

April 30, 2017

Worship in Prayer Matthew 6:9-13

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

Prayer is man's great opportunity to _____ out his heart to God, the Father. In this lesson, we'll explore ways to make our prayer lives more meaningful. The Bible opens up the _____ of God for us, and we want to know as much about God as possible.

God has _____ us with the privilege of prayer. Our Father in Heaven keeps His _____ open every moment of our lives. We might go to sleep _____ to Him, but He never goes to sleep on us. The Bible simply says, "pray without _____" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). No one can pray twenty-four hours a day. That's not what this passage is saying. Rather, God wants us to make prayer a daily _____ and never quit on Him. When we begin to understand our complete dependence on God, we also begin to understand what a _____ it is to pray.

One of the most important moments of life comes when we awaken to our _____ for God and our inability to manage life on our own. Abraham Lincoln said: "I've been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go." We sometimes _____ we have everywhere else to go—doctors, lawyers, professors, banks, or schools. Many people have _____ their need for God. When people imagine that they can get along just fine without God, they cease to pray and start losing their _____.

Prayer is the thermometer of our _____ lives. A person who ceases to pray starts moving _____ from God. One who prays only when he's in _____ has little understanding of God. Prayer is how we grow close to God, how we _____ close to Him. So we need prayer for our spirits just like we need _____ for our lungs.

Our reading today comes from the words of Jesus when He teaches His disciples how to pray. Matthew 6:9-13.

Prayer is one of the _____ moments of life. Prayer is personal time with our Father in Heaven in which we _____ our hearts. In prayer, we honor and recognize the _____ God has in our lives. We hallow the _____ of our Father. To hallow is to honor as _____. God's name is already holy. But we need to say with our prayers what the twenty-four elders who surrounded the throne of God said, "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created" (Revelation 4:11).

Jesus prayed _____ and fervently. Luke 5:6 says, "Jesus Himself would often _____ away to the wilderness and pray." In Luke 6:12, before He appointed _____, Jesus "went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole _____ in prayer to God." When Jesus was being crucified, he began His _____ with prayer, "Father, forgive them, for they know

not what they are doing.” He ended His time on the _____ in prayer, “Father, into Your hands I commit my spirit.” That’s Luke 23:34 and 46. If the Lord Jesus Himself had such a need for prayer, certainly we need to pray as well.

The Lord Jesus taught to us pray to “Our Father.” When we pray as Christians, we can _____ God’s throne because of our relationship with Jesus Christ. Jesus didn’t say, “My Father”; He said, “Our Father.” Every Christian is a _____ of God. Galatians 3:26-27 says, “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were _____ into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” Because we’re sons of God through Jesus, we have _____ to the Father. When we pray to the Father, we should pray in the _____ of the Lord Jesus. The Lord said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you” (John 16:23).

Our Father lovingly and wondrously _____ us to pray. God already knows what’s on our hearts. The Lord said, “your Father knows what you need before you _____ Him” (Matthew 6:8). The Lord wants us to pray, because it’s important for us to approach God for our needs, to _____ Him for all that He has done, and to remind ourselves of our utter dependence upon our Father in Heaven. **Read what the Lord said in Matthew 7:7-11.**

We don’t have a reluctant God who _____ us. We don’t have to _____ God to let us pray. Our God is not like the _____ gods of the Gentiles who cried out with “meaningless repetitions.” No! God wants us to pray, just as any father wants to _____ from his children. God wants to _____ our lives.

When you ask of God, ask in _____. **Read what Jesus said in Mark 11:22-24. Read what the Bible says in James 1:5-8.**

Sometimes people pray for the _____ things. When we ask God to bless us, we should consider whether what we are asking is God’s _____. Our desires and God’s will are not always the _____. The Bible says, “This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything _____ to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we also know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him” (1 John 5:14-15).

When you pray, do not ask with _____ motives. **Read James 4:1-3.**

When people ask God to bless them so they can fulfill the desires that arise from their conflicts and envious ways, God refuses to _____. He is not interested in blessing people to further their wrong _____ and sinful attitudes. God doesn’t help people _____ or fulfill their lusts. Their prayers actually crowd God out, because they’re thinking more of _____ than they are of God’s will.

God wills that we pray for material blessings. That’s true. After all, Jesus taught us to pray, “Give us this day our _____ bread.” In praying that, we’re not praying for _____ but for bread. God will give us bread, which is necessary for _____ but not necessarily for luxuries.

