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## Prayer 02 (Sermon Outlines)

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# P R A Y E R

I. Read Acts 16:13-15.

II. Prayer to stranger to Acts.

Acts 1:24 - Apostles

Acts 6:6 Deacons

Acts 9:11 Saul

Acts 10:9 Peter

Acts 12:12 Peter

Acts 13:3 Mission

Acts 16:25 Silas

Acts 21:5 Farewell

III. Prayer attracts certain kind of folk.

A. What's your earliest recollection of prayer - privately?

B. What's your first impression of church prayers?

C. Do you recall any particular impressive thing about a certain prayer?

D. What to you is one of the toughest problems connected c prayer?

E. Offer any suggestions you like that would improve our prayer life.

*Best End 3-12-75*

## WHAT'S PRAYER'S POSTURE?

### I. Tell Story of Ky. Drive.

#### A. Praying in the car.

1. Cold.

2. Heater faulty.

3. Hat on--suddenly jerked it off as I must be "uncovered."

4. This I did for wk.--then qt.

a. Didn't God hear me earlier?

b. If I saw an emergency and said "God help me"--forgetting both hat and phrase "in Jesus name" would He?

c. Is there a law?

#### B. Does prayer have a posture?

1. Could I drive and pray?

2. Eyes open?

3. Unbowed?

4. I did and do, since I know no posture or position assumed that makes prayer heard.

### II. Let's look at some Bible positions of prayer.

Strangely most of them have to do with "w's" and "s's".

#### A. Daniel and His Windows. Dan. 6:1-10

1. Darius appointed 120 satraps.

2. Over these were 3 presidents.

3. This Daniel was the most distinguished presidents and to be put over whole (v-3)

4. Sought grounds of complain--found none. (v-4)

5. We ask why?

a. Had excellent spirit in him. (v-3)

- b. He was faithful (v-4)
- c. No fault (v-4)
- 6. Plan only "with his God."
- 7. No prayer to any but Darius for 30 days.
  - a. Some "members" would never know it today--absent 4 weeks.
- 8. With Daniel it did!
  - a. He knew (v-10)
  - b. Went to his house.
  - c. Upper chamber.
  - d. Open.
  - e. Toward Jerusalem.
  - f. As previously done.
  - g. Upon knees--3x daily.
- 9. I trust you know God heard!

Ere You Left #38

- B. Hezekiah and His Wall. 2 Kings 20:1-3
  - 1. Became ill, point of death.
  - 2. Isaiah came with death message.
  - 3. H. faced wall and prayed (v-2).
    - a. I assume with boils he's in bed.
    - b. Wept bitterly (v-3).
  - 4. Read his prayer. (v-3).
  - 5. God heard it, sent Isaiah back before out of middle court.
  - 6. V-5 "I have heard your prayers."
    - a. Third day go up.
    - b. Give you 15 years--I don't want to know, do you?

Father Hear

#372 or Sweet Hour #499

C. Jacob and His Wrestling. Gen. 32:22-32

1. Jacob sent 2 wives, 2 maids and 11 children ahead.
2. Sent across stream and likewise everything he had. (v-23).
3. Jacob was left alone. (v-24)
4. Man came and wrestled til day break.
5. Hollow of thigh touched--out of joint.
6. Let me go.
7. v-26 "I will not. . unless you bless
8. Mid struggles a prayer voiced and heard.
9. Called Israel.
10. Called place Peniel--saw God face to face and lived.  
There's a Garden #263 or  
What a Friend

D. Abraham Walks Moriah. Gen. 22

1. You remember well the story.
2. The Lord will provide--so they went. v-8
3. Named Jehovah Jireh--"On the mt. of the Lord He will be seen" (v-14)  
Jesus Keep Me Near #126

E. Publican Whacks Breast (Smote). Lu. 18:9

1. We go to N.T. now.
2. Went to temple to pray--God hear both!
3. Phar. stood, prayed, prayer recorded so Heaven heard.
4. Tax collector, wouldn't look up, stood afar off, beat his breast.
5. V-14 This one justified.
6. Lesson not on prayer but self trust!

