

## Doctrine of Prayer

1. **Proseuchomai** is the general word for prayer; it means earnest communication with God the Father. There are two other words translated prayer:

1.1 **Deesis** means earnest communication with God the Father where you ask for something you lack i. e. a specific need.

1.2 **Enteuxis** means communication with God the Father where you fall in line with someone else to plead a cause for and on behalf of someone else.

2. Several uses elsewhere of **Proseuchomai** are:

Rom 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should "**pray**" for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Acts 16:25 And at midnight Paul and Silas "**prayed,**" and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

Acts 16:26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

3. Prayer is direct one-way communication with God.

1Pe 1:8 **Though you have not seen him**, you love him; and **even though you do not see him** now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,

1Ti 6:16 God alone **is immortal and lives in unapproachable light**, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

4. An unbeliever can pray only one prayer.

Luk 18:13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy (**Hilaskomai** - to conciliate, to atone or to be propitious) on me, a sinner.'

5. The concept of the believer's intercessory prayer can best be understood in the sense of artillery being fired to soften up the enemy for a coming advance.

6. Every believer is commanded to pray and to pray without ceasing. In the Greek of 1Th 5:17 we have **Adialeiptos** translated in the KJV "without ceasing."

7. It means to do something uninterruptedly, i. e. without omission on appropriate occasions or when you pray, pray without ceasing. In the NIV it is translated "pray continually."

1Th 5:17 pray continually;

1Th 5:18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Eph 6:18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

1Ti 2:8 I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.

7.1 Pastors have a special responsibility to pray for their flocks just as the early prophets had the responsibility to pray for Israel.

Acts 6:3 Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them

Acts 6:4 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.

7.2 Believers everywhere are to pray as though the rapture is just around the corner and from 1Pe 4:7 we can conclude we should pray for the rapture.

1Pe 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

## 8. Mechanics of Prayer:

8.1 We must rebound first thereby acquiring the Filling of the Spirit or else our prayer will not be heard.

Psa 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

8.2 We must love doctrine otherwise our prayers will be an abomination to God.

Pro 28:9 He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.

Jam 4:3 You ask and receive not because you ask amiss, that you may consume it on your lust patterns.

8.3 We must always pray to the Father.

Joh 11:41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

Eph 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Eph 3:14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Mat 6:6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Mat 7:11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

8.4 We must pray in the Name and through Christ.

Eph 2:18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Heb 10:19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

Joh 16:25 "Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father.

Joh 16:26 In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf.

Joh 16:27 No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.

Eph 5:20 **Giving thanks always** for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

8.5 We must pray in the power of the Spirit.

Eph 6:18 **Praying** always with all **prayer and supplication in the Spirit**, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Eph 2:18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

1Jo 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Psa 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

8.6 We must pray in an attitude of thanksgiving.

Phi 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with **thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.**

1Th 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Eph 5:20 **Giving thanks always for all things unto God** and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

8.7 We must get right with our spouses before approaching prayer.

1Pe 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; **that your prayers be not hindered.**

8.7.1 The word for "hindered" is EKKOPTO meaning to sever or cut-off.

9. Instances of prayer: This should give us some idea about what we are to pray :

9.1 Imprecatory prayers are found mainly in the Psalms; in an imprecatory prayer the suffering righteous are seen so identifying their interests with those of God and accordingly they cry out for vindication.

9.1.1 This usually results in a prayer for the downfall of their enemies. Examples of such Psalms are 109, 137, and 140.

9.1.2 Such psalms are simply a special instance of the plaintive cries for deliverance that accompany the plight of those who suffer unjustly. In the light of Kingdom teachings and royal family honor code requirements "straight out imprecatory prayers" are in my view inappropriate for our age.

9.1.3 I will read three such Psalms in part:

Psa 137:1 By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion.

Psa 137:2 We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof.

Psa 137:3 For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion ...

Psa 137:8 O daughter of Babylon, who art to be destroyed; happy shall he be, that rewardeth thee as thou hast served us.

Psa 137:9 Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones.

Psa 140:1 Deliver me, O LORD, from the evil man: preserve me from the violent man;

Psa 140:2 Which imagine mischiefs in their heart; continually are they gathered together for war.

Psa 140:3 They have sharpened their tongues like a serpent; adders' poison is under their lips ...

Psa 140:9 As for the head of those that compass me about, let the mischief of their own lips cover them.

Psa 140:10 Let burning coals fall upon them: let them be cast into the fire; into deep pits, that they rise not up again.

