

# **“PRAYER”**

(A.I.T. & Sermon Series Outline)

## **THE BRIDGE**

Lead Pastor

Jeff Pearson

*Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert in this with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints.*

**- Ephesians 6:18**

## **Definition of Prayer:**

"...communication with God in the context of worship"

***"Prayer is intentionally conveying a message to God"***

**- John Piper**

# 1. Seven (7) Barriers to Prayer

- Imagine be stuck behind enemy lines...
- Think of barriers like balloons...
- Barriers are link “kinks” in hose...

A. **Wrong motives** - James 4:3

B. **Unrepented hidden sins** - Isaiah 59:1-2

C. **Idols** - Ezekiel 14:3

D. **Hardened heart** - Proverbs 21:13

E. **Unforgiveness** - Mark 11:25

F. **Spousal relations** - 1 Peter 3:7

G. **Unbelief** - James 1:5-7

\*\*\* **A great barrier-breaking Prayer... Luke 18:13** \*\*\*

- Genuine repentance, faith, humility & love
- I call it “The Lord’s 7-word Prayer”

***“God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”***

**- Amen**

## 2. Seven (7) Reasons to Pray

- There is an inseparable, parallel relationship between power & prayer! - JDP
- If Jesus did & does prioritize prayer....
- Prayer is a distribution channel far more than a mere communication channel

**A. To Obey - 1 Thessalonians. 5:17**

**B. To BE Christlike - Mark 1:35/Luke 6:12**

**C. To BE "Biblical" - Acts 6:4 & 2:42-47**

**D. To Receive... help from the Lord**

- To receive the **Spirit** - Luke 11:13
- To become a **Christian** - Luke 11:13
- To receive **mercy/grace** - Hebrews 4:16
- To receive **peace** - Phil. 4:6-7
- To receive **joy** - John 16:24
- To receive **requests** - James 4:2

**D. To get ready - Luke 21:34-36**

**E. To fight & win spiritual warfare - Ephesians 6:12**

**\*\*\* Another great biblical prayer: Acts 12:5... *So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God.***

### 3. "How To Pray" (per Acts 12:5ff)

- Beware false concepts/claims of false god
- Biblical prayer is not politically correct.
- Truth trumps tolerance! - JDP
- 7 misguided piñata-type prayers to:
  - No gods
  - 1 wrong god
  - Many gods
  - Jesus "minus" ( - )
  - Jesus "plus" ( + )
  - Jesus +/- (customized perversions)
  - ?Jesus? (total Mr. Potato Head god)
- God honoring prayer is Christ-centered.
- *Much of our prayer has no power in it because it has no heart in it.* - R.A. Torrey

A. **Church-wide** - Matthew 18:19-20

B. **Fervently (together)** - Romans 15:30

C. **Unto God** - 1 Kings 18:20ff

\*\*\* Another great biblical prayer: **1 Kings 18:20ff**  
***Elijah prayed for & received a power encounter with the One true God!***

- "If the Lord is God, then follow Him."
- "The Lord, HE IS God!"

## 4. Appreciative Prayer

### HOW TO PRAY? (cont.)

- We need a prayerful attitude of gratitude
- We do please & thank you backwards. - JDP
- If you don't praise Him, you don't know Him! - JDP
- Our church culture is filled with 9 lepers...
- All Christians have reason to give thanks:

A. **Past** – Romans 6:17-18

B. **Present** – Philippians 4:4-7

C. **Future** – Ephesians 5:15-21

### **Praise the Lord!**

Not just because of who you were...

Not just because of who you are (now)...

But because of who you will forever BE!

