

HOW TO PRAY- Lecture 11

The disciples came to Jesus one day and asked, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1).

The disciples did not ask "Lord, teach us to preach" but "Teach us to _____."
Through prayer we can:

- 1- enter into the very presence of God.
- 2- make our needs _____ to Him
- 3- can worship and commune with God.

I. WHAT IS PRAYER?

The dictionary describes prayer as a reverent or devout _____ to God, an entreaty.

The simplest definition of prayer is the three letter word _____.

See Romans 8:15

A. Prayer is a _____.

B. Prayer is also a _____.

See Jeremiah 33:3

C. Prayer is _____.

Luke 11:9

Prayer is talking to God and having Him talk to us. It is spending time in _____ with our heavenly Father.

II. WHY SHOULD WE PRAY?

The answer to why we should pray is very simple:

A. The _____ tells us to pray.

In Luke 18:1

B. Because _____ prayed.

His entire life on earth was an example of prayer. Since Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, found prayer important, we sinful creatures find prayer _____!

Jesus prayed at the beginning of His public ministry when He was _____.

Luke 3:21

Before choosing the twelve apostles, Jesus spent all night in prayer:

Luke 6:12-13

He prayed before feeding the five thousand:

John 6:11

Jesus prayed before rescuing _____ at sea.
(Matthew 14:23).

At the grave of Lazarus, He prayed:

John 11:41

At the Last Supper, Jesus prayed:

Mark 14:22

In Gethsemane, Jesus agonized in prayer

Matthew 26:36-44

Our Lord prayed often, and so must each Christian learn to pray.

C. Because Jesus Christ is praying _____ us—
right now. The Bible says:

Hebrews 7:25

**D. Because prayer is the example given to
us by the early _____.**

Acts 2:42

Before the day of Pentecost, they gathered together to pray:

Acts 1:14

When Peter was jailed, they prayed until God delivered him:

Acts 12:12

The apostolic church saturated their efforts with prayer.

The apostle James told the Christians of his time that their spiritual poverty was
due to neglect of _____.

James 4:2

III. HOW SHOULD WE PRAY?

A. We should pray humbly.

James 4:6

Knowledge of the Good News—salvation through the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus Christ—will come from one source or another, but in the final analysis a person must humbly _____ for salvation.

The prayer of salvation is the one prayer of the wicked, God has said he will hear.”

B. We should pray _____.

Illustration:

That missionary prayed specifically. Why? Because he had a specific need—his life was in danger.

Our prayers don't need to be long. Many of our Lord's prayers were only a few words. The important thing is that they be specific.

C. We should pray believingly.

General Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, advised people to "*work as if everything depended upon your work, and pray as if everything depended upon your _____.*"

Pray—expecting God to answer! **Hebrews 11:6; James 1:6-7**

It was said of Praying Hyde, missionary to India, "He prayed as if God were at his _____, standing ready to answer. He had faith:"

D. We should pray intelligently.

Ideally, our prayers should include the four areas of adoration, confession, _____, and supplication.

As we review God's attributes, we see our human weaknesses, which lead us to earnest _____. Thankfulness naturally follows, leading us to _____. **James 4:3.**

E. We should pray obediently.

There is no way we can be successful in our prayer life if we are living with unconfessed sin. The psalmist declared, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear" (Psalm 66:18).

Sin— unconfessed sin—is _____.

Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (**John 14:15**). We need to pray to God from an _____ heart.

IV. WHEN SHOULD WE PRAY?

It would be difficult to pray in the wrong _____ or at the wrong _____.

Examples:

Jonah prayed powerfully in the belly of the fish.

Paul and Silas prayed at midnight in the dungeon.

We can pray anytime, anywhere. However, it is best to have a definite _____ and _____ for daily prayer.

Psalms 55:17; Daniel 6:10

Jesus has told us to enter into the _____ place to pray.

Matthew 6:6.

Whenever God's people gather, whether to eat, to study the Bible, or to socialize, it is right to pray, asking God's blessing.

Do not forget the need for family prayer, a practice that draws the family together with a common cord.

E. FOR WHAT SHALL WE PRAY?

We are to pray for all things that are needed for our physical and spiritual welfare.

Matthew 7:11

Jesus taught His disciples to pray for their daily bread. This infers the needs of life: food, clothing, and shelter.

We are invited to take everything to God in prayer.

E. OBSTACLES TO PRAYER

Unbelief, worldliness, and _____ can render prayer useless.

Consider the following Bible verses:

Isaiah 59:1-2; Psalm 66:18; I Peter 3:12

Sin in the believer's life makes prayer _____.

Charles Spurgeon: "Prayer is the remedy that will cure all ills. Prayer is a sword that will cut the Gordian Knot. Prayer is the key that fits every lock in the sinner's house of horrors and in the Christian's hours of sorrows."

Let's make prayer a very special matter in our lives. Let's give much attention to it!