

**FOURTH ANNUAL  
APPALACHIAN LECTURESHIP  
AUGUST 2, 1997**



Theme:  
**PRAYER**

*Especially Prepared For Eddy Craft*

Held at:  
**CAMPCREEK CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Gen. Del. Wendover, Ky 41775



*Lecture Schedule*  
*Saturday, August 2, 1997*

*Introductions By Jim Hayes*

10:00a.m. - 10:45a.m.

"Prayer: An Overview" ..... HalliBurton Greer

10:45a.m. - 10:55a.m. Open Forum

10:55a.m. - 11:05a.m. Break

11:05a.m. - 11:50a.m.

"Jesus Prayed" ..... Craig Melton & Clarence Howard

11:50a.m. - 12:00p.m. Open Forum

12:00p.m. - 1:00p.m. Lunch

1:00p.m. - 1:45p.m.

"The Early Church Prayed" ..... Jerry Brown & Larry Cole

1:45p.m. - 1:55p.m. Open Forum

1:55p.m. - 2:05p.m. Break

2:05p.m. - 2:50p.m.

"Prayer Is Conditional" ..... Gary Marshall & Thomas W. Watkins

2:50p.m. - 3:00p.m. Open Forum

3:00p.m. - 3:10p.m. Break

3:10p.m. - 3:55p.m.

"May Sinners Pray Or Be Prayed For" ..... Jim Day

3:55p.m. - 4:05p.m. Open Forum

4:05p.m. - 4:15p.m. Break

4:15p.m. - 5:00p.m.

"For What May Christians Pray" ..... Eddy Craft & Clayton Winters

5:00p.m. - 5:10p.m. Open Forum

5:10p.m. Dinner

Prayers, Songs, Fellowship Throughout The Day

*Living The Way We Pray*

*I knelt to pray when day was done  
And prayed: "O Lord, bless everyone  
Lift from each heart the pain,  
And let the sick be well again."  
And then I woke one day,  
And carelessly went on my way,  
The whole day long I did not try  
To wipe a tear from any eye.  
I did not try to share the load  
Of any brother on the road;  
I did not even go to see  
The sick man just next door to me  
Yet once again when day was done  
I prayed: "O Lord, bless everyone."  
But as I prayed, to my ear  
There came a voice that whispered clear:  
"Pause, hypocrite, before you pray:  
Whom have you tried to bless today?  
God's sweetest blessings always go  
By hands that serve him here below."  
And then I hid my face and cried:  
"Forgive me God for I have lied,  
Let me but live another day,  
And I will live the way I pray."*



*I asked God for strength,  
that I might achieve,  
I was made weak,  
that I might learn humbly to obey...  
I asked for health,  
that I might do greater things,  
I was given infirmity,  
that I might do better things...  
I asked for riches,  
that I might be happy,  
I was given poverty,  
that I might be wise...  
I asked for power,  
that I might have praise of men,  
I was given weakness,  
that I might feel the need of God...  
I asked for all things,  
that I might enjoy life,  
I was given life,  
that I might enjoy all things...  
I got nothing that I asked for,  
but everything I had hoped for,  
Almost despite myself,  
my unspoken prayers were answered  
I am among all men most richly blessed.*

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**PRAYER: AN OVERVIEW**  
**HalliBurton Greer**

**INTRODUCTION**

- A. Definition: (Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words and Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible.)
  - 1. To Wish--by implication, to pray to God.
  - 2. Supplicate--worship, pray earnestly.
  - 3. To Interrogate--by implication, to request, ask, beseech, desire, entreat, pray.
  - 4. To Beg--as binding oneself, petition; beseech, make request.
  - 5. Petition to God.
  - 6. Request.
- B. Prayer is a privilege and responsibility that Christians have and probably is neglected until we are suffering some kind of hardship.

**I. Types Of Prayers.**

- A. Supplication: to make an humble request.
- B. Intercessory: an interceding; mediation, a pleading or request on behalf of another.
- C. Thanksgiving: an expression of gratitude, thankfulness to God for the many, many blessings that we have received.
- D. Praise: to commend the worth of, to glorify, to show honor and respect.

**II. A Few New Testament Thoughts On Prayer.**

- A. Pray without ceasing, I Thes. 5:16.
- B. Fervent prayer availeth much, James 4:16.
- C. Come boldly to the throne, Heb. 4:16.
- D. "Lord, teach us to pray", Luke 11:1.

