

Let Us Pray

We have the _____ and the privilege to pray to our Father in heaven. Today, we explore the _____ of prayer. God always _____ what He says. He speaks what is _____ for us because He loves us. For this reason we can _____ God to tell us the truth and to keep His promises. Believing God's _____ also challenges us to take His commandments seriously, His ethics and His teaching and His morals, all of these, seriously. The blessings of God come to those who _____ in His ways.

We enjoy the great _____ of prayer to our God and Father in heaven who created us and sustains the universe. We can pray to our Father in heaven _____ time with our praise, our thanksgiving, petitions and requests. Prayer allows us to draw close to God and to speak from our _____. Daniel _____ to spend the night in the lion's den rather than go one day without prayer.

The Lord Jesus told His disciples, in Luke 18:1, "that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose _____"; and so should we. When the church began at Pentecost, the disciples "were continually _____ themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer" (Acts 2:42). Colossians 4:2 says, "Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping _____ in it with an attitude of thanksgiving." First Thessalonians 5:17 simply says, "Pray without ceasing." This simply means to just keep on praying, and don't give up.

Faithful Christians pray fervently because they see the _____ in prayer. Prayer opens the door to the greatest _____ in the world, the power of God. They realize that God will _____ to their prayers. David said, "I sought the Lord, and He _____ me, and delivered me from all my fears" (Psalm 34:4). Do you pray? Do you seek the Lord?

The scripture reading today is from Matthew 7:7-11.

The Lord Jesus was the Son of God; but while He _____ on this earth, He devoted Himself to prayer. He needed to be _____ to His Father, and so do we. Jesus saw the value in prayer to keep His heart focused on His _____ and to keep free from sin. Mark 1:35 says, "And in the early morning, while it was still dark, He arose and He went out and departed to a _____ place, and was praying there." Luke 5:16 says, "He Himself would often _____ away to the wilderness and pray." Before selecting the twelve people to be apostles, Luke 6:12 says, "And it was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole _____ in prayer to God."

The Lord Jesus prayed over the bread and the fruit of the vine when He was instituting the Lord's Supper. Later that night, Jesus prayed at the Garden of Gethsemane for _____ hours with great sorrow and loud crying. He prayed, "Father, if Thou art willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My _____, but Thine be done" (Luke 22:42). This must have been a very _____ prayer to pray, but Jesus was more devoted to obeying His Father and saving us than He was to avoiding suffering and death.

The Lord endured much _____ and suffering at the hands of the chief priests and the Romans. They beat Him, mocked Him, spit on Him, lied about Him, scourged Him, and falsely condemned

Longer quotations may not appear in the Study Sheet, but can be read in the accompanying transcript.

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Him. They forced Him to _____ His own cross to Golgotha. Even while they were nailing His hands and feet to the cross, He prayed, "Father, _____ them; for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:32). Such love and mercy _____ His grace. Though He felt forsaken at one point, He never _____ relying on the Father. His last words were "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit" (Luke 23:46). If Jesus needed to pray in every circumstance of life and in facing death, how much more do we?

Prayer can indeed make a _____. Let's take a look at what prayer can do for you. First, prayer can help you in times of _____. The Lord Jesus warned Peter, James, and John, "Keep watching and praying, that you may not _____ into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matthew 26:41). We're all _____ at times, and we may not suspect the temptations coming our way. It can catch us off guard and lead to _____. The devil doesn't play around; he wants to deceive and _____ you. He seeks for opportunities to make you sin.

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." Prayer is when we draw near to God, and know that we're not _____! The Lord will draw near you to _____ you resist the devil. You can _____ sin. Someone has rightly said, "Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees."

The Lord makes Himself accessible to us, even though He is God and we're humans. Hebrews 4:14-16 says, "Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold _____ our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been _____ in all things as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with confidence (boldness) to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find _____ to help in time of need." The Lord understands our weaknesses and can help us when we most _____ Him.

Second, prayer can help you in times of _____. In every difficult situation, prayer and faith in God helps us endure. We all face circumstances that _____ our character and our patience. James 5:16-18 says, "The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish _____. Elijah was a man with a _____ like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it didn't rain on the earth for three years and six months. Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit."

Circumstances can _____ us to grow anxious and fearful, but prayer can make a difference. Philippians 4:6-7 says, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made _____ to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall _____ your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." God can give us peace and guard our hearts and minds. We can worry or we can pray. Let's pray, and let God deal with our concerns.

First Peter 5:6-10 says, "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he _____ for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring _____, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your _____, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood (your brethren) throughout the world. And after you've suffered for a little while, the God of all _____, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you."

Third, prayer can help you _____ spiritually. Like Jesus we need to pray _____ day and night. We need to pray before making a hard _____. We need to pray when we know _____ times lie ahead. We need to thank God for our _____. We need to _____ God for His power, wisdom, glory, and grace. We need to draw _____ to Him and pour out our hearts to Him. Prayer can make a difference in our spiritual lives, and the absence of prayer can leave us _____.

