



Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

Sermon on the Mount (Part-9)

Wednesdays
8-9 PM

PRAYER & The Golden Rule

9.22.21

(Matthew 7:7-12)

Personal Reflection (0-10): How is your prayer life?: {0 (non-existent) → 5 (satisfactory) → 10 (like Daniel)}? What is the success rate of your prayer life?: {(0 (no answers) → 5 (some prayers answered) → 10 (all prayers answered)}? Is anything missing in your prayer life? Does your prayer life become stronger/weaker during trials? On hindsight, Would it be good if God had answered all your prayers?

Jesus Perspective on prayer (7-11): If 7:7 were a blank check what will you ask and why? If it were not a blank check what will you ask and why? What can we learn from the illustration of bread/stone and fish/snake? How does prayer fit within the context of sermon on the mount teaching? Why are many prayers not answered immediately? What does the Bible teach us about the secret of an effective prayer life? **v12** What is the so-called golden rule? Is it easy to practice it in our relationships?

Why wait?: Blessings follow obedience ... What are you going to **DO** differently about your prayer life and interactions with others?

Personal Reflection (0-10):

Your prayer life?: {0 (non-existent) → 5 (satisfactory) → 10 (like Daniel)}?

Success rate?: {(0 (no answers) → 5 (some answered) → 10 (all answered)}?

Is anything missing in your prayer life?

Does your prayer life become stronger/weaker during trials?

On hindsight, Would it be good if God had answered all your prayers?

Jesus on Prayer

If 7:7 were a blank check what will you ask and why?

If it were not a blank check what will you ask and why?

What can we learn from the illustration of bread/stone and fish/snake?

How does prayer fit within the context of sermon on the mount teaching?

Why are many prayers not answered immediately?

What does the Bible teach us about the secret of an effective prayer life?

What is the so-called golden rule? Is it easy to practice it in our relationships?

God's offer to Solomon (II Chronicles 1:7)

“That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”

Bread/Stone ... Fish/Snake

¹¹ If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

Earthly Fathers versus Heavenly Father

- If evil parents can think of good gifts for children, how much more will our Heavenly father do
- If Heavenly father takes care of the birds, flowers, and the grass, how much more his children (5:26, 29, 30)

Prayer life of Jesus

Why did Jesus pray?
How often did He pray?

Jesus prayed ... *how much more should we?*

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

Evening: And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone (**Mathew 14:23**)

Sometimes all night: He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God (**Luke 6:12**) (before major decision, selecting disciples)

Frequently @ Lonely/quiet places: But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed" (**Luke 5:16**)

We must have a dedicated time and a quiet place to pray

Pray to enjoy His communion, discover His will, and experience His power

What motivates us to pray to a living God?

God's ability to provide

Is there anything too hard for me?, **Jeremiah 32:27**

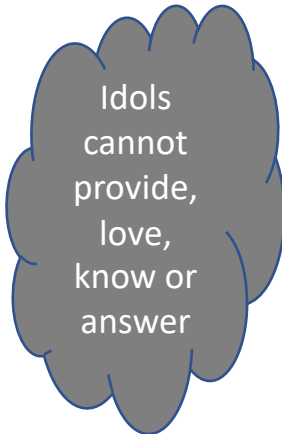
His generosity and love

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? **Romans 8:32**

He knows what is best for us

How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! **Psalms 139:17**

Past experience of answered prayers



Idols
cannot
provide,
love,
know or
answer

What is the end result of
an effective prayer?

End result of an effective prayer

Divine Inner Peace/Strength/Joy (Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷ And the **peace of God**, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus, **Philippians 4:6-7**) **burdens rolled away** (I Peter 5:7, Psalms 55:22), **Strengthened** (Isaiah 40:31, II Corinthians 12:9) **Joy of communion** (Psalms 16:11)

God's perfect will is put in motion and accomplished in His perfect time (Could be instantly or later)

Why do prayers go unanswered?

Prayers may go unanswered if:

1. **Wrong intent** (Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts, **James 4:3**)
2. **Wrong time** (Genesis 2:21, set time; Galatians 4:4. fullness of time)
3. **No faith** (But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering, **James 1:6-8**, Mathew 21:22, Hebrews 11:6)
4. **Sin** (Your sins have hid his face from you that he will not hear, **Isaiah 59:1**, Iniquity in heart, Psalms 66:18)
5. **No persistence** (Jeremiah 29:13, Luke 18:7)
6. **Dishonoring your wife** (I Peter 3:7)
7. **Praying to impress** (Hypocrisy, Matthew 6:5), **or praying without sincerity** (Vain repetitions, 6:7)

Prayers of the obedient are answered

“And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight”

(1 John 3:22)

When to stop praying?

When to stop praying?

Continue to Pray until God responds:

YES

NO

LATER

(God's response generally confirmed
with God's Word
and/or circumstances
and/or other believers)

Choose to Pray in all circumstances

Israelites murmured and complained when faced with trials,
But Moses prayed & God answered

Murmuring/Complaining is not praying

Choose to Pray in all seasons of life

Prayer in Proverbs

“Two things I ask of you, Lord;
do not refuse me before I die:

⁸ Keep falsehood and lies far from me;
give me neither poverty nor riches,
but give me only my daily bread.

⁹ Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you
and say, ‘Who is the Lord?’

Or I may become poor and steal,
and so dishonor the name of my God (Proverbs 30:7-9)



Telling
Lies and
Believing
in Lies

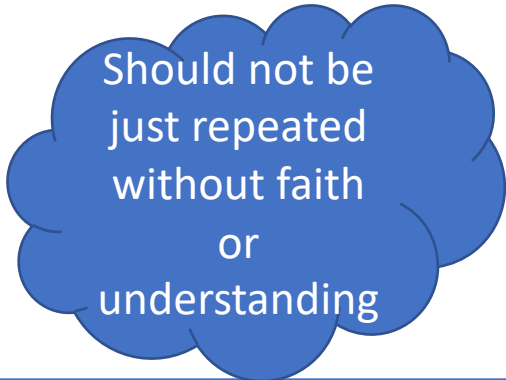
Lord's Model Prayer (6:9-13)

9 **Our Father** which art in heaven, **Hallowed** be thy name. ¹⁰ **Thy kingdom** come, **Thy will** be done in earth, as it is in heaven. ¹¹ **Give us** this day our daily bread. ¹² And **forgive us** our debts, as we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but **deliver us** from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

9 - A personal prayer to a majestic God, our Father, seated in Heaven

9&10: Focus on God (His glory, His Kingdom, His will)

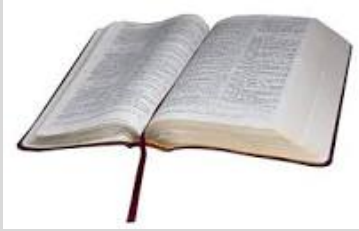
11-13: Focus on our physical and spiritual needs



Should not be
just repeated
without faith
or
understanding

The Golden Rule

12 Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.



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