Psa 140:11 Let not an evil speaker be established in the earth: evil shall hunt the violent man to overthrow him.

Psa 140:12 I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and the right of the poor.

Psa 140:13 Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy name: the upright shall dwell in thy presence.

Psa 109:5 And they have rewarded me evil for good, and hatred for my love.  
Psa 109:6 Set thou a wicked man over him: and let Satan stand at his right hand.  
Psa 109:7 When he shall be judged, let him be condemned: and let his prayer become sin.  
Psa 109:8 Let his days be few; and let another take his office.  
Psa 109:9 Let his children be fatherless, and his wife a widow.  
Psa 109:10 Let his children be continually vagabonds, and beg: let them seek their bread also out of their desolate places.  
Psa 109:11 Let the extortioner catch all that he hath; and let the strangers spoil his labour.  
Psa 109:12 Let there be none to extend mercy unto him: neither let there be any to favor his fatherless children.  
Psa 109:13 Let his posterity be cut off; and in the generation following let their name be blotted out.

9.1.4 Such psalms are simply a special instance of the plaintive cries for deliverance that accompany the plight of those who suffer unjustly.

9.1.5 In the light of Kingdom teachings and royal family honor code requirements "straight out imprecatory prayers" may be inappropriate in our Age of The Church.

10. When you are depressed or suffering mental anguish you are to pray.

Expanded Translation:

Jam 5:13 Is there one among you who is continually depressed and troubled? During his time of testing he should keep on praying. Is there anyone among you who is enjoying a period of happiness and prosperity? This person should sing or play songs in praise of God.

10.1 The word for afflicted in the Greek is: KAKAPATHEO meaning to undergo mental hardship and comes from KAKOS meaning evil and PATHOS meaning sadness.

10.2 A distressed or depressed person is here commanded to pray. Confession and thanksgiving for the distress will set the stage for a mental attitude of faith rest. In effect such action reminds the sufferer "sure it seems bad but by thanking God for the problem I put the entire matter into proper perspective."

11. When we need wisdom we are commanded to ask God.

Jam 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

12. We are to pray for our infirmities:

2Co 12:8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

12.1 Paul asked three times and three times he received a negative answer. He was told "my grace is sufficient for you and by means of your suffering I am glorified."

2Co 12:9 But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

2Co 12:10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

12.2 Keep in mind this is an interim age passage written in A.D. 56 some 40 years before the Canon of Scripture was completed. Do not think this verse teaches God is going to speak to you nor should you take this verse to mean you only get three shots at asking for what you want.

### **CHART REGULAR DISPENSATION**

13. It is expected of us to pray with importunity using the doctrine we have between our ears to ask properly using the mechanics set forth in the Word in our approach to the Father.

13.1 Along these lines, prayer for the Lord's work is encouraged although we must use doctrine to discern what is the Lord's work. Rom 15:30-32

Rom 15:30 Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me.

Rom 15:31 That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea; and that my service which I have for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints;

Rom 15:32 That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed.

13.2 There is a definite problem with Paul's prayer request. It was not God's will that he go to Jerusalem. He will set out for the big city anyway and the Lord will let him go but only because it is best for him to go, see his error and get his discipline. As a result, Paul, can grow in grace.

13.3 God recall had seen Paul on the time line and knew exactly what He needed. God's permissive will had Paul especially in mind and aren't you glad He did. Because from all of this came the four prison Epistles.

14. We are to pray for the rulers of the land.

1Ti 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

1Ti 2:2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

15. We are to pray for other believers with problems such as Peter when he was in prison.

Acts 12:5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

16. We are to pray for our Pastor-Teachers.

Heb 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

Heb 13:18 **Pray for us:** for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.

17. We are to pray for the sick. There is precious little Scripture to document this age old and trusted principle. But when all Scripture is analyzed in total, such authorization exists.

18. Doubtless we are better off healthy, so why would we not pray for the health of our friends and family. Notice what John says in his greeting in the third Johanian Epistle.

3Jo 2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in **health**, even as thy soul prospereth.

19. Keep in mind there are those occasions when it is God's will for us to be sick. We just noted a passage where God said He, God, is made strong in Paul's weakness which no doubt included his sickly nature and poor vision. 2Co 12:7-9

20. There is a set of specialized passages which are often misinterpreted.

Jam 5:13 Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise.

Jam 5:14 Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord.

Jam 5:15 *And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.*

Jam 5:16 *Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.*

Jam 5:17 Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.

