Time to Pray
Matthew 7:7-11

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

This week and every week, let’s take _______ to pray and to give thanks. Today we’re going to look at the _______ of expressing our hearts to God. We search the Scriptures for God’s will. We want to _______ God in every way, and so we take the time to _______ to what God has to say. Our Father in heaven _______ today through His written Word. He gives us a message that is _______ for all time and all people. We study God’s Word, because it has God’s wisdom. We need that wisdom!

Daniel chose to spend the night in the lions’ den rather than go one day without _______. He believed praying to God was more important than his own _______. Prayer is how we personally _______ God all the things that are in our hearts. It’s one means of adoring Him, thanking Him, and praising Him. Prayer time allows us to _______ our sins and to ask God’s forgiveness. Prayer gives us an opportunity to ask God to _______ our needs or the needs of people that we love. God invites us to pray to Him as our _______. He loves us that much.

First Thessalonians 5:17 urges us to “Pray without _______.” We should never give up on praying or lose heart. Acts 2:42 reminds us that the early _______ was “continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

Colossians 4:2 says, “Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping _______ in it with an attitude of thanksgiving.” Why does God want us to concentrate on praying day after day? Because God knows how much _______ a strong prayer life will be to your soul. If you wish to renew your zeal for God or merely draw closer to God, then take time each day to get _______ with God and pray fervently from your heart.

Our reading today comes from the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 7:7-11.

Even though He was the Son of God, Jesus saw _______ in prayer. Mark 1:35 says, “And in the _______ morning, while it was still dark, He arose and went out and departed to a lonely place, and was praying there.” Jesus needed time alone with the Father and He needed time to _______ His heart for the day’s tasks. Luke 5:16 says, “He Himself would _______ slip away to the wilderness and pray.” Before Jesus appointed the twelve disciples to be _______, He felt the need to pray. Luke 6:12 says, “And it was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the _______ night in prayer to God.” Have you ever spent even a single _______ in prayer?

I can’t imagine all that Jesus _______ on the night that He was betrayed. Jesus knew what struggles lay ahead of Him during the trials and on the _______. He knew that He would _____ a most painful death and He would bear the _______ of the whole world. He prayed at the Garden of Gethsemane for _______ hours. Luke 22:42 says He prayed, “Father, if You are willing, _______ this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Thine be done.” Again, He said to His Father,
“My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Thy _______ be done” (Matthew 26:42). Jesus was willing to pay the ultimate price with His own ________.

The Lord Jesus began and ended His crucifixion and His death with _________. While they were _________ Him to the cross, Jesus was praying, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34). Even while these hardened soldiers were putting nails through His hands and feet, He was _________ of their forgiveness. Such was His devotion to granting forgiveness to the _______. He wanted everyone to be saved. His last words after suffering for six hours, and as He was breathing his last were, “Father, into thy hands I commit my ________” (Luke 23:46). His heart and mind throughout this horrifying time was upon His relationship to the Father and _________ the Father’s will. If Jesus needed to pray, how much more so do we?

God not only wanted us to pray, He also wanted to hear our hearts, and He also knew the value of prayer to our ________ lives. Praying can ________ your life in a multitude of ways. I just want to mention a few:

First, prayer can _______ you in times of temptation. The Lord Jesus took Peter, James, and John to the Garden of Gethsemane. He wanted them to _______ and to _______ with Him. While He was pouring out His heart in prayer, they were falling ________. The Lord Jesus told them, “Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is _________, but the flesh is ________” (Matthew 26:41). Prayer can help us to remain _________ to God in trying times. When Satan tempts us, prayer can strengthen our hearts and help us ___________ the temptation. We don’t have to _________ temptation alone. Read Hebrews 4:15-16. God will ________ us.

We also need to understand that the devil means business when he _________ us. He wants us to _____ and break our relationship with the Lord. James 4:7-8 says, “Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will _________ from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.” God will _________ and help us when we pray. Someone has said, “Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees.”

Second, prayer can help you in times of _________ and struggle. First Peter 5:7 reminds us to cast “all your anxiety upon Him, because He _________ for you.” We all face worries and fears, but we can cast those anxieties on the _________. The Lord cares about you and your ________ life. No problem is too _____ or too ________ for the Lord. I love the promise in Philippians 4:6-7: “Be anxious for _________, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall _________ your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

God wants you to be at _________, to find security in Him. Instead of worrying about every _________ that comes along, tell God about it! While you’re asking, _________ Him for listening, for caring, and for helping you. What will happen, if you pray? God will give you a ________ peace of heart and mind that surpasses all understanding. He will place a _________ all around your heart and mind; He won’t let your worries overcome you. He won’t abandon you. He won’t forget you. In every difficult situation, prayer to God with faith will help you ride out the storm.
Third, prayer can help you grow ________ to God. When we pray regularly and truly _______ that the will of God be done on earth as it is in heaven, we build our devotion to Him. When we see our prayers answered, it makes us _______ Him all the more. Prayer helps us _______ things differently and to want what God wants. The Lord Jesus said, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied” (Matthew 5:6). How I wish ________ person in America, every person in the world hungered and thirsted for righteousness. This would change our country; it would change our world, and make it a better, more loving, more joyful, more hopeful, more honest, and more honorable society. Wouldn’t you like to live in a ________ that had no crime, no drunkenness, no immorality, no hatred, and no prejudice? Wouldn’t you like to live in a ________ where people helped each other, respected each other, and told the truth?