**III. Examples Of Those Who Prayed.**

- A. Christ.
  - 1. At His baptism.
  - 2. In the mountain.
  - 3. Early in the morning.
  - 4. For Himself.
  - 5. For others.
- B. Congregation prayed.
  - 1. Church at Jerusalem.
  - 2. Church at Rome.
  - 3. Church at Ephesus.
  - 4. Church at Colossae.
  - 5. Church at Corinth.

## 6. Church at Philippi.

### IV. Our Prayers In Public Worship Should Be...

- A. Reverent/devotion.
- B. Petition/supplication.
- C. Pleading/intercession.
- D. Gratitude/thanksgiving.

### V. God will Answer Our Prayers If We...

- A. Are obedient.
- B. Do the will of the father.
- C. Are righteous.
- D. Abide in Christ.
- E. Ask accordingly.
- F. Ask in faith.
- G. Have the right motive.
- H. Ask Believing.
- I. Ask with thanksgiving.
- J. Pray in Jesus name.

### VI. For What Should We Pray.

- A. Daily needs.
- B. Forgiveness of sins.
- C. God's will to be done.
- D. God's people.
- E. Enemies.
- F. Sick.
- G. Strength to resist temptation.
- H. Everything.

### CONCLUSION:

- A. Prayer must be a part of every Christians' daily life.
- B. We need to remember to be thankful to God for blessings we have from Him.
- C. We need to be thankful for Christ and the blessings we have in Him.
- D. We need to remember the sick and afflicted in prayer.
- E. We need to pray for the leaders of our country and the world.
- F. We need to pray for the leaders of the congregations of the Churches of Christ.
- G. We need to pray for the continued blessing of being able to worship God without fear.

**JESUS PRAYED--Part One**  
**Craig Melton**

**INTRODUCTION**

As Christians, we are expected to follow the example given to us by Jesus Christ. He is our Savior. He is our namesake. Paul said in I Corinthians 11:1, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also [am] of Christ."

If we are to follow Christ, then we will be a praying church. Everything that Jesus did, He prayed first. He gave us many examples of prayer to follow.

**I. Jesus Would Go Out Unto Himself To Pray And Sometimes It Would Last All Night.**

- A. Luke 6:12.
- B. Matthew 14:23.
- C. Matthew 26:36.
- D. Mark 6:46.
- E. Mark 14:32.
- F. Luke 9:28.

**II. Jesus Taught Us That We Do Not Know What Hour He Will Come Again, So We Must Be Watchful.**

- A. Luke 22:45.
- B. Matthew 26:41.
- C. Mark 13:33.
- D. Mark 14:38.
- E. Luke 21:36.

**III. Jesus Taught Us Not Only To Pray For Those Whom We Love, But Also To Pray For Our Enemies--Those Who Hate Us.**

- A. Matthew 5:44.
- B. Luke 22:46.

**IV. Jesus Taught Us To Pray That We Enter Not Into Temptation.**

- A. Luke 22:40.
- B. Luke 22:46.

**V. Jesus Taught Us to Pray When About To Travel As Well As Other Everyday Things That We Do.**

- A. Matthew 24:20.
- B. Mark 13:18.

**VI. Jesus Taught Us To Pray While Trying To Win Souls For His Sake; He Tells Us To Pray That The Harvest Be Bountiful.**

- A. Matthew 9:38.



B. Luke 10:2

**VII. As Our Mediator, Jesus Said He Would Pray For Us.**

A. John 14:16.

B. John 16:26.

C. John 17:9,15,20.

**CONCLUSION**

- A. These are some examples that show us Jesus was a prayerful Savior. He also expects us to be prayerful: He said in Matthew 21:13, "And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer;. . ."
- B. In closing, we need to be reminded of Jesus' prayer for unity in John 17:20, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, [art] in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me."

**JESUS PRAYED--Part Two**  
**Clarence Howard**

**INTRODUCTION**

- A. Jesus prayed on many occasions and for a variety of reasons.
  - 1. He prayed in secret; He prayed openly.
  - 2. He prayed alone; He prayed with others.
  - 3. He prayed in the countryside; He prayed in the city.
  - 4. He prayed early in the morning; He prayed at night.
  - 5. He prayed whenever there was a need.
- B. The nature of Jesus' prayers.
  - 1. Adoration--Matthew 11:25-27.
  - 2. Intercession--John 17:1-26.
  - 3. Thanksgiving--John 11:41-42.
- C. Some great occasions when Jesus prayed.
  - 1. At His baptism--Luke 3:21-22.
  - 2. Before He selected His apostles--Luke 6:12-16.
  - 3. In the mount of transfiguration--Luke 9:28-29.
  - 4. In the garden of Gethsemane--Matthew 26:36-42.