Jam 5:18 Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

20.1 James is an early book written in about A.D. 45. It is most likely the earliest book written. Also as you interpret this verse be aware the super authority of the Apostle was active and extant. All of this is important given the fact the setting is the Interim Age when the gift of healing and Apostleship abounded.

20.2 These facts alone create doubt concerning the general application of Jam 5:14-18 to the Church Age proper.

20.2.1 We have already noted that people often do not recover from sickness. It is not proper to assume that when you are sick you are somehow out of God's will, nor are we to assume that it is always God's will we be healed.

20.3 Such false conclusions lead to the error of the Christian Scientist and many well meaning Christians. This passage has also provided impetus to the error that confession today to a church authority can result in forgiveness.

21. Now let's look at the recovery procedure involved in this unique situation: The one suffering is to receive an anointing with oil.

21.1 There are two potential meanings here: oil was often used as medicinal therapy or oil was also used in ceremonies of ordination as a symbol of congregational unity.

22. After the anointing (recall an aorist participle always precedes the action of the main verb) his pastor is to pray over him and the prayer of faith from that pastor may result in his healing.

23. It is difficult to determine why the normal remedy for a sick person is not appropriate here; perhaps the sin involved a rejection of the pastor's spiritual authority.

23.1 Col. R. B. Thieme does not believe this verse applies to the "normal sick person." A "normal sick person" in the Interim Age of the Church would receive a healing from one with the gift of healing.

23.2 Several expositors have concluded we have something unusual here. This person may very well have been guilty of refusing repeatedly the teachings of his Pastor; consequently he must meet with his pastor who will face to face provide a personal prayer but only after a reconciliation.

24. This verse would seem to be an exception to the general rule that when you sin you sin against the Lord and the Lord only and as such it is no one else's business.

Psa 51:3 For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

Psa 51:4 Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

25. Authority was unusually important in a time when there was no Canon and no rules for how the church was to conduct itself; this made for a unique Interim Age problem and thus as we see here a unique Interim Age solution.

25.1 After the passing away of the "gift of healing" we find evidence of sick people who recovered and then there is plenty of evidence that some did not recover. After the temporary gift of healing passed away the technique for healing was to get medical

therapy and prayer; as indicated there is evidence many recovered and there is evidence some did not. There was Trophimus and Epaphroditus mentioned by Paul. Epaphroditus we know recovered but we do not know if Trophimus recovered.

2Ti 4:20 Erastus abode at Corinth: but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick.

Phi 2:25 Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labor, and fellow soldier, and your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.

Phi 2:26 For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick.

Phi 2:27 For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

26. The Christian Scientist has been deluded into thinking it is never God's will for us to be sick. We must remember death is the beginning of the best part of everlasting life.

27. Prayer must be done regularly and diligently. Prayer is a natural exhale of doctrine previously cycled in the soul. It is a natural and proper function of the Body of Christ.

Col 4:2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

Col 4:3 Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:

Col 4:4 That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

28. In a series of verses where practical thoughts and actions for the believers at Rome are set forth, prayer is early exhorted. Rom 12:12-21

Rom 12:12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Rom 12:13 Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Rom 12:14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Rom 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

Rom 12:16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Rom 12:17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.

Rom 12:18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Rom 12:19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

Rom 12:20 On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

Rom 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

29. We are to pray for believers to mature.

1Co 1:4 I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;

1Co 1:5 That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge;

Col 1:9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

1Th 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2Th 3:1 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:

30. We are to pray over our food both in thanksgiving and as a way of setting it apart as clean.

1Ti 4:4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:

1Ti 4:5 For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

31. We are to pray for our friends and loved ones. 2Ti 1:3-5

2Ti 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;

2Ti 1:4 Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy;

2Ti 1:5 When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

31.1 This prayer by Paul for Timothy would seem to be without specifics which may often be the case for us; very often it is difficult and often impossible to know about what we are to pray.

32. There are three general categories of communications which God hears:

32.1 From Jesus:

Heb 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

32.2 From the Holy Spirit: Rom 8:26-27.

Rom 8:26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

Rom 8:27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

### 32.3 From Believers:

Heb 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

33. There would seem to be a "gift" of prayer; some people make better prayer warriors than others.

1Ti 5:5 Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day.

34. Prayer must always be done with understanding from cycled doctrine.

1Co 14:15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

1Co 14:16 Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?

Pro 28:9 He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.

35. Prayer is a universal mechanism available to every believer of each dispensation.

36. Christ was our example; He used prayer often:

36.1 After feeding the 5000:

Mat 14:23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

36.2 At Gethsemane He prayed:

Mat 26:36 Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.