Prayer is the greatest precautionary measure that you can take against ________ away from the living God. The first step in falling away from God is when people _______ praying and become indifferent, and in time they ________ God altogether. Praying and being close to God will _______ you from growing complacent and apathetic. Praying ________ you of the most important matters of life. When you pray, you think of your soul and you think of the souls of those around you. In prayer, you thank God for His blessings, and this makes you appreciate and love Him all the more. Praying every day will ________ your life; taking time to talk with God will renew your spirit and keep your values and priorities straight. It will give you a _______ place to go from the world and all its temptations. Jesus needed time with His Father, and so do we.

Fourth, prayer can help you in your _______ for God. Prayer gives us the strength to carry on in our _______ for the Lord. In Ephesians 6:19, Paul asked the church at Ephesus to “pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the ________.” When we ________, God _______ the door. When we are weak, God gives us the _______ to bear our burdens. Sidlow Baxter said, “Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons – but they are helpless against our prayers.”

I think of Nehemiah, and how he heard, “The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire.” Nehemiah 1:4 says, “When I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days; and I was fasting and ________ before the God of heaven.” We too hear bad _______ now and then. What do you do? Nehemiah wept and mourned for days; he fasted and prayed. If you are hurting and in ________, pray for God to _______ you make a difference. God _______ Nehemiah’s prayer and helped him rebuild Jerusalem.

We all find ourselves inadequate at times, unskilled, lacking wisdom, or unprepared for the challenge. At those times, we pray for God’s _______! Paul said, “Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God” (2 Corinthians 3:5). This is certainly true! God can work in and through us to do things that we couldn’t do by _________. Never give up on the _______ of prayer! Never give up on God! If we’re ever to recapture the _______ of the first century church, it will begin with prayer.
Paul praised God in Ephesians 3:20-21. He said, “Now to Him who is able to do abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.”

Fifth, praying can reassure you. Sometimes we just need to be to the One we love. We need to tell Him we love Him, to thank Him, to praise Him, and to take our burdens to Him. Prayer is a great reminder that we have a “Father” in heaven. The Lord Jesus said, “your Father what you need, before you ask Him” (Matthew 6:8). He knows all about everything, and He wants to us. Read what Jesus asked in Matthew 7:9-11. is and He’s waiting for us to ask! Nothing is more reassuring than seeing prayer . God will answer our prayers. Read what the Lord Jesus said in Mark 11:22-24. Faith and willingness to do God’s will are vital to our prayers.

Read James 1:5-8. When I need God’s to help me work through a problem, I pray and God . I know He has helped me in the past and will continue to help me. God isn’t offended by my asking. He’s generous and happy to help.

So, prayer is how we with our Father in heaven. We can connect anytime, anyplace. We need God every and every . How is your prayer life? Are you a man or woman of prayer?

Real prayer, heartfelt and fervent, blesses God and man. Proverbs 15:8 says, “the prayer of the upright is His .” God wants to hear from you regularly. You don’t have to God to be heard. He wants to hear your prayers. It’s a joy to count my blessings and recall all the that my God has done. It’s a great blessing to my heart, my burdens, my fears, and my concerns with my Father in heaven, knowing He cares to listen and that He can do something about them.

When people tell me about some trouble they face, maybe it’s trouble at home, or trouble financially, trouble with their health, or trouble on the job, I ask them, “Have you prayed about it?” Don’t give up on God too . Don’t imagine that God is unaware of our troubles and cares. God may very well be working behind the scenes in ways that we cannot and we don’t understand to answer those prayers. God doesn’t always give us what we ask for, but He always gives us what is for our souls. Let’s trust in God when we pray.

Some folks think that salvation comes from simply a “sinner’s prayer.” The New Testament, however, never speaks of a “sinner’s prayer.” Does that surprise you? Saying a “sinner’s prayer” is a invention. To be saved, the Lord expects people to in Him, to love Him, to of their sins, to Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and to in His name for the forgiveness of their sins. In Acts 22:16, Saul of Tarsus was baptized to away His sins, calling on His name. According to 1 Peter 3:21 baptism is how we to God for a good conscience. We hope that you’ll follow the Lord’s teaching and be baptized today for the forgiveness of your sins. When you do, the Lord will add you to His church and make you His child.