Prayer is an important part of a Christian’s life, so let’s take a closer look at the wonderful avenue of prayer.

**Introduction**

How often do you pray? _______________ How long? _______________

Where do you usually pray? ____________? Why? _______________________

What percentage of your prayers do you feel have been answered? _________________

Do you think there is room for improvement in your prayer life? _________________

What are some reasons Christians do not pray more? _____________________________

What Old and New Testament characters do you think of as being devoted to prayer besides Jesus? ____________________________________ ________________________

What are some things we should pray for and some things we should not?  

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**WHAT IS PRAYER?**

Define prayer _____________________________________

Who do we pray to (Acts 12:5)? ____________________

In whose name should we pray (Jn. 14:13)? __________________________

Who should we pray for?  
Jam. 5:16 _________________________________________

1 Tim. 2:1-2 _________________________________________

Mt. 5:44 ___________________________________________

Mt. 9:38 ___________________________________________
What are five conditions of acceptable prayer?

Mt. 21:22; Jam. 1:6

Prov. 28:9

1 Jn. 5:14

Mt. 6:14-15

Jam. 4:3

Does God hear the prayers of sinners who simply ask God for help because things are not going their way?

Jn. 9:31

Ps. 34:15-16

Prov. 1:28-31; 15:29; 28:9

Mic. 3:4

Does God hear the prayers of sinners who are seeking Him out?

Acts 10:4

Prov. 8:17

Jam. 4:8

Who has full access to God and can approach Him boldly through prayer (Heb. 4:14-16)

What does Jesus say about vain repetition (Mt. 6:7)?

What should always be our attitude when we pray (Mt. 26:39)?
TEACH US TO PRAY

What did the disciples want Jesus to teach them in Luke 11:1? _____________________

Who taught you how to pray? ____________________________

How do we learn how to pray (Jn. 6:45)? ________________

How often should we pray (1 Thess. 5:17)? ________________

How persistent should we be in our prayer life (Lk. 18:1-8)? ________________

Why do some fail to get what they want from God (Jam. 4:2)? ________________

What must we avoid doing with our prayers (Mt. 6:5-8)? ________________

What condition should we attach to every prayer (1 Jn. 5:14)? ________________

Did Jesus set this example (Mt. 26:39)? ________________

Is thinking of God a prayer? ________________

Is reading a prayer really praying? ________________

JESUS AND PRAYER

Why did Jesus need to pray (Heb. 2:7; 4:15)? ________________

What is something that Jesus never had to pray for (1 Pet. 2:22-23)? ________________

What time of day did Jesus pray in Mark 1:35? ________________

How long did Jesus pray in Mark 6:35, 45-48? ________________

Where, how long, and about what did He pray in Luke 6:12? ________________

What was the occasion and what was prayed for in the following verses:
Jn. 6:11 ________________
Jn. 11:22, 41-42 ________________
JESUS’ EXAMPLE PRAYER

Why did Jesus’ disciples want to know how to pray (Lk. 11:1)?

What is significant about us praying “our Father” (Lk. 11:2; Mt. 12:50)?

In what way is God our Father (Eph. 1:3-6)?

What does “Hallow be Your name” mean (Mt. 6:9)?

Is praying “Your kingdom come” (Mt. 6:10) a valid request today (Mk 9:1; Col. 1:13)?

What is a valid thing to pray for in Mt. 6:10?

What are we to pray for according to (Mt. 6:11)?

What does Jesus teach us about forgiveness in Mt. 6:12?

Why should we pray to God that we not be led into temptation (Jam. 1:12-15; 1 Cor. 10:13)?

Do you think the model prayer (Mt. 6:9-13) was intended to be an all sufficient prayer for our lives?
THE LORD’S PRAYER
JOHN 17

What was the occasion of the Lord’s Prayer and when did it happen (Jn. 13:1-3; 18:1)?
________________________________________________________________________

Read John 17. How does this prayer compare in length to the other prayers Jesus prayed?
________________________________________________________________________

Jesus’ prayer has three parts. Who did Jesus pray for in the following verses:

1-5 ____________________________________________________________
6-19 __________________________________________________________
20-23 _________________________________________________________

From verse 3, what are two ways in which we can know the Father (1 Jn. 4:8; 2:4)?
________________________________________________________________________

What do we learn about Jesus from verse 4?
He did not fail to do anything, and He fulfilled all the prophecies about Him (Lk 18:31; 24:44; Jn. 19:28; Acts 13:27-29).

