



Prayer That
Works

Grace Growth Group

Review

From last week:

- Resources: did you take advantage of the resources?
- Application Steps: did you apply the principles from the previous session? If so, how did you and what did you find?

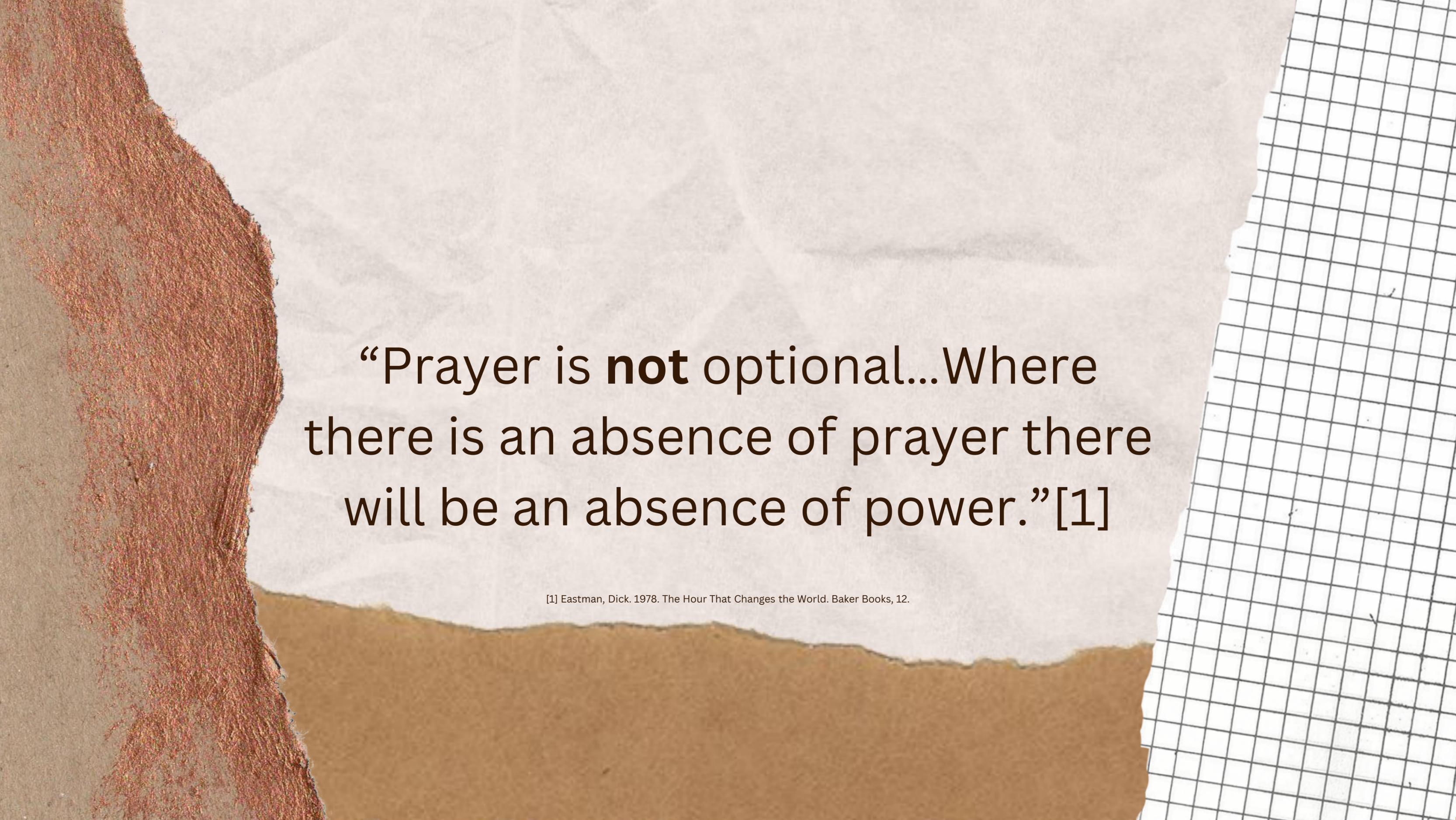
Study Guide

Prayer That Works

- Opening thoughts
- Why pray?
- **What is prayer?**
- When should we prayer?
- Where should we pray?
- How should we pray?
- What are the keys to effective prayer?
- How can we pray for an hour?

What Is Prayer?

Prayer
That Works



“Prayer is **not** optional...Where there is an absence of prayer there will be an absence of power.”[1]

[1] Eastman, Dick. 1978. The Hour That Changes the World. Baker Books, 12.

