

DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

"PRAYER"

SELECTED SCRIPTURE

MARCH 23-29, 2008 (Review from 2005)

THE LORD'S DAY – This week we will take a look at what is one of the most neglected areas in Christianity today—PRAYER. The Bible records thousands of prayers and petitions and examples of God’s chosen ones crying out to God in prayer, thus proving their humility and dependence upon God. Jesus said, “*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*” (**Matthew 5:3**). The word “poor” means “total dependence”. When we cry out “Abba, Father” we too can show our dependence on Him. Read **Ephesians 6:18** and **Colossians 4:2**.

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Lord, help us to become more dependent upon You, and help us to learn how to pray in a way that is honoring to You.*

MONDAY – We will look at five characteristics of prayer throughout this week’s study. The first application will be the Variety of Prayer. Just like all of us like to eat a variety of foods, the Bible teaches us that there are varieties of prayer and a variety of ways to pray. In **Ephesians 6:18** Paul uses the phrase “with all prayer.” The key word here is all. Unfortunately, many people neglect prayer and then wonder why things aren’t different in their lives. **James 4:2** tells us, “*You have not, because you ask not.*” Read the following verses that give us examples of various ways to pray. **1 Kings 8:22, Psalm 95:6, Luke 22:41, Numbers 16:22.**

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Teach me how to be more fervent in my prayer life.*

TUESDAY – Today we will look at our Frequency of Prayer. In **Colossians 4:2** it says, “*devote yourselves to prayer.*” The Greek word for “devote” means “to be constantly diligent, persistent, to attend assiduously all the exercises and to adhere closely.” →

Lord's Day	Praise & Prayer	ADORATION Hallowed be Your name. (6:9)	AUTHORITY Your Kingdom come... (6:10)	APPEAL Give us this day... (6:11)	AQUITTAL Forgive us our debts... (6:12)	ASSISTANCE Deliver us from evil. (6:13a)	ADMIRATION For Yours is the Kingdom... (6:13)
Mon							
Tue							
Wed							
Thu							
Fri							
Sat							

W @ e k l y P r a y e r J o u r n a l

M a t t h e w 6: 9-13

The Jewish people of Paul's day already had designated times of prayer. In the New Testament we see that all changed. John MacArthur said about prayer, "There is no time when we do not need to pray and no time when God will not hear our prayers." When we are clean and we ask with correct motives, this is true. Read how Paul urged his readers to regularly devote themselves to prayer in **Romans 12:12**, **Philippians 4:6**, and **1 Thessalonians 5:17**.

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: Thank You Lord that You hear the all prayers of those who come to You with a clean heart.

WEDNESDAY – Continuing what we started yesterday about the Frequency of Prayer, our verse in **Ephesians 6** says "pray at all times." What does this mean? It surely doesn't mean a constant verbal rambling to our God and Father. Paul also said in **1 Thessalonians 5:17**, "pray without ceasing." The true meaning in both of these passages is to be filled with the Spirit. When we are filled, we are able to discern all things that come into our path and we have the ability to pray and praise God in every situation. Read **Ephesians 5:18** and **Colossians 3:16**.

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: Help us to submit ourselves to You more and more every day so that we can be filled with the Spirit and be used by You.

THURSDAY – In both the **Ephesians** and **Colossians** passages, we see one common word—ALERT. It literally means "to keep awake." I hope none of us can say that we fall asleep during prayer. Another meaning for "alert" in the Greek is "watchful." Jesus tells us in **Matthew 26:41**, "Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation." This means we must have a constant awareness around us and around other believers. It's a spiritual battle that we are engaged in! Just before Paul gives us these Godly words about prayer in **Ephesians 6:18**, he talks about this battle. Read **Ephesians 6:10-17**.

What principles in these verses are applicable to my life today?

Suggestion for prayer: Help us all to be aware of the constant spiritual battle that is going on and give us the strength to fight off daily temptations.

FRIDAY – The next area we will focus on is the Objects of Prayer. Most people pray for themselves, which isn't necessarily wrong, but let's contrast that with Scripture. Did the prophets or apostles or even Christ pray for themselves only? Surely not! I love the book of **1 Thessalonians** where it talks about how their church became imitators of Paul, Timothy, and Silvanus. Timothy reported back to Paul how the Thessalonians, although not with Paul, gave him comfort and how they had kind thoughts toward him. This could only have been possible through prayer. Read **1 Samuel 12:23** and understand the consequences of not praying for others.

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: Give us hearts that are concerned for others and help us to always put others first, especially when it comes to prayer.

SATURDAY – We close our study discussing an Attitude of Thanksgiving. This one cuts really close to the heart. You would think that anyone who calls themselves a believer, saved from eternal damnation, would show nothing less than thanks to God, but for some reason, this is not the case. Read the following verses in **Colossians** to get an idea of why we should always be thankful. Read **Colossians 1:12, 2:6, 3:15 & 17**.

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: Help us to remember the sacrifice that was made on the Cross and let it motivate us to "pray without ceasing" especially for those who are truly the children of God.