What did Jesus’ apostles know about Him according to verses 6-8?
________________________________________________________________________

Read verses 9-13. Who was excluded from Jesus’ prayer in vs. 9?
________________________________________________________________________

What does Jesus want for His disciples?

11 _____________________________________________________________
13 _____________________________________________________________

Read verses 14-16. What does Jesus ask for His disciples?
________________________________________________________________________

What does it mean “they are not of the world” (Jam. 4:4)?
________________________________________________________________________

Read verses 17-19. How were the disciples sanctified (17; 1 Pet. 1:22-23)?
________________________________________________________________________
Verse 18, just as the Father sent Jesus out, Jesus ________________________________

In what way did Jesus sanctify Himself (19)? ________________________________

Read verses 20-23. What is the main focus of this prayer for future believers? ______

Being unified in mind and thought is taught throughout the Scriptures (Rom. 15:5-6; Phil. 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 1:10; 12:12-13), which proves that we can have unity in Christ. Since we are not to be divided proves that denominationalism is wrong because there is only one church (Eph. 4:4), and we must worship God in spirit and in truth in accordance to His Word (Jn. 4:23).

What happens when unity is not achieved (Mt. 12:25)? ________________________

What does the Psalmist say about unity (Ps. 133:1)? __________________________

What must our unity be based on? ______________________________________________

Read verses 24-26. What do we learn from these verses? _________________________

___________________________________________________ _____________________

___________________________________________________ _____________________
PRAYERS IN GETHSEMANE

Read all four accounts: Mt. 26:36-46; Mk. 14:32-42; Lk. 22:40-46; Jn. 18:1

Easton Bible Dictionary says:
Gethsemane, oil-press, the name of an olive-yard at the foot of the Mount of Olives, to which Jesus was wont to retire Lu 22:39 with his disciples, and which is specially memorable as being the scene of his agony Mr 14:32 Joh 18:1 Lu 22:44 The plot of ground pointed out as Gethsemane is now surrounded by a wall, and is laid out as a modern European flower-garden. It contains eight venerable olive-trees, the age of which cannot, however, be determined. The exact site of Gethsemane is still in question. Dr. Thomson (The Land and the Book) says: "When I first came to Jerusalem, and for many years afterward, this plot of ground was open to all whenever they chose to come and meditate beneath its very old olive trees. The Latins, however, have within the last few years succeeded in gaining sole possession, and have built a high wall around it...The Greeks have invented another site a little to the north of it...My own impression is that both are wrong. The position is too near the city, and so close to what must have always been the great thoroughfare eastward, that our Lord would scarcely have selected it for retirement on that dangerous and dismal night...I am inclined to place the garden in the secluded vale several hundred yards to the north-east of the present Gethsemane."

What was Jesus’ emotional state at this time (Mt. 26:37-38) and why? _______________

___________________________________________________________________________

What posture did Jesus use for this prayer (Lk. 22:41; Mt. 26:39)? _______________

___________________________________________________________________________

What did Jesus pray for (Mt. 26:39)? ________________

___________________________________________________________________________

What did Jesus say about this cup in Mt. 20:20-23? ________________

___________________________________________________________________________

What happens in Lk. 22:43? ________________

___________________________________________________________________________

How intense was this moment for Jesus (Lk. 22:44)? ________________

___________________________________________________________________________

What do we find Peter, James, and John doing (Mt. 26:40)? ________________

___________________________________________________________________________

Why were they sleeping (Lk. 22:45)? ________________

___________________________________________________________________________
How many times did Jesus pray the same prayer and what does this teach us about repetition in our prayers?

What do we learn from Mt. 26:41?

Though Jesus asked for the cup to pass from Him, it was not a sign of weakness of His spirit; it was simply a common plea of any human not wanting to suffer the pain of the flesh. What do we learn from the following verses that teach us that Jesus kept His faith even during this trying moment?