What Prayer Is Not

- Vain repetition: mindless recitations
- Manipulation: manipulating God do what we want through endless repetition
- One-way conversation: religious, rote ritual

What Prayer
Is

What Prayer Is: Communication

“Prayer ... [is] **communication** with God.”[1]

[1] Jason Ehmann, Teach Us to Pray, Positive Action for Christ, Inc.: Whitakers, NC, 9.

In its basic form, prayer is talking to God--
communication or conversation--
but at the deeper level, it is so much more...

What Prayer Is: Communion

“It is divine **communion** with our heavenly Father.”[1]

[1] Eastman, Dick. 1978. *The Hour That Changes the World*. Baker Books, 11.

Communion: Sharing, Togetherness



How do we develop
communion with God?

What Prayer Is: Connection

“Prayer is the **contact** of a living soul with God. In prayer, God stoops to kiss man, to bless man, and to aid in everything that God can devise or man can need.”[1]

Prayer is **connecting** with God.
“The beginning of prayer: the becoming attuned or **connected** with God, the Source of all strength and power.”[1]

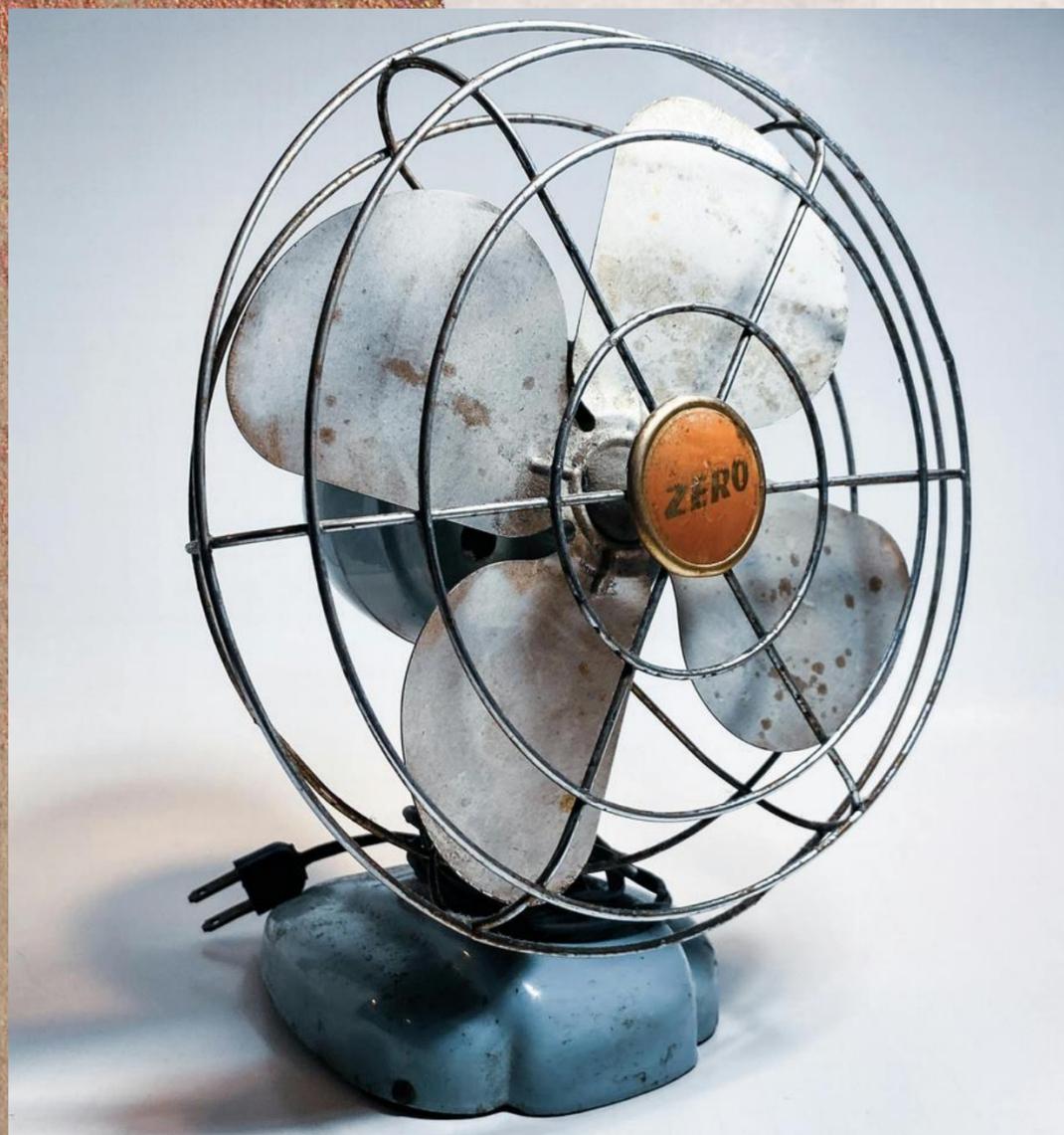
[1] Eastman, Dick. 1978. The Hour That Changes the World. Baker Books, 11.

