his self righteous deeds. The other see no good in himself, has self-depreciation, not even worthy to lift his eyes to heaven...but cries, “God, be merciful to be a sinner.” God puts a great price on humility of heart.

Exodus 10:3 And Moses and Aaron came in unto Pharaoh, and said unto him...How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before me? let my people go, that they may serve me.

God humbles us through trials

Deuteronomy 8:16 Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;

How God views our pride

James 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

Humility is gained by feeling all guilty, confessing all sin and trusting all grace

1 Timothy 1:15 This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

Luke 7:47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, *the same* loveth little.

Humility is born by looking at God and His holiness, and then looking at self and our sinfulness and unholiness. Humility seeks the favor of God. Humility easily pardons others and fears the praise of men.

Romans 12:3 ...to every man that is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Humility is feeling little because we are little. It is realizing our unworthiness because we are unworthy.

Humility is declaring our sinfulness because we are sinners. Humility is a heart attitude between you and God – based upon you and your viewpoint of who you are and who God is.

Selflessness

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Galatians 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

Galatians 6:14 But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

Romans 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

The *body of sin* is 'caused to be useless by a greater force' – this is literally what *destroyed* means.

The Spirit of God is wanting to live the Christian life through you. That which is holding back the Holy Spirit is sin and self. When we are truly selfless and crucified, the Holy Spirit then reigns in our heart.

Who reigns in your life? Sin? Self? The Holy Spirit?

Romans 6:12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

Romans 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

The battle within the saved person rages

Romans 7:24-25 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

Romans 8:2 ...the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death

It is natural for sin or self to reign. It is supernatural for us to crucify ourselves.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

Humility is our standing before God which gives us confidence before man. Some have pride in their lowliness before men. Humility is in the heart toward God, the Creator of heaven & earth!

Pray for Missionaries & Pastors

We co-labor with those leaders that we pray for. The work of God is a supernatural work and the need for prayer is great.

Zechariah 4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This *is* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

Aaron and Hur held up Moses' hands and the victory was won over the Amalekites via the lifting up of the hands of Moses.

Exodus 17:11 And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.

Exodus 17:14 And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this *for* a memorial in a book, and rehearse *it* in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.

➤ Pray for Missionaries

Most good missionaries can run circles around pastors. It takes a unique person to be a good missionary.

2 Corinthians 1:11 Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift *bestowed* upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf.

Romans 15:30 Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in *your* prayers to God for me;

Philippians 1:19 For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

Their work is a great work. Their work is weighted down by opposition and hindrances.

The great hindrances to the gospel on the mission field are government and false religion. Demonic forces can greatly hinder the work of God with access to people under these entities.

Things that may go unnoticed by Christians:

Acts 14:19 And there came thither *certain* Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew *him out of the city, supposing he had been dead*.

2 Corinthians 11:25-28 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; *In* journeyings often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils by *mine own* countrymen, *in* perils by the heathen, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. **Beside those things** that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, **the care of all the churches**.

2 Timothy 4:17 Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known...and **I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.**

1 Corinthians 15:32 If after the manner of men **I have fought with beasts at Ephesus...**

2 Timothy 4:14 **Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil:** the Lord reward him...

➤ **Pray for the Pastor & Preaching**

Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

2 Thessalonians 3:1 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have *free* course, and be glorified, even as *it is* with you:

Preaching is a supernatural event – prayer is needed.

1 Corinthians 1:18-21 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God...For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.

➤ **Intercessory Prayer for Leaders**

God calls us to be an intercessor which allows us to co-labor with them.

Job 16:21 O that one might plead for a man with God, as a man *pleadeth* for his neighbour!

Matthew 10:41 He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward...

Who is to be an intercessor? The *many* within the church are to pray. You can have a ministry here!

2 Corinthians 1:11 Ye also helping together **by prayer for us**, that for the gift *bestowed* upon us by the means of **many persons** thanks may be given by many on our behalf.