**I. Helping Others.**

- A. The disciples requested assistance in learning to pray. They asked, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples" Luke 11:1-4.
- B. Jesus offered a model prayer (pattern or design) to follow when they prayed. He said, "After this manner therefore pray ye. . ." Matthew 6:8-13.

**II. We Can Follow "The Pattern" As How To Pray And What To Pray For.**

- A. The prayer proves the Fatherhood of God and Heaven as His dwelling place.
  - 1. Romans 11:36.
  - 2. Ephesians 3:21.
- B. Jesus prayed.
  - 1. Jesus prayed: Thy Kingdom come--Matthew 6:10.
    - a. The Kingdom is the Church--Matthew 16:18-19.
    - b. The Kingdom had not come at this point in time.
      - 1) John the Baptist preached, "Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand [was near]."
      - 2) After John's death, Jesus began to preach the same message--Matthew 4:17.
      - 3) Jesus taught that some who heard Him would not taste death until they would see the Son of man coming in His Kingdom--Matthew 16:28.
      - 4) In Colossians 1:13, the apostle Paul teaches that God has delivered Christians from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the Kingdom of His dear Son.

- c. If we prayed the Lord's prayer today, we would be praying for the Kingdom to come, when it has already been established.
- 2. **Jesus prayed:** Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
  - a. Not everyone that calls him Lord will enter into the Kingdom
  - b. But, only the ones who doeth the will of the Father in Heaven--Matthew 7:21.
- 3. **Jesus prayed for temporal blessings--Matthew 6:11.**
  - a. It is God's will that Christians prosper.
  - b. It is God's will that Christians be in good health.
  - c. But, God's first concern is the prosperity of souls--III John 1:2.
- 4. **Jesus prayed:** Forgive us our sins--Matthew 6:12, Luke 11:4.
  - a. We deceive ourselves if we say we have no sin--I John 1:8.
  - b. We must confess our sins to gain God's forgiveness--I John 1:9.
  - c. We must forgive others if we expect God to forgive us--Matthew 6:14-15.
- 5. **Jesus prayed:** Lead us not into temptation--Matthew 6:13, Luke 11:4.
  - a. Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation--Matthew 26:41.
  - b. All temptation is shared in common with other men.
  - c. God will not allow us to be tempted above what we can bear.
  - d. But with each temptation will make a way to escape--I Corinthians 10:13.
- 6. **Jesus prayed:** But deliver us from evil.
  - a. He prayed for His own--John 17:15.
  - b. The Lord shall stablish you, and keep you from evil--II Thessalonians 3:3.
  - c. The Lord shall deliver from every evil work, and will preserve unto His heavenly Kingdom--II Timothy 4:18.
- 7. **Jesus prayed in times of decision.**
  - a. All night before selecting His twelve apostles--Luke 6:12-16.
- 8. **Jesus prayed in times of distress.**
  - a. In the garden of Gethsemane--Hebrews 5:7, Matthew 26:28, 42, Mark 14:36.
  - b. At the grave of His friend Lazarus--John 11:41-42.
  - c. Following His entry into Jerusalem--John 12:27-28.
  - d. While hanging on the cross--Luke 23:34.

## CONCLUSION

- A. We must keep Jesus' commandment concerning the practice of prayer.
- B. We can follow His example as He prayed for others, from His friends to His enemies.
- C. We can follow the pattern of His prayer as we word our own prayers, praying to God, and asking in Jesus' name.

**THE EARLY CHURCH PRAYED--Part One**  
**Jerry R. Brown**

**INTRODUCTION**

- A. Bible examples of Christians praying.
  - 1. Apostles--Acts 1:14-26.
  - 2. Prayer for courage--Acts 4:23-31.
  - 3. Daily prayer--Acts 6:4.
  - 4. Stephen's prayer--Acts 7:55-56.
  - 5. Prayer for Samaritans--Acts 8:14-17.
  - 6. Saul's pre-conversion prayer--Acts 9:11.
  - 7. Prayer for Dorcas--Acts 9:36-43.
  - 8. Cornelius' prayer--Acts 10:1-4.
  - 9. Peter's housetop prayer--Acts 10:9.
  - 10. Prayer of Church at Peter's imprisonment--Acts 12:1-11.
  - 11. Prayer of Church for Paul and Barnabas--Acts 13:1-3.
  - 12. Prayer for Lydia--Acts 16:13.
  - 13. Prayer in a Philippian prison--Acts 16:25.
  - 14. Paul's prayer in a storm--Acts 20:36, 21:5, 27:35, 28:8.
- B. God's conditions for prayer.
  - 1. Harmony with God's will--I John 5:14.
  - 2. Right motive--James 4:3.
  - 3. Righteousness of one praying--I Peter 3:12.
  - 4. Pray in faith--Matthew 21:22.
  - 5. Obedience to God's will--I John 3:22.
  - 6. Forgiving spirit--Matthew 6:15.
  - 7. Abiding in Christ--John 15:7.
  - 8. In Jesus' name--I John 4:13.