[1] Charles Allen, All Things Are Possible Through Prayer, Jove Publications, Inc: Madison, NY, 1958, 17.

Connection = Power

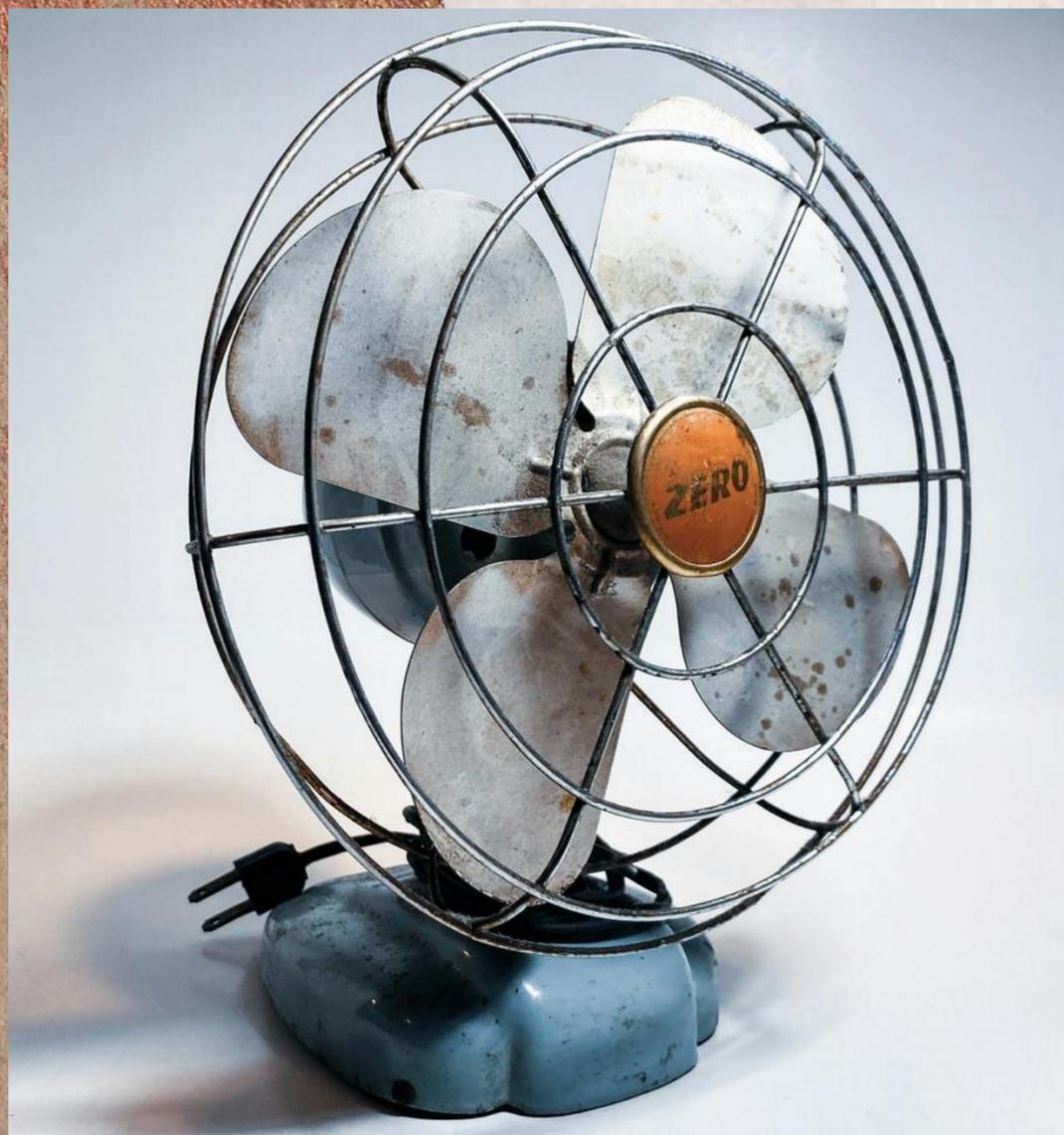


No Connection = No Power



What breaks our
connection with God?

