

Praying To Get Results!

Lecture 1 – What Is Prayer, God, The
Heavenly Realms, Battles In The
Heavenly Realms

Prayer In The N.T. Church Life

James 5:13-18 (HCSB)

13 Is anyone among you suffering? He should pray. Is anyone cheerful? He should sing praises. 14 Is anyone among you sick? He should call for the elders of the church, and they should pray over him after anointing him with olive oil in the name of the Lord. 15 The prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will restore him to health; if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. 16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The urgent request of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours; yet he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the land. 18 Then he prayed again, and the sky gave rain and the land produced its fruit.

The Greek Words For Prayer

- **Euchomai / Proseuchomai**– to **pray**, to indicate a wish or desire (for something) to God, to make a general request or intercession (131 uses)
- **Aiteo / Erotao**– to **ask** a petition of a King or official on the basis of some legal right, to insist, to make a legitimate demand, to pray, to petition God. To demand the completion of something not done. (128 uses)
- **Deomai / Deesis** – to **beseech**, supplicate, implore, make a very urgent demand. (40 uses)
- **Entynchanō** – **Intercede / make intercession** – to ask on the basis of deep personal relationship such as Christ or the Holy Spirit interceding with God for us. (8 uses)

Prayer Is NOT Just Conversation

- Biblical prayer always answers the question “what do you want” and always has a specific result in mind.
- Even long prayers such as Abraham’s petition about Sodom and Gomorrah had an end result in mind “what about 40” etc. They were not just a “chat about things in Heaven..”
- Even the Lord’s Prayer expects results: thy kingdom come, God’s will to be done, daily bread, forgiveness, protection etc.
- Jesus’ prayer in John 17 asks for specifics such as unity, sanctification with the Word, fruitfulness, that many may believe etc.

The Throne

- The central reality in Heaven is the Throne (Revelation chapters 4&5)
- The Throne is the center of a heavenly government with millions of angels, elders, living creatures etc carrying out God's commands
- Christian's prayers rise as incense before the Throne and are granted with power. (Revelation 5:8, 8:3-5)
- We come as supplicants before God's Throne asking for things that are in His will and He hears us because of Christ (1 John 5:14,15)

Some Results We Can Expect

- *Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives to all generously and without criticizing, and it will be given to him. (James 1:5)*
- *Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few.³⁸ Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest." (Matthew 9:37,38)*
- *Jesus answered them, "I assure you: If you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you tell this mountain, 'Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' it will be done. 22 And if you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer." (Matthew 21:21-22)*

More Results

- **Matthew 24:20-21** *Pray that your escape may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. 21 For at that time there will be great tribulation, the kind that hasn't taken place from the beginning of the world until now and never will again!*
- **Luke 1:13** *But the angel said to him: Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John.*
- **Luke 21:36** *But be alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place and to stand before the Son of Man."*

Yet More Results...

- **Luke 22:32** *But I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And you, when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.*
- **Luke 22:40** *When He reached the place, He told them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation."*
- **John 17:15** *I am not praying that You take them out of the world but that You protect them from the evil one.*
- **John 17:19-21** *I sanctify Myself for them, so they also may be sanctified by the truth. 20 I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in Me through their message. 21 May they all be one, as You, Father, are in Me and I am in You. May they also be one in Us, so the world may believe You sent Me.*

Are You Getting The Point???

- **Acts 4:29-31** *And now, Lord, consider their threats, and grant that Your slaves may speak Your message with complete boldness, 30 while You stretch out Your hand for healing, signs, and wonders to be performed through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.” 31 When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak God’s message with boldness.*
- **Acts 8:15-17** *After they went down there, they prayed for them, so the Samaritans might receive the Holy Spirit. 16 For He had not yet come down on any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.*

The Last Prayer In The N.T.

- **Revelation 8:3-5 (HCSB)**
- *3 Another angel, with a gold incense burner, came and stood at the altar. He was given a large amount of incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the gold altar in front of the throne. 4 The smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up in the presence of God from the angel’s hand. 5 The angel took the incense burner, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it to the earth; there were rumblings of thunder, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.*

Experiencing Real Prayer

The things that the Bible says are true, really true!

And you can receive them and experience them by faith.

That is by believing them and acting on them in the light of their real and actual reliable truth.

The promises in the Bible are never activated by thought alone or by study alone.