**I. People For Whom To Pray.**

- A. Christian Leaders.
  - 1. Elders--Hebrews 13:7, 17-18.
  - 2. Preachers--II Thessalonians 3:1, Acts 13:1-3.
  - 3. Deacons--Acts 6:1-7.
- B. Church Members (Ephesians 1:16, I Thessalonians 1:2, II Timothy 1:3).
  - 1. Christian labor and service--Matthew 9:38, 25:31-46.
  - 2. Daily needs--Matthew 6:11
  - 3. Growth of love--Philippians 1:9-11.
  - 4. Overcome temptation--Matthew 6:13, 26:41, II Peter 2:9.
  - 5. Sick--James 5:14, Acts 28:8.
  - 6. Forgiveness of sins--Matthew 6:12, Acts 8:22.
  - 7. Doing of God's will--Matthew 6:10, 26:39.

### C. Others

1. Earthly rulers--I Timothy 2:1-2.
2. Enemies--Matthew 5:44, Acts 7:55-56.
3. Lost to be taught--Acts 6:4, 2:42.

## II. Prayers For Special Needs.

### A. Spiritual Strength (Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:1-4).

1. God's will to be done--Matthew 6:10.
2. Daily Bread--Matthew 6:11.
3. Forgiveness of sins or debts--Matthew 6:12, Luke 11:4.
4. Escape temptation--Matthew 6:13.
5. Deliverance from evil--Matthew 6:13.

### B. Thanksgivings For Blessings Given.

1. Kingdom or Church--Luke 11:2, Colossians 1:13.
2. Promise of Heaven--John 14:1-3.
3. Power of the Gospel--Romans 1:16, II Thessalonians 1:7-9.
4. Health and Strength--Acts 27:34, III John 2.
5. Homes--Ephesians 6:1-4, 5:22-33.

## CONCLUSION

### A. Avoidance of unscriptural requests in prayer.

1. Emergency device--I Thessalonians 5:17, Philippians 4:6.
2. To scorn man--Luke 18:9-14.
3. Selfish desires--James 4:3, Matthew 26:39.
4. Nullify God's Law of Obedience--Hebrews 5:8-9.
5. Declaration of an ultimatum to God--Exodus 32:32-33.

### B. Purpose of Prayer: For God to help us help ourselves.

1. Pray for health; obedience to laws of health.
2. Pray for sick; assist the sick.
3. Pray for bereaved; comfort the bereaved.
4. Pray for knowledge and wisdom; study the scriptures.
5. Pray for spiritual growth; use spiritual food and Godly exercise.
6. Pray for salvation of sinners; teach the gospel.
7. Pray for enemies; befriend an enemy.
8. Pray for unity; work toward unity.
9. Pray for growth of the Church; be faithful to the Church.

### C. Importance of individual prayers and congregational prayers.

## **THE EARLY CHURCH PRAYED--Part Two**

**Larry W. Cole**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Prayer is one way we express our faith in God. Clearly the early church believed that prayer was important. We will look at the early church and prayer by beginning in Acts One. The examples are too many for us to look at each one, but please take the time to read these examples. Bro. Jerry Brown's outline gives you some good examples of the early church and their prayer life. Let's look at a few of these examples that we can read about in the Bible.

#### **I. Apostles.**

##### **A. Acts 1:14**

1. Unity in their prayers from the very beginning.
  - a. "With one accord."
    - (1) One mind
    - (2) Harmony . . . no divisions, no discord.
  - b. Think of the power in prayer when we are united.
2. They continued in their prayers and supplication.
  - a. Perseverance and constant attention.
  - b. Prayer was not something they did on occasion.
  - c. They continually prayed.
  - d. They had discipline in their prayer lives.
  - e. Prayers are simply petitions directed to the God of heaven.
  - f. Supplications are petitions that touch recognized needs.

