



# 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?

How Should We  
Pray?

Prayer  
That Works

# How to Pray?

## Humility

Matthew 14:9-14 And he spake this parable unto certain **which trusted in themselves that they were righteous**, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and **prayed thus with himself**, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: **for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.**

# How to Pray?

## **Dependence**

Psalm 16:1 Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust.

# How to Pray?

**“Humility naturally produces dependence on God.** When we recognize that we are empty of goodness and strength, and that God is our one, true Source, we won’t look elsewhere for fulfillment.”[1]

[1] Jason Ehmann, Teach Us to Pray, Positive Action for Christ, Inc.: Whitakers, NC, 29.

# How to Pray?

“Dependence implies a sense of **exclusivity**. We must trust in God alone, rather than trusting in other “gods” (Ps. 16:1–4). We might not literally bow down to a statue, but we can easily practice idolatry by trusting our own abilities and resources to solve our problems, or by looking for solutions other than God.”[1]

Psalm 16:1-4 Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust...Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god:

[1] Jason Ehmann, Teach Us to Pray, Positive Action for Christ, Inc.: Whitakers, NC, 29.

# How to Pray?

## Urgency and Unity

Acts 1:14 These all **continued** with **one accord** in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

# *How to Pray?*

**Urgency and Unity:**  
a powerful combination  
in prayer

# How to Pray?

## **Sincerity**

Psalm 34:18 The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

# How to Pray?

## Evidences of Sincerity

- Intellect: being **open** and honest
- Will: being **obedient**
- Emotion: being **ourselves** with God

# How to Pray?

## Faith

**Matthew 21:22** And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

# How to Pray?

## **Faith**

Faith is not a feeling; it is not a nebulous mysterious hunch; it is not convincing yourself that God is going to make something happen for you.

# How to Pray?

- Faith is trusting that God will do what He has said He will do. (Hudson Taylor)
- Faith is applying the promises of God to your life. (Abraham, Genesis 15:6)
- Faith is trusting God to do the impossible according to His will. (Moses, Exodus 7-13)
- Faith is seeing what God is doing when it doesn't look like God is doing anything. (Elisha, 2 Kings 6)
- Faith is waiting for God when you don't have time to wait. (King Saul, 2 Samuel 13)

# How to Pray?

“God is limited only from the human side; and that he is always willing to give beyond our asking, if the human conditions he has so plainly laid down in his Word are fulfilled.”

[1] Rosalind Goforth, How I Know God Answers Prayer, Jason Ehmann, Teach Us to Pray, Positive Action for Christ, Inc.: Whitakers, NC, 32.

# Can We Know?

Can believers know that we will receive a thing we request before we receive it?

# Can We Know?

1 John 5:14-15 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

1 John 3:22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

# Can We Know?

Can believers know that we will receive a thing we request before we receive it?

# Can We Know?

If we pray according to God's will (1 John 5:14-15):

- According to His promises (Heb. 10:23)
- According to His providence (Rom. 8:26-27)
- According to His purposes (Rom. 8:28)

# Can We Know?

If we are living obediently and pleasing to God (1 John 3:22):

1 John 3:22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

# Can We Know?

If we pray with faith:

Mark 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

“We must pray in faith, that is, we must pray with a confident expectation of getting the very thing that we ask for.”[1]

[1] R. A. Torrey, *The Power of Prayer and the Prayer of Power*, Zondervan Books: Grand Rapids, MI, 1971, 121.

# Can We Know?

If we do not doubt:

James 1:5-7 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

# Can We Know?

If we pray with faith in God:

- Not in faith
- Not in prayer
- Not in "good vibes"

Mark 11:22 And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.

# Can We Know?

“Beware of that nonsensical prayer meeting where emotions run high and where the excitement and frenzy are mistaken for great faith... [C. S. Lewis in *Letters to Malcom*] said, ‘We must not encourage in ourselves or others any tendency to work up a subjective state which, if we succeeded, we should describe as ‘faith,’ with the idea that this will somehow insure the granting of our prayer... But [that] state of mind...is not faith in the Christian sense. It is a feat of psychological gymnastics.”[1]

# Can We Know?

“When God makes His will known, either by a specific promise of His Word or by His Holy Spirit while we are praying, that the thing that we ask for is ‘according to His will,’ it is our privilege to know—if we really believe on the name of the Son of God—that that thing we have asked is granted, and that it is ours.”[1]

[1] R. A. Torrey, *The Power of Prayer and the Prayer of Power*, Zondervan Books: Grand Rapids, MI, 1971, 121.

# Can We Know?

“To pray the prayer of faith we must, first of all, study the Word of God, especially the promises of God, and find out what the will of God is and build our prayers on the written promises of God.”[1]

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

[1] R. A. Torrey, *The Power of Prayer and the Prayer of Power*, Zondervan Books: Grand Rapids, MI, 1971, 123.

# Can We Know?

Why don't we get what we ask sometimes?

- Sin
- Circumstances
- Something needs to change[1]

[1] In Touch Ministries. 2021. "Praying with Confidence | Timeless Truths - Dr. Charles Stanley." YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rEL73xiuR9U>.

# Can We Know?

Why don't we get what we ask sometimes?

- God already gave it.
- God knows better.
- God disagrees with us about the justice of the request. [1]

[1] Charles Allen, *All Things Are Possible Through Prayer*, Jove Publications, Inc: Madison, NY, 1958, 68.

# Can We Know?

Unless we are firmly convinced from Scripture, by the Holy Spirit, and the circumstances at hand, we should not claim the “prayer of faith.” However, if we meet the conditions laid out in 1 John 3:22 and 5:14-15, we should be confident that we will have what we asked for or an alternative that God deems best.

# Conclusion



- How do we pray?
- What attitudes do we need to pray with?

# Conclusion

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- How do we pray?
- What attitudes do we need to pray with?
  - Sincerity
  - Trust/Faith
  - Urgency/Unity
  - Dependence/Humility
  - STUD

# Prayer in Practice



This week...

- Review this lesson and included Bible verses.
- Use the lesson to check your attitudes when you pray this week.
- Read this week's memory verses every day.
- Listen to one of the recommended audio resources on prayer.