



A KUC Notebook!

Welcome to this all-church KUC event on prayer! This notebook will be your written guide for the next thirteen weeks. We are so blessed that you want to learn more about prayer and want to pray – the Lord is too! We hope that we will all grow in deeper ways when it comes to praying to our Lord. Let’s activate prayer!

We have put together a **Prayer of Response** (below). We shall be referring to it frequently over the weeks ahead. We encourage you to read this prayer one time through right now and then pray it to the Lord in all earnestness, sincerity, and heart.



**PRAYER OF
RESPONSE**

*“As from today, we make a heartfelt commitment to be in prayer, to respond in prayer, to pray by the Holy Spirit’s leading. We commit to pray for the things that God desires. We will pray for others and we will pray for ourselves. We commit to learn and practice prayer. We will submit to learn and yield to what God teaches about prayer. We commit to open our hearts to prayer and to rethink our thinking about prayer – we will set our thinking to His ways knowing that as we pray **His way** – we are praying. Amen!”*

Before every lesson, and at the end of every lesson, we will pray the **Prayer of Response**. Now a look to what is ahead...



Week 1	The Exhortation to Pray	Eph. 6:18
Week 2	Promises of Prayer	John 14:13-14
Week 3	Practicalities of Prayer	Luke 5:16
Week 4	Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving	Psalms 66:1
Week 5	Purposes and Priorities of Prayer	Matthew 6:9-10
Week 6	Prayer with Support	Romans 8:26
Week 7	Prayer of Humility and the Promise of Prayer	2 Chronicles 7:14
Week 8	The Relationship of Prayer and the Effectiveness of Prayer	Luke 11:9, 13
Week 9	The Prayer of Faith	Hebrews 11:6
Week 10	The Patience and Persistence of Prayer	Psalms 40:1
Week 11	The Amen! of Prayer	2 Cor. 1:12
Week 12	The Unity of Prayer	John 17:23
Week 13	Prayer for God's Glory	Eph. 3:20-21



Week 1 The Exhortation to Pray



Introduction

It's week 1 and our first week. Thank you again for being a part of this journey! We have thirteen weeks with every week looking at a different aspect of prayer! That might seem a lot, but, of course, there are a lot of other aspects of prayer too, so we are really just scratching the surface. We hope that our time together will stir you to consider and discover all the very many aspects of prayer! You'll be blessed on that journey we are sure. Keep on praying with all kinds of prayer! Amen?

Let's get going...

As we begin today, let's review and remind ourselves of a specific verse: the verse from **Ephesians 6:18** above. Read it aloud and with the conviction of our **prayer of response**.

Our topic today is **the exhortation to pray**.

A Time to Listen

In class today we will now share a story, a testimony, or some anecdote about today's topic. You might hear a model of this topic, you might hear something that inspires you. We hope this sharing will illustrate the **exhortation to pray**. We encourage you to make some notes of what you hear.

Questions for the Panel: Session #1

In class we will have a panel of people sharing about their response to **exhortation to prayer**.

♥ Our heart's aim ♥ : We are hoping that each of us will hear something of how others respond to God's **exhortation to pray** and also for you to consider how you will respond to God's **exhortation to pray**.

There are three practical things you can do during this session.

- Think through how you would answer the panel questions.
 - My thoughts on how to answer the questions...
- Listen to the questions and note down significant answers that you hear.
 - Significant answers...
- Write down at least one good idea with the resolution to carry it through.
 - One good idea for me to do...

Table Practice

Around your tables you have two activities to perform in the next 20 minutes.

- First: Answer the following questions (12-15 minutes).

Q1. We might think that it is obvious that we should pray, but why, in fact, should we pray?

The following verses might help increase your motivation and desire to respond to God's exhortation:

- *Prayer is a form of worship.* Lookup 1 Chron. 16:28-29
- *Prayer is a form that exhibits our devotion.* Look up Col. 4:2
- *Prayer is one way we sacrifice.* Lookup Heb. 13:15
- *Prayer helps with anxiety; prayer is a form of thankfulness.* Look up Phil. 4:6
- *Prayer is God's will.* Look up 1 Thess. 5:17 and 18

Q2. Here is what might be an unusual thought: Do you think that *singing* a prayer is part of an exhortation to pray? How might Psalm 95:1-2 and Eph. 5:19-20 guide you?

Q3. How does Ephesians 6:18 exhort us to pray? There are seven aspects of prayer included in this verse. Can you see them? List them to each other in your group.

Q4. What stirring in your heart do you sense? What action are you going to take?

- Second: Pray. You have five to eight minutes left. We exhort each of you to pray right now. Here's how...

Let each person take one of the following elements below. You start by repeating the opening sentence out loud and then continue to pray by adding to it, keeping in mind the time available and that everyone on the table is **exhorted to pray**.

- i. *“Lord, I thank You that You exhort me to pray. This is just one way I worship You...*
- ii. *“Lord, I thank You that You exhort me to pray. This is one of the ways I am devoted to You...*
- iii. *“Lord, I thank You that You exhort me to pray. This is one of the ways I sacrifice my heart’s desires, my time, my thinking, my acts to You...*
- iv. *“Lord, I thank You that You exhort me to pray. This is so helpful to me with anxiety...*
- v. *“Lord, I thank You that You exhort me to pray. This is just one way I can express my thankfulness to You...*

Questions for the Panel: Session #2

It’s another session for the panel. Here we will have opportunity for people at the tables to ask questions and to hear the panel’s answers. Make notes and, most importantly, make a commitment to pray as God is **exhorting** us to do so.