No Connection = No Power



**Prayer Principle #1:
No purpose = No power**

**The chief purpose of
prayer is to advance
God's will.**

Notable Definitions

“Prayer is a sincere, sensible, affectionate pouring out of the heart or soul to God, through Christ, in the strength and assistance of the Holy Spirit, for such things as God has promised, or according to his Word, for the good of the church, with submission in faith to the will of God.”[1]

[1] Jason Ehmann, Teach Us to Pray, Positive Action for Christ, Inc.: Whitakers, NC, 9.

Notable Definitions

Prayer is “an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to His will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of His mercies.”[1]

[1] Jason Ehmann, Teach Us to Pray, Positive Action for Christ, Inc.: Whitakers, NC, 9.

Working Definition

“Prayer ... [is] communication with God, from our hearts, for our needs, for God’s praise, through Christ, according to God’s will, and for His glory.”[1]

[1] Jason Ehmann, Teach Us to Pray, Positive Action for Christ, Inc.: Whitakers, NC, 9.

Prayer Is...

Prayer Is...

1. Communication



Prayer Is...

1. Communication
2. with God

Prayer Is...

With God implies...

- The presence of God
- The personality of God

Prayer Is...

Prayer Principle #2:
Be real. Be reverent.



Prayer Is...

1. Communication
2. with God
3. from our hearts

Prayer Is...

From our hearts implies...

- Sincerity: open and honest

O Lord, Thou hast searched me, and known me...Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalm 139:1, 23-24



Prayer Is...

1. Communication
2. with God
3. from our hearts
4. for our needs

Prayer Is...

Jesus said to pray,
"Give us this day our daily bread."

Matt. 6:11

Prayer Is...

“As our loving Father, God has promised to give us ... good things (Ps. 84:11) and to provide for our needs (Matt. 6:25-26) if we ask Him. We show dependence and humility when we make requests of God, recognizing that He alone exists as the all-sufficient answer to our problems.”[1] ***Asking for needs is a form of worship.***

[1] Jason Ehmann, Teach Us to Pray, Positive Action for Christ, Inc.: Whitakers, NC, 10.



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Prayer Is...

For our needs

- Needs v. Wants

Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Ps. 37:4

Prayer Principle #3: When our wants match God's will, way, and when, God will provide our desires.

Prayer Is...

1. Communication
2. with God
3. from our hearts
4. for our needs
5. for His praise

Prayer Is...

For His praise: He deserves our praise for giving us our needs.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

James 1:17

Besides, if we love God, we will praise God.

Prayer Is...

1. Communication
2. with God
3. from our hearts
4. for our needs
5. for His praise
6. through Christ

Prayer Is...

Through Christ

- Acceptance with God through Jesus

To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Eph 1:6

Prayer Is...

Through Christ

- Acceptance with God through Jesus
- Assistance in prayer through Jesus

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

1 Timothy 2:5

Prayer Is...

Through Christ

- Acceptance with God through Jesus
- Assistance in prayer through Jesus
- Access in prayer through Jesus

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

Hebrews 4:16

Prayer Is...

1. Communication
2. with God
3. from our hearts
4. for our needs
5. for His praise
6. through Christ
7. according to God's will

Thy kingdom come. Thy will
be done in earth, as it is in
heaven.

Matthew 6:10

Prayer Is...

1. Communication
2. with God
3. from our hearts
4. for our needs
5. for His praise
6. through Christ
7. according to God's will
8. for God's glory

For thine is the kingdom, and
the power, and the glory, for
ever. Amen.

Matthew 6:13

Prayer Is...

“Prayer ... [is] communication with God, from our hearts, for our needs, for God’s praise, through Christ, according to God’s will, and for His glory.”[1]

[1] Jason Ehmann, Teach Us to Pray, Positive Action for Christ, Inc.: Whitakers, NC, 9.

Conclusion



- Prayer is not an option!
- Prayer is... what are the three C's?
- Prayer is... what is the definition?

Prayer in Practice



This week...

- Review this lesson and included Bible verses.
- Use the prayer definition to guide your prayers.
- Read this week's memory verses every day.
- Listen to one of the recommended audio resources on prayer.