##### **B. Acts 1:24**

1. They prayed for guidance in making this change.
2. The Lord was to choose one of the two.
3. Note the brevity of this prayer.

#### **II. Prayers of the Early Church.**

##### **A. Christians on Pentecost (Acts 2:42ff)**

1. Part of the fellowship they shared with one another was prayer.
2. Public and private prayers.
3. Most likely public prayers in this context.

##### **B. Prayer for courage and boldness (Acts 4:23-31).**

1. In the face of danger, they prayed for boldness.
2. Notice again the unity (v.24).
3. Also, you see the simplicity of their prayers.
4. did not pray for vengeance, but for boldness to stand up for God and His word.

##### **C. Peter's instruction to Simon (Acts 8:14-25).**

1. Peter and John had prayed that the Samaritans might receive the

- Holy Spirit.
  - 2. They laid hands on them.
  - 3. When Simon observed this, he tried to purchase this gift.
  - 4. He was told to repent and pray to God for forgiveness.
  - 5. Simon asked Peter to pray for him.
- D. Prayers of Acts 10.
  - 1. Prayer of Cornelius (10:2,30,31)
  - 2. Prayer of Peter (10:9; 11:5)
- E. Prayer for Peter (Acts 12:5-17)
  - 1. Prayer was made without ceasing.
  - 2. Persistent prayer
  - 3. I Thessalonians 5:17
  - 4. Some believe that they were praying, not for his deliverance, but for strength to endure with fortitude a death that was certain.
- F. Prayer for Paul and Barnabas (Acts 13:1-3)
  - 1. Time of decision.
  - 2. Prayer was important part of that decision.
- G. Prayer of Paul and Silas (Acts 16:25)
  - 1. They were praying and singing hymns.
  - 2. Men do not pray when enraged.
  - 3. Calmness.
  - 4. Pray rather than worry.
- H. Some prayers of Paul in Acts
  - 1. Acts 20:36
  - 2. Acts 21:5
  - 3. Acts 27:34,35
  - 4. Acts 28:8
- I. Paul's consistent prayers for others.
  - 1. Romans 1:8-10
  - 2. I Corinthians 1:4-9
  - 3. Ephesians 1:11-23
  - 4. Philippians 1:3-6
  - 5. Colossians 1:3-14
  - 6. I Thessalonians 1:2-3
  - 7. II Thessalonians 1:3

## CONCLUSION

The early church believed in the power and importance of prayer. Is prayer any less important for us today? Prayer is concrete evidence of our faith in God. We must realize how important prayer is to our daily lives and talk to our heavenly Father more often. Let the example of the early church be the model for your prayer life today.

## **PRAYER IS CONDITIONAL--Part One**

### **Gary Marshall**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

- A. Prayer should be a natural part of any Christian's life.
- B. To pray is: an earnest request, supplication, begging, in which the request or thing desired to be done or granted is specified (Webster).
- C. Prayer should be frequent--I Thessalonians 3:5.
- D. Prayer is how we make known to God our needs and desires.
- E. Prayer with it's conditions can be compared to a standard such as a contract.
  - 1. Stipulations may be qualified, suspended, or nullified under certain circumstances--Isaiah 38:2-5 (Hezekiah's prayer and life extended).
  - 2. To make terms, to negotiate--I Samuel 1-2 (Hannah's request for a child and her agreement to give the child to the Lord).
  - 3. Conditional: depending on conditions; made with limitations--Acts 10 (Cornelius prayers came up before the Lord and were answered).
- F. Prayer must meet conditions set by God in order to be acceptable.
  - 1. Addressed to our Father in heaven.
  - 2. Must be in Jesus' name.
  - 3. For others.
  - 4. Frequently.
  - 5. For health.

#### **I. God's Attitude Toward Prayer.**

- A. Saints.
  - 1. I Peter 3:12 "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers."
  - 2. John 9:31 "But if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth."
  - 3. Saints have met conditions.
    - a. Romans 6:4--No longer walk in sin.
    - b. Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38--Have met conditions.
    - c. How do we know?--Acts 2:47--The Lord added to the Church daily.
- B. Sinners.
  - 1. I Peter 2:12 "But the face of the Lord is against them that do evil."
  - 2. John 9:31 "Now we know that God heareth not sinners."
  - 3. These have not met God's conditions.
    - a. Mark 16:16--Those that believeth not (remained in sin).
    - b. II Peter 2:20--Returned to polluted world.

