

PRAYER 101

1/21/18 – ‘Never Stop Praying

Luke 11:1New American Standard Bible (NASB)

Instruction about Prayer

11 It happened that while [a]Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples.”

- Our frustrations with prayer are caused by our misunderstanding about prayer – Prayer is not:

a magic wand	a fire extinguisher
a tug of war	a ritual to relieve guilt

4 FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS ABOUT PRAYER

1. God loves for me to TALK to him.
Psalm 103:13New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹³Just as a father has compassion on *his* children,
 So the LORD has compassion on those who [a]fear Him.

- Prayer is a CONVERSATION, not a ceremony.

1 John 5:14-15New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁴This is the confidence which we have [a]before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that He hears us *in* whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

- Prayer is a RELATIONSHIP, not a ritual.

“Hebrews 10:22New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²²let us draw near with a [a]sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water

2. God LISTENS to prayers that are sincere and simple.

“Matthew 6:5-8New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁵“When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners [a]so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. ⁶But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.

⁷“And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

You do not have because you do not ask. **James 4:2**

3. God likes to show his grace by ANSWERING prayer.

“Jeremiah 33:3New American Standard Bible (NASB)

³‘Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.’

“Matthew 7:11New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹¹If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!

4. God longs to be CLOSE to me.

“**Isaiah 30:18**New American Standard Bible (NASB)

God Is Gracious and Just

¹⁸Therefore the LORD [a]longs to be gracious to you,
And therefore He [b]waits on high to have compassion on you.
For the LORD is a God of justice;
How blessed are all those who [c]long for Him.

Hosea 6:6New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁶For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice,
And in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

“**Psalm 25:14**New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁴The [a]secret of the LORD is for those who fear Him,
[b]And He will make them know His covenant.

“**James 4:8**New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁸Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands,
you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

He is always Near and never to far away that He does not hear.