

LEARN TO PRAY

1. What is Prayer?

- a. Conversation with God.
- b. Dialogue between two persons who love each other.
- c. Communion between two kindred spirits.
- d. Children talking with their Father.
- e. Finite communing with Infinite; creature communing with the Creator.
- f. The breath of soul.
- g. Letting Jesus into our needs. Giving Him permission to employ His power to alleviate our distress.
- h. An honest, open confession of need. An acknowledgement of helplessness.

2. Why Pray?

- a. Jesus told us to. Luke 18:1
- b. His example teaches us to. Matthew 14:23; Mark 1:35
- c. Our own helplessness and inadequacy compels us to. John 15:5
- d. The results demand that we do. Matthew 7:7-8; Philippians 4:5-7; 1 Peter 5:7
- e. Maintaining continuity of fellowship with God requires it. Matthew 6:6; 1 John 1:9; 2 Chronicles 7:14
- f. Our longing after God compels us to.

3. Hindrances to Prayer

- a. Self-conscious awareness of others.
- b. Lack of knowledge and experience.
- c. Preconceived misconceptions regarding:
 1. Language to be used; style, quality, vocabulary.
 2. Length of prayers.
 3. Form.
 4. Posture, place, time, circumstance.
- d. Lack of discipline.
- e. Failure to see the need.
- f. Pride.
- g. Timidity. 2 Timothy 1:7

4. Essentials to Prayer

- a. Faith. Hebrews 11:6; James 1:6-8; Matthew 21:21-22; Mark 9:23-24; Mark 11:24
- b. According to God's will. I John 5:14-15; James 4:3
- c. In Jesus' name. John 14:13-16
- d. In purity of heart. Psalm 66:18; Proverbs 28:9
- e. Complete forgiveness for all others. Mark 11:25; Matthew 6:12; Colossians 3:13

5. New Testament Prayers

- a. Matthew 6:9-13
- b. Ephesians 1;16-23; 3:14-21
- c. Philippians 1:9-11
- d. Colossians 1:9-13
- e. Jude 24-25

6. Helpful Suggestions

- a. Be honest.
- b. Be frank.
- c. Be confident. Philippians 4:6
- d. Be yourself.
- e. Be brief and to the point. (groups)
- f. Be constantly aware of God's presence.
- g. Be bold.
- h. Pray aloud.
- i. Pray at appointed times and as you are made aware of needs. Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- j. Pray unselfishly with regard to time and frequency. (group)

7. The Advantage of Praying with Fellow Christians

- a. Because of the promise of Jesus for such. Matthew 18:19-20
- b. Because of the power of the sum total of the whole is greater than the power of the individual sum total.
- c. Because burdens shared become lighter. Galatians 6:2
- d. Because together we become bold and honest and ask for things that we never intended.
- e. Because it unites us with other brothers and sisters in trust, love, and concern.
- f. Because it helps deliver us from our self-consciousness, timidity, and develops a Godly boldness within us.
- g. It serves to encourage us as we learn that other believers are being confronted with the same problems, tensions, failures, ect. as we are.