#### **II. Examples Of Conditions.**



- A. Old Testament.
  - 1. Genesis 8:20-21--Noah's sacrifice, a sweet smelling savour to the Lord.
  - 2. Isaiah 38:2-5--Hezekiah's life was extended 15 years.
- B. New Testament.
  - 1. Acts 10:4 "Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God."
  - 2. Revelation 8:3--Prayers of the saints.
  - 3. Revelation 8:4 "And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God."

## CONCLUSION

- A. As the offering of Noah in Genesis 8 was a sweet smelling savour unto the Lord, prayers of Christians are a sweet smelling savour as they come up before the Lord.
- B. Christians should "pray without ceasing." Their prayers should be frequent and for the benefit of others.
- C. This fulfills conditions set in the second commandment, "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" (Matthew 22:39).

**PRAYER IS CONDITIONAL--Part Two**  
**Thomas W. Watkins**

**INTRODUCTION**

- A. Definition (Hebrew).
  - 1. Tehinnah - supplication.
  - 2. Tefillah - to bow down, to ask God for a blessing.
  - 3. Prayer is the free utterance of the soul's wants to God the Father, asking benefits in the name of our Savior, and interceding for the good of others also.
  - 4. Faith is quickened by prayer, and it may be said that prayer is an indication of the spiritual condition of the soul - it being to the soul what breath is to the body (Smith).
- B. History.
  - 1. Men have always believed that God:
    - a. Hears prayer (Deuteronomy 4:29).
    - b. Answers prayer graciously and willingly (Psalms 145:18-20).
  - 2. Nowhere in the Bible is there any explanation of the reason for prayer; it is dealt with as a given like night and day.
  - 3. The first distinct mention of prayer is in Abraham's time.
  - 4. Moses gave no special rules or laws for prayer.
  - 5. Places of prayer in Old Testament times.
    - a. Patriarchal age: The altar was the place where prayer was believed to be most acceptable.
    - b. Mosaic law: The tabernacle was the place of prayer--I Samuel 1:9-10.
    - c. Later, the temple became the place of prayer--Isaiah 56:7.
      - 1) Those who could, prayed in the temple.
      - 2) Others turned their faces toward it - a custom still in practice--I Kings 8:30.
  - 6. Types of prayers offered.
    - a. Nearly all prayers of the Old Testament were for temporal blessings.
    - b. Many prayers were intercessory by priests and prophets.
    - c. In the psalms, prayers were offered for forgiveness of sins and protection from temptation.
  - 7. Times for prayers.
    - a. The Hebrews prayed three times a day-- Psalms 55:16.
    - b. Particular times were thought to be more acceptable--Psalms 69:13.
- C. Today Jesus has taken the place of the altar, the tabernacle, the temple, and the priest and prophets of the old dispensation--Hebrews 10:19-22.

**I. In Order To Have Prayers Heard And Answered We Must Have A Proper Relationship With God.**

- A. We must be in fellowship with God--I John 1:7-10.
- B. We cannot be a sinner--John 9:31.
  - 1. Our iniquities separate us from God--Isaiah 59:1-2.
  - 2. We must make ourselves clean in God's sight--Isaiah 1:15-16.
- C.. We must ask according to his will--I John 5:14.
  - 1. We must not ask with the wrong motives--James 4:3.
  - 2. We must ask in faith--Mark 11:22-24.
  - 3. We must initiate the action by approaching God--James 4:7-10.

**II. We Must Have A Proper Relationship With Others.**

- A. We must be willing to forgive those that have sinned against us--Matthew 6:14-15.
- B. We must make peace before coming to God--Matthew 5:23-24.
- C. We cannot love God and hate others--I John 4:20.
- D. We must follow the examples of Jesus--Colossians 3:12-13.
- E. The marriage relationship must be in order--I Peter 3:1-7.

**III. We Must Have A Proper Relationship With Self.**

- A. Beware of pride--Luke 18:9-14.
- B. Be clothed in humility--I Peter 5:5-7.
- C. Have a true heart and be full of faith--Hebrews 10:22.
- D. We cannot harbor sin in our heart--Psalms 66:18.
- E. We cannot be double minded--James 1:6-8.
- F. We must seek God with all our heart--Jeremiah 29:12-13.

**CONCLUSION**

Prayer is our lifeline.