They are activated by prayerfully believing, receiving, and acting upon them in wisdom and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Power Tools

- Most people are comfortable with hand tools (hammers, screwdrivers, wrenches) but a bit afraid of power tools (band-saws, circular saws, planers etc).
- Power tools only work when they are plugged in, switched on, and the trigger is pulled and they need to be used wisely and within the instruction manual.
- Prayer is a power tool that only works when we are plugged into Christ, switched on in prayer, pull the trigger of faith and prayer needs to be used wisely and Biblically.
- Prayer is not a “hand tool” and does not rely on human strength, wisdom or knowledge but on the power of the Holy Spirit!

So Why Don't We Get Results?

- Doubt / Double-Mindedness (James 1:5-8)
- Unbelief (Matthew 13:58, Mark 6:5,6)
- Not Asking (James 4:1-3)
- Asking for Carnal Desires (James 4:1-3)
- Spiritual Pride (Luke 18:9-14)
- Being Rude, Inconsiderate or Unjust (1 Peter 3:7)
- Doing Evil (1 Peter 3:12)
- Unforgiveness (Mark 11:25,26)
- Wrath / Anger (1 Timothy 2:8)
- Lack of Persistence (Luke 18:1-9)
- We Have To Ask In God's Will (1 John 5:14,15)
- We Have To Ask In Jesus' Name & Authority (John 14:13,14)

What Can I Pray For?

- **John 14:12-15** *12 "I assure you: The one who believes in Me will also do the works that I do. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 Whatever you ask in My name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. 15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commands.*
- **John 15:7** *If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you.*
- **John 15:16** *You did not choose Me, but I chose you. I appointed you that you should go out and produce fruit and that your fruit should remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give you.*

The Pathway to Answered Prayer

- **1 John 3:21-24** *Dear friends, if our conscience doesn't condemn us, we have confidence before God 22 and can receive **whatever we ask** from Him because we keep His commands and do what is pleasing in His sight. 23 Now this is His command: that we **believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another as He commanded us.** 24 **The one who keeps His commands remains in Him, and He in him. And the way we know that He remains in us is from the Spirit He has given us.***
- **Faith + Love + Abiding + Asking = Answered Prayer**

Who Is God and What Does He Want?

1. God is a King with a Kingdom (Matthew 6:9-13)
2. God is the Lord of the Harvest (Matthew 9:37,38)
3. God is the Head of the Church (Ephesians 1:22,23)
4. God is the Creator and Provider of All Things (Acts 14:15,17)
5. God Wants The Lost Saved (2 Peter 3:9, Matt 18:11, Lk 19:10)
6. God Wants the Saints Made Perfect (Ephesians 4:12)
7. God is Our Father Who Gives Us Good Things (Luke 11:11-13)

Praying Specifically

- Pray authoritatively, with a clear vision of the desired end result in mind e.g. : *“In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk...”* (Acts 3)
- Call forth “the things that are not as if they are” (Romans 4)
- Pray FOR the solution rather than ABOUT the problem e.g pray for salvation, healing, peace rather than children astray, sickness and conflict.
- Jesus sometimes asked people to clarify their desires by asking questions such as “What do you want me to do for you?” or “Do you want to get well..?”

The Spiritual Realms

- Christianity is not just ideas such as theology & cognitive content!
- Christianity is not just emotions such as spiritual experiences!
- Christianity is not just inward existential depth and mysticism!
- Christianity is not just social and cultural rituals and traditions!
- Christianity is not just behavioral, full of morals and good works!
- **Christianity involves an active participation in the Spiritual Realms which are real places filled with real actual spiritual beings and real actual spiritual forces:**
God, angels, archangels, cherubim, seraphim, demons, powers, principalities, thrones, dominions, just men made perfect, blessings, curses, prophecies, altars, temples, Heavenly Watchers, Beasts, the First, Second and Third Heavens, the Pit, the Lake of Fire and so on....
(see Isaiah 6:1-7 and Daniel 7:9,10 as examples)

Jesus & The Spiritual Universe

- 12 legions of angels at His command (Matthew 26:53)
- His life a fulfillment of prophetic Scriptures (Matthew 26:54)
- God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who are still living and resurrection is a reality (Matthew 22:29-32)
- Is transfigured and talks with Moses and Elijah (Matt 17:1-8)
- At Jesus’ baptism by a prophet Heaven is opened, God speaks, the Holy Spirit descends as a dove (Matthew 13:13-17)
- A special star portends His birth and he is born in a Bethlehem as a fulfillment of prophecy, and God appears in dreams to the wise men, Joseph etc (Matthew 2:1-12)
- Jesus is driven into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit, and is tempted by the Devil, to do things such as turning stones into bread and angels minister to Him (Matthew 4:1-11)

The Great Separation

- In Genesis 1 & 2 everything was good and Heaven and Earth were in harmony and the Garden of Eden contained spiritual properties. Then Adam and Eve sinned and we lost access to heavenly things. A great curse was placed over mankind and the earth. Eventually this age was brought to an end by the Flood.
- Since then God has slowly be reuniting Heaven and earth, through Abraham, through Israel and the Temple, through the incarnate and victorious Christ, through the Church, through the outpoured Holy Spirit and the gifts and in the end God’s dwelling place will be with men in a new, reunited Heavens and earth and all evil will be removed.

