

Prayer

Introduction

Prayer is the foundation of our Christian lives. Without prayer we could never be in a relationship with God. In fact, without prayer we could never be saved in the first place. Prayer is just a word that we use to describe an activity which is so diverse and multifaceted. Simply put, prayer encompasses all our communication with the Lord. From asking Jesus to be the Lord of our lives at salvation, through to worship and intercession, all these activities are forms of prayer. Hence prayer really is simply, any form of communication between us and the Lord.

On this course you will learn why we should pray, how we should pray, to whom we should pray and most importantly, how to pray effectively and powerfully. Understanding that praise and worship is also a form of prayer, this subject will also be covered as well as the subject of fasting.

This course serves as an outline for the series entitled Prayer which is available off our website at www.bolm.co.za.

1. Why Should We Pray?

As a young Christian I often wondered why the Bible placed such a strong emphasis on prayer. In my immaturity I thought that because God is Almighty and Sovereign, He could do what He liked and really did not need my prayers. If it was His desire that all should be saved then why did I need to pray for the unsaved? Surely God could save them without any assistance from me.

Thankfully the Lord gave me insight and revelation into the importance of prayer and specifically why we as Christians should all have a disciplined and effective prayer life.

Let us answer this question.

“What is man that You are mindful of him and the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet.”

Psalms 8:5-6

Prayer – Course Content

- Introduction
- Why Should We Pray
- To Whom Should Pray
- Different Types of Prayer
- The 6 Foundations of Prayer
- Prayer and Fasting
- Praise and Worship

All Scripture used in this course is from the New King James Bible. Copyright 1983 by Thomas Nelson Inc.

III. Intercession

“Intercession” comes from the Greek word, *enteuxis*. To make intercession or to intercede means to stand as a mediator for one party before a third party. The best example of this is Jesus who is our mediator or advocate before the Father (**1 John 2:1; Hebrews 7:25**). Just as Jesus continually prays for the church, so intercession is to continually bring a request earnestly before God and to continue praying until the prayer is answered.

Supplications and **prayers** become **intercession** when they are continually and earnestly brought before the Father in Jesus’ name.

As I mentioned in the beginning of this section, the different types of prayer cannot be separated and be used independently of each other. In reality, they always flow into each other and are very intertwined.

IV. Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving comes from the Greek *eucharistia* meaning to give thanks or show gratitude. Thanksgiving is an expression of our faith in God’s willingness and ability to answer prayer that is in accordance with His will. Our prayer life should be infused with thanksgiving not only because we believe God will answer our prayers but because we are grateful to Him for His love, goodness and salvation.

V. Prayer – Beseeching

In **Acts 4:24-31** the apostles pray after being threatened not to preach Christ. The word for **prayed** used in verse 31, is the Greek word, *deomai* which means to urgently plead, beseech or beg. In context with the verse, this type of prayer has a great sense of urgency and requires a quick intervention from the Lord.

VI. Praying in Tongues

We will not discuss whether praying in tongues is for today or not. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is discussed at length in the Basic Foundations Course.

The Spirit-filled believer has the wonderful privilege of praying in tongues and praying from their spirit which is a very powerful form of prayer.

In **1 Corinthians 14:14-15** Paul says that he *“will pray with the spirit and...with the understanding.”*

He uses the Greek verb *proseuchomai* which describes any form of prayer (the noun) which is being prayed (the verb). I will explain this on the next page. For now, it is important to note

that most forms of prayer can be expressed in either a known language or in a tongue.

Notes: _____
