

# PRAAYER

- I. Some New Testament references to "prayer"
- Matt. 6:5 - "hypocrites...love to stand and pray...in order to be seen of men"
  - Matt. 6:6 - "when you pray, go into your inner room, pray to your Father in secret"
  - Matt. 6:7 - "when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition"
  - Matt. 6:8 - "your Father knows what you need, before you ask Him"
  - Matt. 21:22 - "everything you ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive"
  - Mk. 11:25 - "when you pray, forgive, if you have anything against anyone"
  - Rom. 8:26 - "we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit intercedes"
  - Eph. 6:18 - "pray at all times in the Spirit"
  - Phil. 4:6 - "in everything with prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your request be made know to God"
  - I Thess. 5:17 - "pray without ceasing"
  - I Tim. 2:1 - "I urge entreaties and prayers...be made on behalf of all men"
  - James 5:16 - "the effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much"
  - I Jn. 5:14 - "if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us"
  - I Jn. 5:15 - "if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him"
- II. Common questions about prayer
- A. If God is omniscient and omnipotent, why should we pray?
  - B. Does prayer change anything? God? circumstances? oneself?
  - C. Does God hear or answer the prayers of non-Christians?
  - D. Is there a proper or preferable time or posture for prayer?
  - E. How long should one "wait" for God to answer prayer?
  - F. What if one asks for the wrong thing?
  - G. Should we repeat our petitions day after day?
  - H. Should we pray that people be converted?
  - I. Is there any advantage to Christians praying together?
- III. Christian prayer is NOT
- A. to give God information - Matt. 6:8
  - B. telling God what to do - Rom. 11:34
  - C. asking God to engineer a situation to the end we desire.
  - D. something we do to please or appease God - Jn. 19:30
  - E. a meritorious performance God expects of us; a duty or obligation of obedience.
  - F. an exercise to make us better, stronger, or more "spiritual"
  - G. for therapeutic psychological adjustment, "good feelings"
  - H. self-instruction to gain a knowledge of God's will
  - I. soliciting more "blessings" or "benefits" from God
  - J. an evasion of the problems and anxieties of contemporary existence
  - K. a superstitious, mystical or magical trance
  - L. a spiritual "power-tool" to employ the "power of prayer"
  - M. a discipline or devotional exercise that will lead us to godliness
  - N. demanding our rights before God
  - O. persistence and shameless haranguing until we get what we want
  - P. a mechanical ritual or rote formulas
  - Q. an external religious action, pretentious and ostentatious (Matt. 6:5,6)
  - R. verbosity of meaningless repetition (Matt. 6:7)
  - S. a religious activity executed "on command" - litanies, rosaries, etc.
  - T. prescribed by place, time or procedure

- IV. Christian prayer – Christo-centric prayer
- A. Christ: the basis of Christian prayer
    - 1. redemptive payment -
    - 2. reconciled relationship - Heb. 10:19,22
    - 3. restorational provision - Heb. 7:25
  - B. Christ: the pray-er of Christian prayer
    - 1. Christ: our intercessor - Rom. 8:26
    - 2. Christ: our confessor - Heb. 3:1
    - 3. Christ: our thanksgiving - Heb. 13:15
    - 4. Christ: our suppliant - Jn. 11:22
    - 5. Christ: our praise and adoration - Heb. 13:15; Phil. 1:11
    - 6. Christ: our worshipper - Heb. 8:2
  - C. Christ: the answer to Christian prayer
    - 1. Christ is God's complete provision
      - Eph. 1:3 - "God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus"
      - II Peter 1:4 - "His divine power has granted us everything pertaining to life and godliness"
    - 2. Christ ACTS in Christian prayer
      - a. Adoration and praise- "I am not; only You are"
      - b. Confession - "I cannot; only You can"
      - c. Thanksgiving - "I do not; only You do"
      - d. Supplication - "I have not; only You have"
    - 3. Prayer provides the connectivity of obedience and faith in the Christian life.
      - a. obedience is "listening under" - *hupakouo*
      - b. faith is "our receptivity of His activity"