

Prayer

I.

We pray to God our Father through the Son Jesus Christ our Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 7:26-27; Hebrews 10:19-22) with the power of the Holy Spirit interceding for us (Romans 8:26-27).

What is prayer?

1) A life of prayer helps us develop a relationship with God, our Father

James 4:7-8a

*[7] Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. [8] **Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.***

2) A life of prayer cultivates a godly life

John 16:8-11

*[8] And when he comes, **he [Holy Spirit] will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:***

Luke 22:40

*[40] And when he came to the place, he said to them, **“Pray that you may not enter into temptation.”***

3) Jesus' life of prayer

luke 5:15

[16] But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.

luke 6:12

[12] In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God.

heb 5:7

[7] In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence.

Luke 22:42

[42] saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”

II. How to pray

1) Humbly / Honestly

Luke 18:9-14

[9] He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: [10] “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. [11] The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. [12] I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ [13] But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to

me, a sinner!' [14] I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. **For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.**"

2) Confidently / With no doubting

Matthew 21:21-22

[21] And Jesus answered them, "Truly, I say to you, **if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' it will happen.**

[22] **And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."**

James 1:6-8

[6] But let him ask **in faith, with no doubting**, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. [7] For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; [8] he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

3) Trusting in the power of Jesus

John 15:5-7

[5] I am the vine; you are the branches. **Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.** [6] If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. [7] **If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.**

4) According to God's will

1 John 5:14-15

[14] And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything **according to his will** he hears us. [15] And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

5) Constantly / Being intentional

Romans 12:12

[12] Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, **be constant in prayer.**

6) Privately / Corporately

Matthew 6:6

[6] But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matthew 18:20

[20] For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

7) A.C.T.S. Prayer Framework

Adoration

Confession

Thanksgiving

Supplication