36.3 Just before He decided to permit physical death and while He was experiencing the pain of spiritual death and separation from the other Members of the Trinity He prayed.

Mat 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

36.4 He prayed for His disciples and us as He anticipated His return to the Father.

Joh 17:1 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.

Joh 17:2 For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.

Joh 17:3 Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

Joh 17:4 I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.

Joh 17:5 And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

Joh 17:6 "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word.

Joh 17:7 Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you.

Joh 17:8 For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

Joh 17:9 I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.

Joh 17:10 All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them.

Joh 17:11 I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name--the name you gave me--so that they may be one as we are one.

Joh 17:12 While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

Joh 17:13 "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.

Joh 17:14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.

Joh 17:15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.

Joh 17:16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.

Joh 17:17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

Joh 17:18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.

Joh 17:19 For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

Joh 17:20 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,

Joh 17:21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

Joh 17:22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one:

Joh 17:23 I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Joh 17:24 "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

Joh 17:25 "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me.

Joh 17:26 I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

37. If you want results ask a righteous man to pray for you. Pro 15:8

Pro 15:8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

38. When a nation has a pivot their cumulative actions to include prayer can save a nation.

2Ch 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

39. Samuel ordered Israel to put away their idols which they did and then Samuel prayed for them and they were given a victory over the Philistines.

1Sa 7:5 And Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Mizpeh, and I will pray for you unto the LORD.

39.1 . Samuel regarded as failure his lack of prayer for Israel. The principle: a leader must pray for his flock.

1Sa 12:23 Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:

40. God hears and answers prayer:

Psa 10:17 LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear:

Psa 65:1 Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Sion: and unto thee shall the vow be performed.

Psa 65:2 O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come.

Psa 65:3 Iniquities prevail against me: as for our transgressions, thou shalt purge them away.

Psa 99:6 Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among them that call upon his name; they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.

Joh 11:41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

Joh 11:42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

41. The importance of our collective prayers as family of God is stressed in the Book of The Revelation:

Rev 5:8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odors, which are the prayers of saints.

Rev 8:3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

42. Prayer by the infidel and legalist are acts of human good.

Mat 6:7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

Mat 6:8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

43. When times are rough prayer is a powerful weapon.

44. Prayer is God's special gift to the believer for his or her time of need.

45. Prayer is effective and in the devils' world an absolute necessity.

46. Why do we pray? Because God said do it!

47. Your answer comes because you are a joint heir with Christ and a member of God's forever family.

Joh 16:25 These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father.

Joh 16:26 At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you:

48. Christ in eternity past knew about our worst day. He knew when you would be down and when you would be having a good time.

49. The Father in eternity past knew what our prayer would be, what our prayer could have been and/or what our prayer should have been.

50. God has never been unaware of anything and that includes our dreams, wants, desires etc.

51. Prayer can only be understood from a doctrinal viewpoint.

52. Prayer then is doing what God commands.

53. Prayer should be done with confidence expecting God's total and perfect solution.

54. Prayer has been made a requisite as part of worship and a means therefore for glorifying God.

55. The need for persistence in prayer is described in two of our Lord's parables.

Luk 11:5 Then he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,

Luk 11:6 because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.'

Luk 11:7 "Then the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.'

Luk 11:8 I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

Luk 11:9 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

Luk 11:10 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

Luk 11:11 "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead?

Luk 11:12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?

Luk 11:13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Luk 18:1 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

Luk 18:2 He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men.

Luk 18:3 And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

Luk 18:4 "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men,

Luk 18:5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!'"

Luk 18:6 And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says.

56. In closing our study on prayer I would leave you with this anecdote. There was a Christian who attempted to sail across the Pacific. After a series of miraculous escapes his efforts were finally undermined by a terrible storm and he became ship wrecked on a deserted island. And though he prayed continually to the Father in the power of the Spirit in the name of the Son, God just did not answer or so he thought.

56.1 He built himself a small house and made the best of what looked to be an extended stay. One day after returning from the beach where he would often fish, he found his house ablaze. He was devastated believing God must somehow be undeservedly punishing him. The believer recalled his many prayers for help and how God had refused his plaintiff calls. The despondent believer made his way to the beach where he thought seriously of ending it all by simply swimming out to sea. To his great surprise he was met by a small-boat coming ashore with a rescue party from a tanker ship anchored a ways out. When he asked how did you know I was here the captain of the tanker rather matter of factly said - - "from the deck we could all clearly see the smoke from your signal fire."

RTF