

THE PRAYER LIFE OF JESUS

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?

Should

Should not

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 _____

Lk. 22:31-32 _____

Mt. 19:13-15 _____

What will prayer help us to avoid (Lk. 18:1)? _____

Did Jesus get everything He prayed for on earth? _____

Will we get everything we ask for? _____

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)? _____

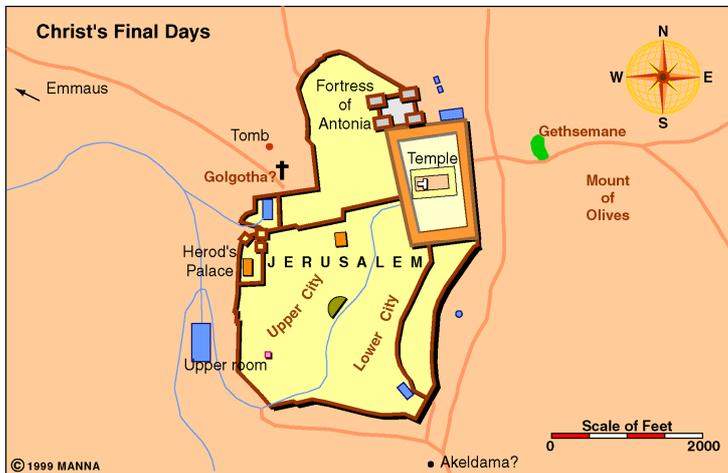
What does the Psalmist say about unity (Ps. 133:1)? _____

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

Read all four accounts Mt. 27:35-50; Mk. 15:24-37; Luke 23:32-46; Jn. 19:23-30.

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? _____