Some preachers, to hear their message, think the most important thing is to be _____

blessed in this life. In the name of God, they make outlandish _____ while they hope to exploit people. Don't be deceived by these preachers. God provides for our needs to do His _____, but the Lord is not interested in supplying selfish desires.

The Lord _____ us to pray, "Thy will be done." He prayed that in great _____ while in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus knew of the _____ that He would bear in the scourging and in the crucifixion. Jesus knew that He had to bear the punishment for the sins of the whole world. He prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will" (Matthew 26:39). He didn't want to bear that cup of wrath; yet He knew He must.

For Jesus, doing the will of the Father was more _____ than His own desires or comfort. He wanted to _____ His Father and to bless you and me with forgiveness more than He wanted freedom from pain. There is something worse than physical pain, and that's for anyone to be _____ in sin. Jesus was willing to bear the terrible pain of physical death so that He could _____ us from spiritual death caused by sin.

We too should pray "Thy will be done." Wouldn't this be a wonderful _____ if everyone prayed for God's will to be done and then practiced the will of God? We need the will of God to be done in our lives! If people did God's will, they would cease to be criminals, cease to be violent, and learn how to _____. This would bring _____. If people would repent of sin and follow the Lord's way, we would see a tremendous _____ in our lives, our homes, our communities, and our country.

On the other hand, Psalm 66:18 says, "If I regard wickedness in my heart, the Lord will not _____." If I allow sin to be the focus of my heart, I can't imagine that God is willing to hear my prayer and bless me with a positive _____. Sometimes people imagine sin will bring them happiness and explain their behavior with the statement, "God just wants me to be _____." No, God doesn't want that kind of happiness. The Lord desires that we find lasting _____ of righteous living, not the temporary happiness of sin.

When you pray to God asking for forgiveness, be _____ to grant forgiveness, too. If you have an unforgiving spirit, you can't _____ God to forgive you. The Lord said, "Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions" (Mark 11:25). Matthew 6:14 says, "But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions."

Our prayers can be hindered if we _____ our loved ones. The Bible says to husbands, "You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she's a woman; and show her honor as a fellow _____ of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered" (1 Peter 3:7). We cannot mistreat each other, husbands or wives, parents or children, and expect to be _____ to live in harmony with God.

Our prayers matter to God! The Lord told His disciples in the Garden, "Watch and pray that you may not enter into _____. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is _____" (Matthew 26:41). When we want to do the right thing, God is there to _____. Psalm 34:15

says, “The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and His ears are open to their cry.”

When we pray, let’s _____ on the Lord to answer. He knows the right time to answer a prayer, but His time may not be ours. We may not be _____ for His answer. I love the faith of Jeremiah who suffered much for his faith, but he kept _____ to the Lord. He wrote, “The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him” (Lamentations 3:25). Yes, the Lord wants us to persevere in prayer and not lose _____ (Luke chapter 18).

The apostle Paul said, “And my God will _____ all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19). I also recall 2 Corinthians 9:8, which says, “And God is able to make all _____ abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed.” Oh, we need to give ourselves to the will of God; and then His grace will abundantly supply our every _____.

When you’re troubled, pray. The Bible says, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7). Oh, God will set a _____ around your heart and give you amazing peace when you take your concerns and worries to Him.

When Darius, the king of Persia, made a law against praying to anyone but him, Daniel _____. He knew that he _____ God. Daniel would rather spend one _____ in a lion’s den than to lose one day in prayer to God. Don’t let even one day go by without prayer.

God will always act wisely and in our _____ interests. Romans 8:28 says, “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who _____ God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” We can believe God will help us through every _____. We may not always understand what, how, or why God is doing what He’s doing; but God _____ what we don’t know, and He _____ what we can’t see. Trust God!

An unknown confederate soldier was found dead with these words in his pocket: “I asked God for strength that I might achieve; He made me weak that I might obey. I asked for health that I might do great things; He gave me grace that I might do better things. I asked for riches that I might be happy; He gave me poverty that I might be wise. I asked for power that I might have the praise of men; He gave me weakness that I might feel a need of God. I asked for all things that I might enjoy life; He gave me life that I might enjoy all things. I received nothing I had asked for; He gave me all that I had hoped for.”

Oh, I tell you, let’s pray God’s _____ be done in our lives. Friends, please pray for this gospel ministry. Ask God to open a _____ to us for the Word, that we might declare the gospel clearly, boldly, and with love. Ephesians 3:20 says God is “able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the _____ that works within us.” Prayer puts the power of God to work in our lives.