What are we to pray for? That they may be kept from evil; help with physical body; souls saved; divine protection; God to bless their ministry...

We are reminded that the 5 loaves and 2 fishes were given, but it was the Lord that blessed them (prayer) that allowed them to feed 5,000. Yes, money is needed for the ministry, but the supernatural aspect of ministry necessitates prayers be given for it to be effective.

2 Thessalonians 3:1 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have *free* course, and be glorified, even as *it is* with you:

1 Thessalonians 5:25 Brethren, pray for us.

Thank God for Prayer

Hebrews 11:32-34 And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

People of Faith did not always get what they wanted. But rewards in heaven will make their sufferings to be worthwhile. We are pray and then yield to the will of God.

Hebrews 11:35-38 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of *cruel* mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and *in* mountains, and *in* dens and caves of the earth.

Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

2 Corinthians 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory;

When we think of God answering our prayers, we often think in terms of money, things, and health. God is more concerned with things and events that affect eternity. Often our will is nowhere near to His will.

Ephesians 1:18-19 The **eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know**

- what is the hope of his calling, and
- what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And
- what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Ephesians 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Jeremiah 33:3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

Typically in life, God does not intervene. That does not mean that He cannot, but that He allows life to be carried out. We are to walk with God as we travel through this sin-cursed earth.

Psalms 78:19 Yea, they spake against God; they said, **Can God** furnish a table in the wilderness?

Yes, He can, He did and He will!

Can God forgive your sins? Can God provide for your needs? (Matt. 6:25-34) Can God restore your soul? Can God help you in your difficulty? Can God... Yes, He can.

Psalms 78:25-29 Man did eat angels' food: he sent them meat to the full. He caused an east wind to blow in the heaven: and by his power he brought in the south wind. He rained flesh also upon them as dust, and feathered fowls like as the sand of the sea: And he let *it* fall in the midst of their camp, round about their habitations. So they did eat, and were well filled: for he gave them their own desire;

God can do the unusual. Never underestimate what God will do for you.

Joshua 10:12-14 Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. *Is* not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day. And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the LORD hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the LORD fought for Israel.

Daniel 6:20-22 And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: *and* the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions? Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

James 5:17 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

God hears the broken hearted

Isaiah 38:5 Go, and say to Hezekiah, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years.

God hears the Backslider's prayer

Jonah 1:17-2:1 Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly,

Prayer Gives Priceless Peace

Philippians 4:6-7 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Be careful for nothing... don't be anxious. Faith vs. Fear

This is a life based upon trust – you trust Him.

There is to be such confidence in God as to free the mind from anxiety, and such a sense of dependence on him as to keep it calm. In other words, *Trust God and Keep Calm*.

1 Peter 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

Is God to be trusted? Is God good? Is God all wise? How can I trust God?

You trust God by seeing who He is – how vast He is – and by placing yourself 100 years into the future and then look back on your life... In 100 years, do you think your problems are big? Are the things of this life worth worrying over?

Romans 10:17 So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Faith is strengthened and trust in the Lord is increased. Allow the Word of God to work in you and change you and your faith will be increased, you will learn to trust God and your fears will decrease. We learn to trust God.

Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for **I have learned**, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content.

In every thing by prayer and supplication

Walk with God – pray to Him as you live your life....

There is no greater comfort on earth than the indwelling Holy Spirit that is real to your spirit.

With thanksgiving

1 Thessalonians 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Unthankfulness and ingratitude are such selfish things. We are not *owed* anything. God is the Giver of all good things. We are to be thankful. (See Luke 17:11-18)

A Spirit-filled person is a thankful person.

Ephesians 5:18-20 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Let your requests be made known unto God

Share your burdens, your needs, your wants...

Psalms 62:8 Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God *is* a refuge for us. Selah.

What a friend we have in Jesus,	All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry	Everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,	Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry	Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?	Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—	Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,	Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;	Take it to the Lord in prayer.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds...

