

So Much More From Prayer...

● ...Than Getting Things

- The most important things have nothing to do with blessings or health.
- Shows Faith and Confidence
- Opportunity to be Grateful, Thankful and Praising
- Drawing near to God
- Confessing and Receiving Forgiveness of Sins
- Help with Evangelism and saving the lost
- A barometer of our Righteousness!

Nature of Dependence & Confidence

- *The eyes of all look expectantly to You, And You give them their food in due season. 16 You open Your hand And satisfy the desire of every living thing. 17 The Lord is righteous in all His ways, Gracious in all His works. 18 The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth. 19 He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them. 20 The Lord preserves all who love Him, But all the wicked He will destroy. Ps 145:15-20*
- What God does for entire creation (Birds / Lilies)
- He does for “*all who call upon Him in truth*”

Abraham's and Sarah's Confidence

- *And **not being weak in faith**, he **did not consider his own body**, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and **the deadness of Sarah's womb**. He **did not waver at the promise of God** through unbelief, but was **strengthened in faith, giving glory to God**, 21 and being **fully CONVINCED** that **what He had promised** **He was also able to perform**. 22 And therefore “**it was accounted to him for righteousness.**” Rom. 4:20-22*
- *By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because **she judged Him faithful who had promised**. Heb 11:11-12*
- We have similar promises ... do we have their faith?
- If we want our faith *reckoned as righteousness*....

Our Prayers are a Gauge of True Faith

- *He did not waver in unbelief*
- *But let him **ask in faith**, with **no doubting**, for he **who doubts is like a wave of the sea** driven and tossed by the wind. 7 **For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord**; 8 **he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.** James 1:6-8*
- How can our faith be reckoned as righteousness if we doubt?

Standing on the Promises of God

- *13 For when **God made a promise to Abraham**, because He could swear by no one greater, **He swore by Himself**, ...6 Thus God, **determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel**, confirmed it by an oath, 18 that by **two immutable things**, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. Heb 6:17-18*
- If after God has done all this...
- If we can't believe with unwavering trust ...
- Our faith is small.

What He Promised ... He is Able

- *Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Eph. 3:20-21*
- *Whatever He promised ... He able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think!*
- Do we believe this?
- Do our prayers reveal that we believe this?

How Much Power

Inexhaustible!



EXCEEDINGLY



ABUNDANTLY



ABOVE



ALL THAT WE ASK OR THINK,

Prayer is His Delight – Therefore Pray:

- *But the prayer of the upright is His delight. Pr 15:8*
- *Draw near to God, he will draw near to you. Jas 4:8*
- *Jehovah is near unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. 19 He will fulfill the desire of them that fear him; He also will hear their cry and will save them Ps 145:18-19*
- *Praying always with all prayer and supplication Eph 6:18*
- *Pray without ceasing, 1Th 5:17*
- *Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; Col 4:2*
- *Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; Rom 12:12*

Hallowed Be Your Name

- *O Lord GOD, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your mighty hand, for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do anything like Your works and Your mighty deeds?” Deut 3:24*
- *Ah, Lord GOD! You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You. You show loving kindness the Great, the Mighty God, whose name is the LORD of hosts. Jer 32:17-19*
- *I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, And on Your wondrous works.6 Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts, And I will declare Your greatness.7 They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness, And shall sing of Your righteousness. Ps 145:1-7*

Commands to be Thankful

- *in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1Th. 5:17-18*
- *giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Eph. 5:20*
- *and let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful....
17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. Col. 3:15,17*
- *Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. Heb. 13:15*

Are We Thankful?

How is gratitude created?

Spontaneous Gratitude

Birth of Child;

Health after illness

Great blessings

Answered prayer

Salvation from Sin

Escape from death

Planned Gratitude

for a meal

for good Health

For our blessings

for promises kept

Jesus Teaches HOW / WHAT to Pray

The Sermon on the Mount Mt 6:9-

1. *Our Father in heaven,*
2. *Hallowed be Your name.*
3. *Your kingdom come.*
4. *Your will be done*
5. *On earth as it is in heaven.*
6. Give us **this day** our daily bread
7. And forgive us our **debts,**
8. As we forgive our **debtors.**
9. *do not lead us into temptation,*
10. *But deliver us from the evil one*

Lord Teach us to Pray Lk 11:2-

1. *Our Father in heaven,*
2. *Hallowed be Your name.*
3. *Your kingdom come.*
4. *Your will be done*
5. *On earth as it is in heaven.*
6. Give us **day by day** daily bread
7. And forgive us our **sins,**
8. For we also forgive **everyone who is indebted to us.**
9. *do not lead us into temptation*
10. *But deliver us from the evil one*

● Why are they nearly identical?

● 1. They were meant to be quoted verbatim.

● 2. They were meant to be an outline or template

● 3. Both imperative – the mode of command

Your Kingdom ... the Saints

- *But the end of all things is at hand; **therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.** 8 **And above all things have fervent love for one another,** for "love will cover a multitude of sins." 1Pet. 4:7-8*
- ***praying always with all prayer and supplication** in the Spirit, **being watchful to this end** with all perseverance and **supplication for all the saints** — Eph. 6:18*
- ***Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it** with thanksgiving; 3 meanwhile praying also for us, Col. 4:2-4*
- *38 Therefore **pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.**" Mt. 9:37-38*
- *this also we pray, that you may be made complete. 2Cor. 13:7*
- *always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, Phil. 1:3-5*

What has Prayer done?

How much wiser? Jas 1:3-5

How many safe journeys?

Successful operations?

Faithful and just to forgive?

Peace passing understanding?

Where does faith end...

... and presumption begin?



Do We Have Boldness/Confidence?

- Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. 1Jn 5:14-15
- Only if we know His will.
- If we pray for what He has not revealed ...
- nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will. Mt 26:39
- Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven
- Hence
- Boldness: if we ask according to his will. We know he hears us and we have!
- Humility: Not my will but yours. We do not know how to pray as we ought.

Wait on the Lord...

- *Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. 29 He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. 30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, 31 But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Isa 40:28-31*

Our Prayers

- Are important to God:
- Praise and adoration
- Gratitude and Appreciation
- Give Glory to God
- Draw Near to God
- Seek the Promises of God
- Let Your Requests be Known
- Change the course of our History...