The Kosmos (World)

- The kosmos is the ancient astrological (evil) heavens and the world in rebellion against God, the Devil's earth without Heaven. When Jesus announced the "Kingdom of Heaven is at hand" he was announcing the end of the kosmos and its tyranny over men and his healing miracles proved this.
- The Devil's kosmos is "passing away" along with the lusts thereof. The Devil controls it and even offered it to Jesus (Luke 4:1-13). The Great Commission is destroying the kosmos and eventually it will reach the point where Satan is cast out.
- Satan deceives the kings of the earth by promising them exalted positions in the kosmos (Masonry etc) and he is assisted by earth-dwellers (people who love earth without heaven and wish to sin and worship idols)

Christians and The Spiritual Universe

- Pentecost baptizes us into the spiritual world:
Acts 2:16-18 (NET)
- *16 But this is what was spoken about through the prophet Joel: 17 'And in the last days it will be,' God says, 'that I will pour out my Spirit on all people, and your sons and your daughters will prophesy, and your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. 18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.*
- As participants in Heaven we are to leave the kosmos and its evil order behind us: 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, 1 John 2:15-17

The Heavenly Zion

Hebrews 12:18-24 (NET)

- *18 For you have not come to something that can be touched, to a burning fire and darkness and gloom and a whirlwind 19 and the blast of a trumpet and a voice uttering words such that those who heard begged to hear no more. 20 For they could not bear what was commanded: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned." 21 In fact, the scene was so terrifying that Moses said, "I shudder with fear." 22 **But you have come to Mount Zion, the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the assembly 23 and congregation of the firstborn, who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous, who have been made perfect, 24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks of something better than Abel's does.***

Christians Already Belong In Heaven!

- We have come (past tense) to the heavenly Zion
- We ARE citizens of Heaven
- We are part of God's household
- We are sons of God
- We are Jesus' brethren
- We have died and been raised with Christ and our life is hidden with God in Christ
- Hebrews 12:18-24
- Galatians 4:26
- Hebrews 2:10-18
- Romans 8:14-17
- Ephesians 2:6; 1:20,21
- Ephesians 2:19
- Philippians 3:20,21
- 1 John 3:1-3
- Colossians 3:1-4
- Romans 6:1-11

Faith In The Invisible (Hebrews 11)

- Faith involves an understanding of the spiritual and invisible realm that creates forms and undergirds this Universe and its operation. (Hebrews 11:1-3)
- Faith believes that God the Creator is in charge and that He rewards those who seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6)
- Faith enables mystery, adventure and impossibility (v 4-22)
- Faith seeks the “City that is to come, a heavenly city” (v. 16)
- Faith sees, believes and relies on the invisible realm for tangible solutions to real world problems (v. 23-34)
- Faith trusts God’s invisible heavenly solutions even when earthly existence is painful and disappointing (v. 35-40)

The Throne of God

- The central reality in every major vision of Heaven is the Throne of God!
- Revelation chapters 4 & 5, 20:11-15 and Daniel 7:1-14
- This throne controls the Heavens and the Earth and the entire natural and supernatural order
- Genesis 1, Colossians 1:15-20, Hebrews 1:1-3, John 1:1-3
- The gospel of the Almighty Creator God: Revelation 14:6,7
- Read Jonah chapter 1 and look for God’s throne-room control of earthly events both natural and supernatural!

The Throne of Satan

- Satan had a “throne” the pagan altar to Zeus in Pergamum, which has now been rebuilt in Berlin.
- Satan’s throne is on earth! In a building made with human hands!
- God does not dwell in buildings made by human hands (1 Kings 8:27, Isaiah 66:1 Acts 7:48, 17:24,25 2 Corinthians 5:1)
- Satan’s power is tiny compared with the power of God Almighty
- Satan controls human systems simply through human weakness and sin and through deception.
- Satan has no consistent creative power over the natural order! (though perhaps as occasional small storm etc)