The Lord Jesus said, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be _____” (Matthew 5:6). Prayer is the greatest precautionary measure that you can take against falling away from the living God. Neglecting private prayers and reading Scripture is generally the first _____ people have become indifferent to God; it’s not long until they forsake their faith and worship.

We need to pray not only for ourselves but also for _____ who serve the Lord. Even though Paul was an apostle, an evangelist, he knew how much he _____ the prayers of others. Paul said, “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 _____” (Ephesians 6:19). We could all ask for the prayers to help us _____ the Lord. We all need the Lord. The Lord Jesus said, “apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).

Fourth, prayer can help you in your _____ for Him. We are all dependent upon the strength of God to _____ us do what we cannot do for ourselves. We want to serve and _____ others. We know that we need God’s help to do that. Second Corinthians 3:5 reminds us, “Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from _____.” Later Paul declared, “And God is _____ to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good _____” (2 Corinthians 9:8). Every great work for God begins with prayer! Without God’s help, we can do nothing (John 15:5).

Nehemiah wept and mourned for days over the city of Jerusalem, which was in ruins and caused great _____ for the remnant of the Jews. He fasted and prayed night and day before the God of heaven, confessing the _____ of the people and asked for God to bring the people back to the place where His name dwelled (Nehemiah 1:3-11). God heard Nehemiah’s prayer and gave him the opportunity to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and to _____ their safety.

We’re facing struggles and weaknesses in our own time. There are good _____ for us too, to weep and mourn over the sins of our day. People are lost, people are hurting, people have forgotten God, and we need to see a _____ in our time, our time, we need commitment, commitment to the Lord. Sidlow Baxter, who wrote a book called Exploring the Bible, said, “Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons – but they are helpless against our prayers.”

Fifth, prayer can reassure you of God’s _____. Sometimes we just need to be _____ to the One that we love. We need to tell Him we love Him, to thank Him, to praise Him, to take our _____ to Him. We need reminding that He’s there—available and willing to _____. Speaking of prayer, Jesus said, “for your Father _____ what you need, before you ask Him” (Matthew 6:8). When we pray, we’re not praying to a _____ in Heaven who doesn’t care, or doesn’t know us, and doesn’t care what happens. God knows _____ about you and me. He sees everything. God knows even before we _____. The Lord Jesus said, “Therefore do not be anxious (that is, don’t worry), saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the

Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all” (Matthew 6:31-32).

Prayer is a great _____ that I have a “Father” in heaven. I lost my father in 1985, and I loved my father and mourned his absence. I needed and wanted my father! But at some point in my grief, I recalled that I had a Father in heaven, who would _____ leave me or forsake me. The Lord Jesus said, “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!” (Matthew 7:7-11). We have a _____ Father!

Prayer is man’s _____ to God’s willingness. I don’t believe in the power of my praying; I believe in God’s power to _____ my prayers. I pray realizing my Father is _____ than I am. Sometimes He says _____; sometimes He says _____; sometimes He says wait till later; and sometimes He answers in ways better than I asked. God sees what I can’t see and knows what I don’t know. He can see what lies ahead and knows what He has planned. I am convinced that God answers _____ prayer, and it may be in ways beyond my comprehension. In spite of this, I _____ God. He has blessed me for almost 70 years, and I know that He will be with me through every challenge and will supply my needs.

Nothing is more reassuring than seeing prayer _____. God wants to hear from us; and we don’t have to _____ Him to listen. Prayer is how we _____ with our Father in heaven. We can connect anytime anyplace. He waits to _____ from us. We need God every day and every hour. I hope you haven’t _____ praying to the Father in heaven. I hope that you make it a _____ to pray often every day. God can work wonders, when we pray. Have you prayed today?

As I mentioned, God wants to hear from you. He wants to be close to you, so _____ close to Him. You may have a heartache; you may be facing a difficult problem; or you may not know what lies ahead. You probably have hurting people on your _____, people that you love, people who may not know God and need to know Him. Pray for them. Ask God’s help in reaching them. God wants everyone to be saved and to know the truth (1 Timothy 2:4).

I like to begin every project with prayer from my heart and soul, reaching up to the One who cares and can help me. Without Christ in our lives, we can truly do nothing. Without the grace and help of God, we have no hope of salvation or of heaven. I want to thank my Father for every good thing. I want my Father to know that I love Him and thank Him for the forgiveness of my sins.

Without God’s grace and forgiveness, we have no hope of eternal life. Prayer is a great gift, but it takes more than prayer for one to become a Christian. After being struck blind on the road to Damascus, Saul of Tarsus prayed and fasted for three days, according to Acts 9:9 and 11; but he was not yet freed from sin. Ananias came to Saul, who became the apostle Paul, and told him, “Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name” (Acts 22:16). Saul needed his sins washed away in baptism, even though he fasted and prayed. We all need to be baptized to wash away our sins as well. Won’t you be baptized today?