

PRAYER
WHAT SHOULD I ASK FOR?
Part 1
10/16/11 PM

God has called us into fellowship with Himself.

1 Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

God continuously calls for us to pray.

John 16:24 "Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.

Colossians 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer . . .

1 Thessalonians 5:17 pray without ceasing;

Hebrews 4:16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

God has made prayer the primary human factor in the accomplishment of His plan on earth.

Jesus saw prayer as a necessity while He was here on earth.

He would often slip away to pray. cf Luke 5:16

Sometimes all night cf Luke 6:12

Prayer was vital to the success of the early church

Acts 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

The apostles saw the necessity of prayer.

Acts 6:4 "But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

Yet the conclusion of a study of churches in America found the one thing that most have in common is a lack of prayer.

Thousands of pastors, Sunday school teachers, and leading church laymen attended a greater Los Angeles Sunday School convention a few years ago.

A survey found that less than 5% indicated that they consistently spent 30 minutes a day in prayer.

Another poll of “born again” Christians found that they spent an average of 59 seconds a day in prayer.

The average pastor prayed 6 minutes a day.

We, like Jesus and the apostles, are dependent upon prayer.

James 4:2 . . . You do not have because you do not ask.

Prayer is the primary human factor in the accomplishment of God’s plan on earth.

But what does God want us to pray for?

1. Pray for your daily needs cf Matthew 6:9-10
2. Pray for God’s kingdom and glory Matthew 6:11
3. Pray for wisdom and understanding

James 1:5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

Colossians 1:9 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding

Cf Ephesians 1:16ff; 3:16-20; Philippians 1:9

4. Pray for guidance cf Acts 13:1-3

The church at Antioch prayed for guidance before they selected Paul and Barnabas to go out as the first missionaries.

5. Pray for health cf James 5:13-16

James 5:13-16 Is anyone among you suffering? *Then* he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? *Then* he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; ¹⁵ and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. ¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be

healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

6. Pray for spiritual strength

Ephesians 3:16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man

7. Victory over Satan's trials and temptations

Luke 22:31-32 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded *permission* to sift you like wheat; ³² but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

Ephesians 6:18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints

8. Pray for the unsaved, including our nation's leaders.

1 Timothy 2:1-4 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties *and* prayers, petitions *and* thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, ² for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Cf Nehemiah 1:11