The Conflict

- Is invisible
- Is spiritual
- Involves angels, powers and principalities
- Does *not* involve human weapons of warfare
- Does *not* fight for the kingdoms of this world
- Ephesians 6:10-20
- 2 Cor 10:3-5
- Daniel 10:1-14
- John 18:36

The Two Kingdoms

- The Kingdom of His Beloved Son / of Light
- The Kingdom of Darkness
- The sons of God
- The sons of the Devil
- Colossians 1:11-20
- 1 John 1:5-10, 2:8-11
- John 1:12
- Romans 8:14-25
- 1 John 3:1-3, 8, 10
- Hebrews 2:10-18 cf. Matthew 3:7-10
- John 6:70, 8:44
- Matthew 13:37-42
- Acts 13:10

Three Main Types of Demons

1. **Those in the "air" and the spiritual realms**
Ephesians 2:1-4, 6:12, Rev 9:20, 12:1-9, 16:14, John 10:10
Cultural, religious and territorial influence, idolatry, cults, resist the gospel, deceive the kings of the earth, create wars, create rebellion, instigate crime and disobedience.
2. **Those that occupy human bodies**
Mark 5:1-17, Acts 16:16-18,
Personal and minor regional influence
Madness, disease, occult prediction, some criminal acts
3. **Those chained in darkness under the Earth.**
Jude 1:6, 2 Peter 2:4, Revelation 9:1-12, 11:7, 17:8
Archetypes, ruled the ancient world, founded the world religions and ancient myths and legends
Ancient spirits in rebellion, now judged, but may be released for a brief period during the Tribulation when the Pit is opened and Abbadon/ Apollyon is released..

The Combatants

- **Jesus vs. Satan** Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13
- **Good Angels vs Evil Angels:** Daniel 10:1-14, Rev 12:1-12
- **Christians vs Evil Angels:** Eph 6:10ff, Rev 12:11
- **Apostles vs. Major Demons:** Acts 19:13-20
- **Apostles vs Magicians:** Acts 8:9-24, 13:6-12
- **Apostles vs Cultural Ideas:** 2 Corinthians 10:2-6
- **Prophets vs. False Worship:** (1 Kings 18)
- **Evangelists vs Personal Demons :** (Acts 8, 19 etc)
- **Pastors vs Doctrines of Demons:** 1 Tim 4:1-10
- **Teachers vs. Heresies :** (Ephesians 4:11-16)
- **Anointed Christians vs Unclean Spirits:** Acts 5:16, 8:7

The Three Big Battles

- **The Battle For Israel** (to prevent the birth of the Messiah) as recorded in the Old Testament and the Gospels esp. Matthew.
- **The Battle For The Church**, the body of Christ. The war against the saints. Aims to delay the return of Christ who will return with all His "holy ones", this is the battle to prevent the salvation of the lost, the maturing of Christians and the perfection of the Church in all nations. This is recorded in the Gospels, Acts and the Epistles
- **The Battle for Final World Dominion and Government**, Satan tries to hold on to earth but He knows that his time is short, persecutes the Church, takes over all structures of human government and puts up a last-ditch stand at Armageddon. This is mainly recorded in Revelation, Daniel, Ezekiel and other prophetic literature.

The Weapons Of Our Warfare

- Not Carnal (not guns, swords, tanks etc) also not soul-ish e.g. rage and fury, or sins or devious plots. We cannot win a spiritual victory through carnal behavior such as lies, divisions and sorcery (Galatians 5:19-21)
- But Spiritual (prayer, Scripture, authority, spiritual gifts, the armor of God, truth, righteousness, faith, peace, salvation, zeal, persistence in doing good, suffering, wisdom, revelation, knowledge, fearlessness, a good testimony, the power of God)
- Ephesians 6:10-20; Revelation 2:16, 2 Corinthians 10:2-6
1 Timothy 6:12, 2 Timothy 4:7;
Colossians 4:12; Philippians 1:27-30

The Victory Of Faith

- **1 John 5:1-5 (EMTV) 1 John 5**
- *Everyone that believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone that loves Him that begot also loves him that is begotten of Him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, whenever we love God and keep His commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome, 4 because everything having been born of God overcomes the world: and this is the victory that has overcome the world—your faith. 5 Who is he that overcomes the world, if not he that believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

The Victorious Mind

- **Romans 8:4-6 (EMTV)**
- *4 so that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.*

The Overcomer

- **1 John 4:4 (EMTV)** *You are of God, little children, and you have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*
- **Revelation 12:10-11 (EMTV)** *Then I heard a loud voice in heaven saying, "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ, because the accuser of our brothers, the one who accused them before our God day and night, has been thrown out of heaven. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.*