7. Heard both standing and smiting.

If I Have Wounded #551

F. Peter and the Sinking. Matt. 14:22

1. Jesus came walking on water.

2. Peter wants proof--bid me come.(v-28)

3. Jesus "come".

4. Walked, came, saw wind, afraid, sank, cried.

5. If you can pray when going under I suppose you can if you stay afloat.

6. Sink or swim.

I Need Thee Every Hour #91

G. Paul Sat. Acts 16:25

1. Paul cast out spirit of divination.

2. Owners siezed, dragged, charged.

3. Crowd joined in--attacking.(v-22).

4. Magestrates ordered beating.

5. Threw (v-23) in jail.

6. Inner prison--feet fast.

7. About midnight--praying, singing, "prisoners listening" (v-25) and so was somebody else--God!!

8. Sit and Stocks.

My Faith Looks Up #445

H. Jesus and Gethsemene--Sorrow. Matt. 26:39

1. Christ sorrowful and troubled.v-37

2. Asked them to remain and watch.

3.v-39 "And going a little farther he fell

4. Face and Fall.

Jesus Lover #442

### III. What Conclusion.

A. If my children call--I don't say

1. Are you standing?

2. Head bowed.

3. Eyes closed.

4. But to "daddy" I say "unh," anywhere,  
any time.

B. I'll call to my God:

1. From my window--knees.

2. From my wall--lie.

3. From my wrestling--struggle.

4. From my walks--meditate.

5. From my striking--breast.

6. From my sinking--water.

7. From my stocks--prison.

8. From my sorrow--Getheseme.

C. You ask me--will he hear?--I answer

"He has!"

Pass Me Not #189

West End - 4/24/66

Ypsilanti, Mich. - 4/27/66

Miss Carol Wheeler - Bapt.

## IS PRAYER A CARTE BLANCHE?

I. One of the hardest tasks is to read a passage of Scripture, find its meaning, apply it.

A. Is it literal?

B. Is it inspirational?

C. Is it single - or must it be connected with other passages?

D. Add to this the complication of prayer!

1. Prayer is looking outside self & seek divine aid.

2. Pine "the irrespressible cry of a soul in need - Ps 81:10"

II. O Open thy mouth wide.

II. One of the finest examples is our text.

Matt. 7:7-8 "Ask and it shall be given."

A. What did Jesus say?

1. May I ignore other prayer passages:

Deny self

Strive against sin

Take whole armour

Fight the good fight

2. Do we introduce & weaken the text?

3. Lloyd Jones said "Don't extract a text from its context."



(2)

4. Isn't it true that only Jesus introduces prayer as a major factor in men's behavior?

5. Any way you take it, isn't this passage an encouragement to prayer? It's a gracious promise.

B. What's said?

1. Spurgeon said its a graduation of increasing force.

2. 3 great words: ask - seek - knock

III. Let's see the Three.

A. Ask

1. Ask is not a signed blank check.

(a) Lady lost her's- took blank - really wouldn't matter - she's signed them all so no one else could use them.

2. The ask has requirements:

(a) Earnestly - as a hungry child asks for his mother's breast - Pink

(b) Realizing God's ability  
Eph. 3:20. Now unto him that....

James 1:6-"Let him ask in faith

(1) To ask in faith=confidence in God.

- (3)
- (2) Trust in His veracity
  - (3) Lay hold on his promises. 2 Sam. 7:25 "Thou hast promised...

(c) Submit to his will

- (1) We ignorantly ask for what would harm - he kindly withholds. I John 5:14 "And this is the confidence that"
- (2) God has a better way to deal with me than to grant my every request.
- (3) God, being God, never makes a mistake.

(d) It can only be for good things - that's all God gives!

- (1) Is it fame - wealth?
- (2) Is it daily bread? Forgiveness? Light? Protection? Guidance? James 4:3 "Ye ask & receive not because..."

(e) It is a literal request, we are conscious of need.

- (1) Yet must be mindful of neighbors needs too
- (2) Meyers points out Jesus uses the word ask 4X - He loves it.

4

(3) Blind man told Jesus he wanted sight.