## MAY SINNERS PRAY?

Jim Day

### INTRODUCTION

- A. Text: I Corinthians 14:15
- B. Christianity is a system of religion that requires its members to understand what they practice.
  - 1. The word "Knowledge" is found forty-eight times in the New Testament.
  - 2. Paul told Timothy to study (II Timothy 2:15).
  - 3. Peter said, "But grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (II Peter 3:18).
  - 4. Paul said, ". . . I will pray with the understanding. . ." (I Corinthians 14:15).
- C. There is a great deal of confusion in the religious world, including the Church, about prayer.
  - 1. Some teach that salvation is through prayer.
  - 2. Some make references to the "sinner's prayer."
  - 3. Some say, "Just A Little Talk With Jesus Makes It Right."
- D. It is the aim of this lesson to help gain a better understanding about prayer.

### I. Prayer Is A Privilege Of God's People.

- A. God Will Hear His People.
  - 1. "For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous. . ." (I Peter 3:12).
  - 2. "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear. But certainly God has heard me, He has attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, who has not turned away my prayer, nor His mercy from me!" (Psalms 66:18-20).
  - 3. ". . . But He hears the prayer of the righteous" (Proverbs 15:29).
- B. Jesus And Paul Were Men Of Prayer.
  - 1. Paul prayed for the Church and for himself (II Corinthians 12:8).
  - 2. Jesus not only prayed for Himself (Matthew 26:36ff), but taught His disciples how to pray (Matthew 6:9-13).
- C. Christians Should Never Take The Privilege Of Prayer For Granted.
  - 1. "Pray without ceasing" (I Thessalonians 5:17).
  - 2. "Therefore I desire that men pray everywhere. . ." (I Timothy 2:8).

### II. Prayer Is Not A Privilege Of The Alien Sinner.

- A. God Does Not Hear The Sinner's Prayer.
  - 1. "The Lord is far from the wicked. . ." (Proverbs 15:29).
  - 2. "Yes, they made their hearts like flint, refusing to hear the law and the words which the Lord of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the

former prophets. Thus great wrath came from the Lord of hosts. Therefore it happened, that just as He proclaimed and they would not hear, so they called out and I would not listen, says the Lord of hosts" (Zechariah 7:12-13).

3. "But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil" (I Peter 3:12).
  4. "Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshipper of God and does His will, He hears him" (John 9:31).
  5. "One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination" (Proverbs 29:9).
- B. The Bible Is Completely Silent About The Sinner's Prayer.
- C. "Calling On The Name Of The Lord" Is Not A Prayer, But Means To Secure Salvation Through The Authority Of Christ (cf. Acts 22:16).

### III. What About The Case Of Cornelius In Acts 10?

- A. Those Who Justify The Sinner's Prayer Will Often Say That God Heard Cornelius' Prayer Before He Became A Christian.
1. God did hear the prayer of Cornelius.
  2. See Acts 10:31.
- B. Reasonable Evidence Will Show That Cornelius Was Right With God.
1. J.W. McGarvey said in his Commentary on Acts, "He was certainly a convert from heathenism to Judaism," implying that he was a Jewish proselyte in the right relationship with God.
  2. Roy Deaver said in an article in the April 1996 issue of the Spiritual Sword, "A Gentile could become a proselyte (one converted from one religion to another. JD) to Judaism, but this is not required for him to be right with God. . . there is considerable evidence that the Gentile Patriarchy continued all the way to Acts 10 (cf. John 10:16) and that what God did for the Jews in Acts 2, He did for the Gentiles in Acts 10."
  3. Clayton Winters said in a sermon entitled, "Rightly Dividing The Word of Truth," that "The Patriarchal age lasted 2500 years for the Jews and ended, but not for the rest of the world. It lasted until the days of Cornelius when the gospel was offered."

### CONCLUSION

- A. Cornelius was in the right relationship with God either as a proselyte worshipping under the Jewish system, or as a Gentile worshipping God under the Patriarchal System. He continued to worship God until the gospel came just like the people in Samaria (Acts 8), the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8), or Lydia and her household (Acts 16).
- B. Prayer is a privilege of God's People.
- C. Prayer is not a privilege of the alien sinner.

## MAY SINNERS BE PRAYED FOR?

Jim Day

### I. Christians Are To Pray For All Men.

- A. I Timothy 2:1-4.
  - 1. Supplication: Request for special needs.
  - 2. Prayers: Request for general needs.
  - 3. Intercessions: Prayers on behalf of others.
  - 4. Thanksgiving: Prayers of gratitude.
- B. For Whom Shall We Pray?
  - 1. All men: Mankind in general.
  - 2. Kings: Heads of government.
  - 3. All who are in authority: Any position of leadership.
- C. Prayers For All Men Are Limited.
  - 1. Prayer is not for salvation or forgiveness of sins.
  - 2. Prayer can not be made for spiritual blessings that are only in Christ.
  - 3. Prayers must be made in the realm of God's general providence.