The end result is priceless and indescribable? God's own peace is that which he himself possesses.

WHAT IT IS?

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you...

It is, therefore, no mere superficial freedom from external troubles, but a deep-seated harmony with God the Source of all peace. It transcends human understanding and human expression.

WHAT PREVENTS OUR POSSESSING IT?

Over-anxiety and worry. These are a kind of practical atheism, since they prevent us from leaving all things to him who is supreme over all circumstances.

HOW TO OBTAIN IT?

By prayer, which rests upon him for all things;

by supplication, which brings our own special causes for anxiety into his presence;

by thanksgiving, which recognizes that his will must be full of blessing. By thus turning our cares into prayers we throw them upon him who gives us in return his peace.

WHAT IT DOES FOR US?

It keeps our hearts and minds, preserving them from undue anxiety, and making them realize the strength of the peace which Christ bestows.

PULPIT COMMENTARY

Prayer & Seeking the Face of God

- When we want to get right with God (a serious matter), seeking His face is an integral part.

2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

- When we seek the face of another, we are *reading* the soul. We are seeking the face to get approval from that person, to sense love in their eyes and to have them speak to you.

Smiles and frowns and tears, the flash of pleasure or of anger, the softening of tender feeling, speak a language which all read intuitively. There is personal communion and intuition.

1 Chronicles 16:11 Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his face continually.

- Those that seek His face comply immediately. There is a prompt purpose of the mind or heart.

Psalms 27:8 *When thou saidst*, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek.

There is no – ‘oh, wait a minute,’ ‘let me think about it.’ Decide to obey the Lord when He speaks to you.

- Seeking the Lord is a whole-hearted proposition.

Jeremiah 29:13 And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

We are reminded: **Hebrews 11:6** But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of **them that diligently seek him**.

- To *seek God's face* is to seek His favor. JFB

Psalms 105:4 Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face evermore.

- The face of God will speak to you

2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, *be* with you all. Amen.

Acts 8:29 Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

Conclusion

James 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, ye sinners; and purify *your* hearts, ye double minded.

Numbers 6:24-26 The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The **LORD make his face shine upon thee**, and be gracious unto thee: The **LORD lift up his countenance upon thee**, and give thee peace.

Prayer & the Church

Unsaved pray – and God sends them more *light*

John 1:9 *That* was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

Acts 10:2-4 A devout *man*, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway. He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius. And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.

God sends them one that can give him the gospel

Acts 10:9 On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour:

Acts 10:31 And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God.

The church is to pray

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Acts 13:1-3 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets...As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid *their* hands on them, they sent *them* away.

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

The church is to be a place of doctrine / fellowship / ordinances (Lord's Supper) / prayers

Doctrine – correct beliefs / Fellowship – encouragement / Ordinances – Baptism & Lord's Supper
Prayers – to move God on behalf of the church

Prayer works – the church prayed in Acts 12

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

Matt. 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

Acts 12:5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

Acts 12:12 And when he had considered *the thing*, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.

Shortest prayer of the Bible was answered

Matthew 14:28-31 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, **Lord, save me**. And immediately Jesus stretched forth *his* hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

Psalms 55:16 As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me.

Long prayers in the Bible

Jesus John 17: 1-26

Daniel Dan. 9:4-19

Nehemiah Neh. 9:5-38

Solomon 1 Kings 8:23-54 / 2 Chronicles 6:14-7:1

Mark 1:35 And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

Daniel 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

Nehemiah 9:3 And they stood up in their place, and read in the book of the law of the LORD their God *one* fourth part of the day; and *another* fourth part they confessed, and worshipped the LORD their God.

1 Kings 8:54 And it was *so*, that when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven.

Getting the ear of God and having Him answer is more important than the length of the prayer

1 John 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**:

John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall **ask what ye will, and it shall be done** unto you.