3. This brings up a whole area of thought - why does God require importunity?

(a) Not to overcome reluctance

(b) Not to tantalize  
Isa. 30:18

(c) It's proof of earnestness. Gen. 32:26

(d) It tests our faith

(e) It develops patience

(1) We are like "bullock unaccompanied to the yoke"

James 1:3 "Knowing this, that the tr.

4. Is our praying self centered?  
Eph. 6:18 "Praying always call prayer"

I Jn 3:14 "We know that we have passed"

Col. 4:12 "Epaphres, who is one of your"

Ex. 14:15

### B. Seek

1. To seek is to diligently study His word & acquire his doctrine.

2. It is persistent effort

C. Knock

- 1. This is faith's refusal to be deterred.
- 2. See Luke 11:5-8 in connect.
- 3. Do you see knock as perserverence?  
Acts 12:13-16
- 4. What's implied?
  - (a) There's a door - not a wall!
  - (b) Door implies an opening
  - (c) What keeps us from knocking?
    - (1) Apprehension
    - (2) Sin
    - (3) Disbelief
  - (d) Our knocker is the name of Jesus

IV. What then have we said?

- A. God wants me to pray increasingly.
- B. He reserves the right & we must manifest disposition to filter request thru his perfect judgment.
- C. With increased activity, He promises Heavenly guided success.

Thresh End 3-15-70  
 Oneida Church 9-29-70

# TARGETS FOR PRAYER

Ps. 3

I. As the fired missile searches for the heat of the airborne plane, so should our prayer as flaming message aim for a specific target.

A. None can doubt God wants us to pray.

1. Preliminary conditions are few.

2. God loved the world - wants to make Himself accessible.

3. At terrible expense he's saved - surely He wants man to have access.

4. He wants all to call on the name of the Lord.

Ps. 86:5 "For thou, Lord, art good, ready to plentiful. in mercy

5. He wants to give gifts to His children even as you do to yours.

B. Then do we pray as we should

II. Tell David's Prayer - Ps. 3

A. Absalom had rebelled.

1. Darkness in every way as David fled.

2. Read 2 Sam. 15:12-16.

3. Read 2 Sam. 15:30.

4. When morning light came, David knew how bad it was - he prayed.

Ps. 3:1-2

5. Not even God can help - it's so bad!

(a) Man's viewpoint - not God's.

6. David knew better --  
Ps. 3:3  
(a) God a shield.  
(b) God a lifter up of heads.
7. When we are discouraged & fling our heads - God can lift us up.
8. Cried repeatedly to God.  
Ps. 3:4 Note it's habitual.
9. Ahithophel went over to Absalom.  
II Sam. 15:31  
(a) Feared him more than all - he was so smart.  
(b) Bible said it was "as if a man inquire at the oracle of God".
10. David's life hung in the balance - if Ahithophel was heard, David was destroyed!  
(a) So he prayed.  
II Sam. 15:31
11. Then note his faith - laid down & slept!  
Ps. 3:4-5
12. God used Hushai to turn Ath. counsel to naught.  
(a) Ahith. saw the end - went out & hanged himself.  
II Sam. 17:23
- B. David closes his Ps. 3 prayer
1. Faith in God's salvation.
  2. Bless thy people (v. 8) even tho they were now in rebellion.

C. Do we pray?

1. In confident anticipation of God's faithfulness?
2. In loving trust?
3. Are we like little children?

West End 2-1-70

Charlotte Cary - Ident.  
Maryville, Radio 3-12-70

# TWO THINGS HEARD; ONE THING DONE

Eph. 1:15-16

(Prayers of Paul - Lesson 1)

I. Did you ever hear of a chain reaction?

A. Defined it shows one isolated event that touches another & triggers thereby a reaction.

B. Illustrated it could be a chance acquaintance extends a compliment to one of your family, you go home and exclaim, "I have a T. L." Other members of the family search for a compliment they'd heard on you, tell it (since you've claimed "Trade Last"), then you tell yours and everybody's happy.

II. With the great Ephesian Church Paul heard two things and reacted by initiating something on his part.

A. The two things he heard.

1. 1st he heard of your faith. (v. 15)

2. 2nd he heard of your love unto all the saints. (v. 15)

B. Reacting Paul did a specific thing.

1. Guided by the above facts Paul: (v. 16)

(a) "Ceased not to give thanks."