### II. Christians Are To Pray For The Erring Christian.

- A. I John 5:14-17
  - 1. I John 1:7-9: Forgiveness for all sins that are confessed and repented.
  - 2. Sins not confessed or repented of will not be forgiven.
    - a. They lead to death (spiritual death; separation from God).
    - b. There is no use to pray about those sins.
  - 3. Sins that are confessed and repented of will be forgiven.
    - a. They do not lead to death.
    - b. One can pray for the forgiveness of these sins.
- B. Examples Of Christians Praying For The Erring Christian.
  - 1. Acts 8:22-24--Peter prayed for Simon.
  - 2. James 5:16--Pray for one another.
- C. All Wrong Is Sin (v. 17).
  - 1. All wrong must be repented of and confessed.
  - 2. The blood of Christ continued to cleanse from all sin (I John 1:9).

### CONCLUSION

- A. God does not hear a sinner's prayer.
- B. Cornelius was heard because he was a worshipper of God.
- C. Christians are to pray for all men.
- D. Prayers are limited.
- E. Christians are to pray for the erring Christian.

## FOR WHAT MAY CHRISTIANS PRAY? Eddy Craft & Clayton Winters

### INTRODUCTION

- A. It has often been said that the Bible is God's way of speaking to us, while prayer is the Christian's way of talking to God.
- B. Also, we often *know not what we should pray for as we ought* (Romans 8:26). This mandates some serious consideration of our topic.

### I. General Observations On Prayer.

- A. Prayer is to be persistent--Matthew 26:42-44; Luke 18:1-7.
- B. Prayer is to be fervent--James 5:16; Luke 22:44.
- C. Prayer is to be frequent--I Thessalonians 5:17; Acts 6:4; Romans 12:12.
- D. Prayer is to be in faith--James 1:5-7; Matthew 21:22.
- E. Prayer is to be individual--Matthew 6:5,6.
- F. Prayer may be accompanied by fasting--Matthew 17:21; Acts 13:3, 14:23; I Corinthians 7:5.
- G. Prayer must be accompanied by forgiveness--Mark 11:25.
- H. Prayer is a learned action--Luke 11:1.
- I. Prayer must be offered in humility--Luke 18:10-14.
- J. Prayer is to be uttered in understandable language--I Corinthians 14:13-17.

### II. For What May A Christian Pray?

- A. Within the guidelines set forth above, the field for Christian prayer is almost unlimited. After all, God is our Father; we are His children. It would thus be expected that we could converse with Him about our wants, our needs, our hurts, our joys, our pleasures, our pain, our families, our friends, our aspirations, and our hopes.
  - 1. Galatians 4:6-7, "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."
  - 2. Philippians 4:6, "Be careful for nothing, but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."
- B. Some things for which Christians may pray with the full assurance that God will respond in an appropriate way (Matthew 21:22).
  - 1. For those who despitefully use and persecute us--Matthew 5:44.
  - 2. For life's daily necessities--Matthew 6:9-11.
  - 3. That we enter not into temptation--Matthew 26:41; Luke 22:40.
  - 4. For laborers to enter the harvest--Luke 10:2.

5. That we might be worthy to escape some of the calamities of life--Luke 21:36.
6. For the appointed leaders in the church, that their faith fail not--Luke 22:32; Acts 6:6-7; 14:23.
7. For the unity of believers--John 17:20-21.
8. For brethren caught up in sin--Acts 8:22-24; Galatians 6:1.
9. For brethren in trouble--Acts 12:5.
10. For the salvation of men's souls--Romans 10:1.
11. That our brethren not become involved in evil practices--II Corinthians 13:7.
12. For gospel preachers that they may be bold in speaking the word of God, and that the word might have free course--Ephesians 6:19; Colossians 4:3; II Thessalonians 3:1.
13. That love might abound in knowledge and judgement--Philippians 1:9.
14. For kings and for all that are in authority--I Timothy 2:1-2.
15. For the food that we receive--I Timothy 4:4-5.
16. For those who would abuse or mistreat us--II Timothy 4:16.
17. For those who are afflicted--James 5:13-16.
18. For any sin that is not unto death--I John 5:16.

## CONCLUSION

*"What a Friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear;  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer."*