Mt. 26:39

Lk 9:51

Mt. 12:40-42; Jn. 10:18

Mt. 26:53-54

Heb. 5:7-10

Heb. 4:15

What do you learn from this prayer in Gethsemane that will help you with your prayers?
HINDERANCES TO PRAYER

What is the greatest hindrance to prayer? (Isa. 59:1-2)
_________________________________________________________________________

What were some doing that hindered their prayers? (Jam. 4:3) _________________
_________________________________________________________________________

Prayer is limited by the ___________ one possesses. (Mk. 11:24)

How can our prayers be hindered by a wrong conception of prayer? (Mt. 6:5) _______
_________________________________________________________________________

How can our spiritual maturity hinder our prayers?
Lk. 18:11-14 ______________________________________________________________
Lk. 9:51-56 __________________________________________________________________
Matthew 20:20-23 ___________________________________________________________

What hindrances did not handicap Paul’s prayer? (Acts 16:19-25) ________________
_________________________________________________________________________

What made Israel’s prayers invalid? (Isa. 1: 4,15) ______________________________

What could they have done to correct this problem? (Isa. 1:16-20) ______________
_________________________________________________________________________

What did Peter say would prevent hindrances to prayer? (1 Pet. 3:5-7) ___________
_________________________________________________________________________

What are some other things that hinder our prayers? _____________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

The Bible reveals exactly whose prayers are answered. He hears the cry of the righteous
(Psalms 34:15); he hears those who call upon him in truth (Psalms 145:18); and he
hears the penitent (Luke 18:14): those who ask "in his name" (John 14:13), those who
ask "believing" (Mark 11:24), and those who ask according to God's will (1 John 5:14).
HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIONS TO PRAYER:

1. We should accept life’s problems without bothering God with them.

What did Jesus teach about this in Luke 11:5-13? ________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

What does James tell us to do when we are afflicted? (Jam. 5:13) _________________

What does Hebrews 4:15-16 teach us? ___________________________________________

2. God knows everything about us and what we need so why pray?

Discuss Matthew 6:25-33. _____________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

What does James 4:2 teach us about prayer? ______________________________________

If we need not pray, how can we make sense of 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Colossians 1:9?
____________________________________________________________________________

What purpose did Cornelius’ prayer serve? (Acts 10:1-4) __________________________

3. Prayer will never change God’s mind.

What do the following verses teach us about this:
Exodus 32:9-14 ________________________________________________________________

2 Kings 20:1-6 _________________________________________________________________

2 Cor. 12:7-9 _________________________________________________________________

What is the conclusion of the matter? (Mt. 26:39)________________________________

4. God expects us to work out our own problems with no help from Him.

What can we learn from Exodus 14:13-22? ______________________________________

What did Jesus say was impossible to accomplish without prayer and fasting? (Mk. 9:14-
29)
____________________________________________________________________________

What are some other things that are impossible without prayer today? ________________
______________________________________________________________________________

Can you think of any other reasons people reject prayer? ___________________________
PRAYERS FROM THE CROSS


How many times did Jesus speak while on the cross? _____________________________

What did He say? _______________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

How many of these sayings were prayers, and which ones were they? ______________

_____________________________________________________________________________

What was the first prayer (Lk. 23:34)? ________________________________________

Was Jesus’ prayer answered and if so, when (Acts 2:37-41)? ______________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

Does ignorance excuse sin (Acts 3:14-19; 17:30)? _________________________________

Is what Jesus said in Matthew 27:46 a prayer or a statement? ______________________

What did some of those around the cross think Jesus was saying (Mt. 27:47-49)? _____

_____________________________________________________________________________

Where did this saying come from (Psalm 22:1)? _________________________________

When did Jesus say it (Mk. 15:34)? ____________________________________________

What is His final prayer (Lk. 23:46)? __________________________________________

What do we learn from the cross that will help us with our prayer life? ____________

_____________________________________________________________________________
PRAY FOR US

Read 1 Samuel 12:19-25

What did Israel want Samuel to do (19)? ________________________________

What did Samuel say would happen if he would not pray (23)? ______________

What is the responsibility of the one being prayed for (24-25)? _______________ 

__________________________________________________________

Who are we to offer prayers for?

Acts 8:22-24 _________________________________________________________

James 5:14-16 _________________________________________________________

Acts 12:1-5 _________________________________________________________

Matthew 5:43-48 _______________________________________________________

Col. 1:2-9 _________________________________________________________

Eph. 6:10-20 _________________________________________________________

1 Tim. 2:1-3 _________________________________________________________

What are we told not to pray for (1 John 5:16-17)? _______________________

What is sin leading to death and sin not leading to death (Heb. 6:4-6)? ________

________________________________________________________

Who does Paul say helps us with our prayers (Rom. 8:26-27)? ________________

Why do you think some Christians struggle with asking others to pray for them? ______

________________________________________________________

When we pray for someone, should we tell them we are praying for them? _______

________________________________________________________