(b) "Making mention of you in my prayers"

2. Shall we study the "triple play".

III. Two essential ingredients for the True Church.



A. It cannot be Jesus church unless it has faith in Jesus Christ.

1. Jesus must be acknowledged as Lord.  
 Acts 8:37 *Phil. said "If thou bel. with all thine  
 Rom. 10:9-10 that if thou shalt confess  
 Phil. 2:9-11 wherefore God hath highly ex.  
 Heb. 11:6 But w/o faith it is impossible  
 Mark 6:5-6 "And he could do no m. work -  
 I Tim. 1:4-5 The end of the c... is faith w/nt.  
 Mark 16:15-16 Go ye into all the world*

2. Theirs was a perseverance. It was not just a scriptural beginning.

(a) Note his joy for their faith was founded on the fact of their behavior - it rested on solid information.

(b) If we have good news about our brothers, about missionary activity, should we release it or "bottle" it.

(c) Should the Christian of today congratulate another or will it "go to his head".

To some servants Jesus said, "Well done."

B. 2ndly, it cannot be Jesus Church unless it loves all Jesus followers.

1. He specifies there must be love for all the saints.

(a) Matthew Henry asked, "Do we love the saints regardless of how peevish they may be?"

(b) Swift wrote, "We have just enough religion to make us hate, but not enough to make us love one another."

2. Examine forces around you - does the paper you read, preacher you hear, teacher you follow, and congregation you attend make you love all the saints? If not, change! *to or change from it!*
3. How do you measure love? Can you do it as you can count dollars or chart attendance figures?
4. Was Paul calling for an "outward organizational success or an inward increase of faith & love"? (New Commentary)
5. Was faith evident in outward life in relationship to brother as well as inward life?
6. Are Christ and the church one? Can you love one without the other?
7. If one claims loyalty to Christ but hates & spitefully uses the brethren, is that one faithful to God?
8. Lipscomb said, "The word all permits no distinction as respects condition, rank, possessions, or internal endowments either mental or spiritual." Do you agree?

I John *4:20* "If any man say I love God

9. Must there be catholicity in our love?

III. When Paul heard of their faith & love, he was moved to give thanks via prayer.

A. Glory of gratitude.

1. Does heaven lightly pass over ingratitude?  
What would you offer to prove your point?

(a) Healing of 10 lepers.

(b) Scriptures like in all things give thanks.

(c) Example of Jesus Himself.

2. Make a list of things now via brethren's reputations, for which you could offer thanks.

(a) Care of orphans.

(b) Growth of concern for aged.

(c) Christian schools.

(d) Godly personalities.

(e) Increased giving. Increased Bible School work.

(f) Youth activities - our list may vary - list your own.

3. Could it be the Christian of today takes too much for granted - has he received "cheap grace"?

4. What does a thankful heart indicate to you? What type personality do you anticipate?

B. Remembrance in prayer

1. What kind of prayer would you call this:

private, intercessory, selfish,  
ritualistic. (Underline)

2. Can your prayer help a fellow Christian
3. Can it benefit you at the same time?  
How? (Can a man intercede for another & be egotistical about himself at the same time in his prayer? Interpreters Bible said when you are praying for others you don't see a matter exclusively related to you - thus are unselfish.
4. Moule has a great statement, "He thinks of others, not himself while on his knees."
5. Does the Bible speak of constancy in prayer? Read:  
I Thess. 5:17 *Pray w/o ceasing*  
Eph. 6:18 *Praying always c all prayers & sup*  
Rom. 12:12 *Continuing instant in pr.*  
Col. 4:2 *Continue in prayer w/etchc thksiv*
6. When the Christian prays thru Jesus, what does this mean? By his authority plus the fact all that's said & desired is sifted thru His will.

#### IV. Conclusion

- A. How do I individually measure by this triple standard?
  1. Do I have faith in Jesus?
  2. Do I love all the saints?
  3. Do I gratefully remember them in prayer?

B. Irrespective of what else the church has, if it does not have these three features, is it Jesus Church?

West End 6-28-70

A.C.C. Bible Teachers Workshop 7-21-70