**Revelation 22:12,13, 16, & 20-21!**

\*\*\* **More great biblical portraits of prayer:**

**Psalm 100; Colossians 4:2-3; Luke 17:7-10**

***<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always; <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing;***

***<sup>18</sup> in EVERYTHING give thanks; for this is  
God's will for you in Christ Jesus.***

***<sup>19</sup> Do NOT quench the Spirit;***

**- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19**

# 5. Obedient Prayer

## HOW TO PRAY? (cont.)

**Answer:** In OBEDIENCE! (it's a mandate)

- Wimpy worldviews = wimpy followers
- We need steel in our prayerful spines!
- Do not underestimate the affects of both obedience & disobedience in our prayers
- Biblical disobedience cripples biblical prayer. - JDP
- “You can do the right stuff and still not please God... biblical obedience is linked to the heart’s attitude as well as the hand’s actions.” - JDP
- “Disobedience opens the door to 1 Peter 5:8” - JDP
- “Obedience is ALWAYS the Bible’s righteous response to disobedience.” - JDP
- Ask yourself: Is this action/attitude making Jesus proud? Or am I trying to find a rationale to sin?” - JDP
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### **1 John 3:21-22 = the KEY to powerful prayer!**

- You can have ANYTHING you pray for...
- **IF** you obey Him... **AND**...
- **DO** what pleases the Lord!
- He will give you the desires of your heart

**John 14:15 – “If you love Me you will obey Me.”**

**Scriptures on Disobedience:**

**Psalm 78; Deuteronomy 28; 2 Thessalonians 1:8;  
Romans 2:8; Nehemiah 9:26; Titus 1:10-16; Ephesians  
2:1-2; Hebrews 2:1-3; Romans 1:28-32; Luke 14:25-35;  
1 John 5:3; John 15:10; Joshua 24:15!**

*“He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” – John 3:36*

**10 attributes of disobedience**

1. Forfeit blessings
2. God’s curse/wrath follows
3. Wicked tend to “live” in disobedience
4. Making of excuses habitually
5. Punishment eventually follows
6. National curse of God
7. Fear eventually follows/creeps in
8. Luke-warmness
9. God’s anger is stirred
10. Consequences

**Another great commitment to prayer: Esther 4:16**

***“and if I perish, I perish!”***

## 6. Joyous Prayer

**John 16:24**

*"Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.*

We joyously pray "in Jesus name" because:

- All the power is in His account...
- It is the repeated biblical example
- The joy of the Lord will be our strength!
- Joy is gifted to us as fruit of the Spirit
- **Parable of the Soils** reveal the **difference between joy & feelings...**

**2 Corinthians 8:2** *During a severe testing by affliction, their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed into the wealth of their generosity.*

**Matthew 25:21** *"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave! You were faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Share your master's joy!'*

**Another great paradigm for prayer: Matthew 13:44**

***"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure, buried in a field, that a man found and reburied. Then in his joy he goes and sells everything he has and buys that field.***



# 7. Offensive Prayer

Your mind is the battlefield... your heart is the prize. - JDP

- We live & pray as believers, committed to glorify God by, in part, intentionally crossing enemy lines, seeking to find and release P.O.W.'s"

## 2 Corinthians 10:3-5! (demolishing strongholds)

- 99% obedient = 100% stronghold held.- JDP
- Strongholds are the infections of idols. - JDP
- Powerful prayer comes out of a healthy, "offensive" posture in/for Christ.
- Deception is the glue that holds every stronghold together. - Beth Moore

## Ephesians 6:12

- See & fight your enemies biblically
- This is NOT a will-power war...
- **We have two offensive armor pieces:**
  - **Sword of the Spirit**
  - **Praying in the Spirit**
- We need a battle cry!
- **God's people have been called & created to live on offense!**
  - Joshua & Caleb vs. 10 spies
  - Gideon blow the shofar
  - **Jeremiah 42:14** = defense loses!
  - **Ezekiel 33:1-6** = responsibility!

## **PRAY God's WORD!** (see Beth Moore's book)

- Identify verses that should be prayed!
- Custom fit topical, biblical prayers
- See **2 Peter 1:3 & Philippians 4:13**

A praying posture is an offensive posture. - JDP

There is no joy in spiritual retreat or defeat! - JDP

Joy is found in the victory... not on easy street. -JDP

We need to be like David charging Goliath! - JDP

Joy awaits spiritual warfare's winners. - JDP

*<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us... - Hebrews 12:1-2*

**\*\*\* Another great biblical prayer: 2 Kings 6:16ff**

***“Oh Lord, open his eyes  
that he may see...”***

- Child of the Almighty, do NOT be afraid
- Those who are with us are greater than those who are against us!
- Biblical Christians are always in the eternal-majority in measures that matter!

## 8. The “Lord’s Prayer”

### HOW WELL DO YOU UNDERSTAND this prayer?

- Saying it... and praying it are different!
- Jesus gave us this prayer as a MODEL...
- Prayer needs to be personal & practical

*Knowing the Lord’s Prayer and KNOWING the Lord are eternally different.* -JDP

### Matthew 6:9-13

*The first 2 words of this prayer reveal where most people get it wrong and go astray...*

- A. **“Our”** (a divinely conditional/exclusive term)
  - a. **John 1:12-13** (those who receive & believe)
  - b. **1 John 3:1** (adopted by God)
  - c. **Romans 10:9** (confess & believe)
  - d. **1 John 3:10** (identifiable by love/behavior)
  - e. **Ephesians 2:8-10** (explains the “us”)
  - f. **Galatians 2:20** (crucified cross carriers)
  - g. **Romans 8:14-17** (suffering followers)
  - h. **2 Timothy 3:12** (100% persecuted)
  - i. **Luke 14:27** (fully devoted followers)

- B. ***“Father”***
  - a. Our spiritual “Daddy” is Creator God!
  - b. Moses is told by God that He is: “I Am”
  - c. Yahweh referenced 6,800 times in the Word
  - d. **We only come to the Father thru the Son**
    - i. **Yahweh thru Yeshua**
    - ii. See **John 14:6**
  
- C. ***“in heaven”*** = Our God lives!
  
- D. ***His name is to be hallowed***
  - a. Honor His name
  - b. His “name” is worthy of our reverence!
  
- E. ***“your kingdom come”***
  - a. There is a present & a future component...
  - b. We need to BE the kingdom here & now
  
- F. ***“your will be done”***
  - a. **Mark 14:36**... Jesus is our model & Messiah
  - b. No matter what! (even to death on a cross)
  - c. Tense = a perpetually ongoing desire...
  
- G. ***“here on earth”*** = real life
  
- H. ***“as it is in heaven”***
  - a. We want to live here like it is there
  - b. Live like Jesus down here with the hellions

- I. **“Give us today our daily bread”**
  - a. We acknowledge our need of provision
  - b. *“Daily”* refers to meeting needs vs. wants
  - c. Bread vs. banquet is an appropriate request
  - d. **Disciples are dependent.** - JDP
  
- J. ***“forgive us our sins”***
  - a. All else is for not if we die in our sin
  - b. We cannot rid ourselves of our own sin
  - c. Forgiveness of sin = the heart of the gospel
  
- K. ***“as we forgive others...”***
  - a. We give what we have received, forgiveness.
  - b. We are to **empathize with “our debtors.”**
  
- L. ***“and lead us”***
  - a. We are to **pray for the faith to follow!**
  - b. Do you want & are you willing to follow
  
- M. ***“not into trials/temptations”***
  - a. We are not confident in our own strength
  
- N. ***“but/instead deliver/rescue us from the evil one”***
  - a. Your battle & enemy are both real
  - b. See 1 Peter 5:8 & Ephesians 6:12

***The “Lord’s Prayer” is NOT to be  
“memorized” but it is to BE modeled.***

# Review:

1. **Barriers to prayer**
  - a. Motives
  - b. Sin
  - c. Idols
  - d. Hard-hearts
  - e. Unforgiveness
  - f. Relationships (marital)
  - g. Unbelief
2. **Reasons for prayer**
  - a. Obedience
  - b. Christ-like
  - c. Biblical
  - d. To Receive
  - e. To “Get-Ready”
  - f. To Fight (spiritual warfare)
  - g. To WIN (spiritual warfare)
3. **How to pray:**
  - a. Church-wide
  - b. Fervently
  - c. Unto-God
4. **Appreciative prayer**
5. **Obedient prayer**
6. **Joyous prayer**
7. **Offensive prayer**
8. **The Lord’s Prayer**

**Amen & AMEN!**