Let’s summarize

Prayer is a form of worship; it is a way to express our devotion; it is a way we sacrifice; it is a way of us expressing thankfulness; and, it helps with anxiety;

And, please know that it is vital for us to respond well to the truth that prayer is God’s will.

Ephesians 6:18 makes it clear that we are to pray in the Spirit. We are to pray on all occasions. We are to pray with all kinds of prayer (including singing prayer). We are to be thoughtful about prayer. We are to be alert – prepared and attentive. We are to be consistent in prayer. We are to pray for all the Lord’s people.

If we are called to pray all kinds of prayers, then one way of praying is by singing! See Psalm 95:1-2 and Eph. 5:19-20.

Does God give us **exhortations to pray**? Absolutely! Is God simple *suggesting* or *mentioning in passing* that we pray? No, we are **exhorted to pray**. God is HIGHLY requiring, necessitating, yes, **exhorting** that we do in fact pray!

Closing time: reciting the prayer of response

(See Front Page)

Reminder of What will happen Next Week

Next week we will look at the **promises of prayer**. Be in prayer and focus on both Eph. 6:18 (from today) and John 14:13-14 (our verses for next week).

Week 2 Promises of Prayer

PROMISES OF PRAYER

AND I WILL DO WHATEVER
YOU ASK
IN MY NAME,
SO THAT THE FATHER MAY
BE GLORIFIED
IN THE SON.
YOU MAY ASK ME
FOR ANYTHING
IN MY NAME,
AND I WILL DO IT.

John 14:13-14

ACTIVATE:
prayer

Review

As we begin today, let's review and remind ourselves of the verses from **John 14:13-14** above. Read them aloud with the conviction of our **prayer of response**.

Our topic today is **promises of prayer**.

A Time to Listen

In class today we will now share a story, a testimony, or some anecdote about today's topic. You might hear a model of this topic, you might hear something that inspires you. We hope this sharing will illustrate the **promises of prayer**. We encourage you to make some notes of what you hear.

Questions for the Panel: Session #1

In class we will have a panel of people sharing about their response to God's **promises of prayer**.

♥ Our heart's aim ♥: We are hoping that each of us will hear something of how others respond to God's **promises of prayer** and also for you to consider how you will respond to God's **promises of prayer**.

There are three practical things you can do during this session.

- Think through how you would answer the panel questions.
 - My thoughts on how to answer the questions...
- Listen to the questions and note down significant answers that you hear.
 - Significant answers...
- Write down at least one good idea with the resolution to carry it through.
 - One good idea for me to do...

Table Practice

Around your tables you have two activities to perform in the next 20 minutes.

- First: Answer the following questions (12-15 minutes).

Q1. What do you know about the promises that God offers in prayer? Discuss.

The following verses might help you form some additional thoughts regarding the promises of God through prayer:

- *God expects (He wants) His people to make requests of Him. Lookup Matt. 7:7-11*
- *God promises to answer prayer 'in the name of Jesus'. Look up John 14:13-14*
- *God promises to respond to the prayers of His people in times of need. Look up Psalm 91:14-16*
- *God promises to hear the prayers of the oppressed. Lookup Psalm 10:17*
- *God promises to hear the prayers of the truly penitent. Lookup 1 John 3:22*
- *God promises to hear the prayers of His obedient people. Lookup Psalm 10:17*

Q2. Do you have deep confidence in God's promises regarding prayer? How might Mark 11:24 guide you?

Q3. What does John 14:13-14 really tell us about prayer? Think about what Jesus is promising. Consider why He is making the promise and discuss.

Q4. What stirring in your heart do you sense? What action are you going to take?

- Second: Pray. You have five to eight minutes left. We exhort each of you to pray right now. Here's how...

Let each person take one of the following elements below. You start by repeating the opening sentence out loud and then continue to pray by adding to it, keeping in mind the time available and that everyone on the table should have an opportunity to receive the **promises of prayer**.

i. *"Lord, I thank You that You want me to make requests of you. Here are my requests...*

- ii. *“Lord, I thank You that I can pray in Your Son’s name. Here is my prayer in Your Son’s name...”*
- iii. *“Lord, I thank You that You want me to pray in my time of need. Here is my need...”*
- iv. *“Lord, I am a person who feels a great burden, I feel oppressed. Here is my burden...”*
- v. *“Lord, I truly need Your forgiveness. I want to truly change. I am truly penitent. Here is my prayer...”*
- vi. *“Lord, I pray now for all of us to be obedient to You. Here is my prayer...”*

Questions for the Panel: Session #2

It’s another session for the panel. Here we will have opportunity for people at the tables to ask questions and to hear the panel’s answers. Make notes and, most importantly, make a commitment to pray as God is exhorting us to do so; so that we, too, receive the **promises of prayer**.

Let’s summarize

God wants us to make requests of Him; we can pray in the Son’s name; God wants us to pray in times of need; God promises to hear the prayers of the oppressed; God promises to hear the prayers of the truly penitent; and, God promises to hear the prayers of His obedient people.

John 14:13-14 makes it clear that there are **promises of prayer**. Jesus will do whatever we ask – if we ask in His name. Our prayers are such that the Father may be glorified in the Son. We have the freedom to ask for anything in His name, and Jesus will respond. Praying in His name is not something to be taken lightly. By praying in His name we invoke His power and so we should be careful in what we pray – knowing that Jesus is being called upon to act and His acts are always in accordance with the Father.

Are there **promises in prayer**? Absolutely! God makes **promises** about prayer and He **promises** answers.

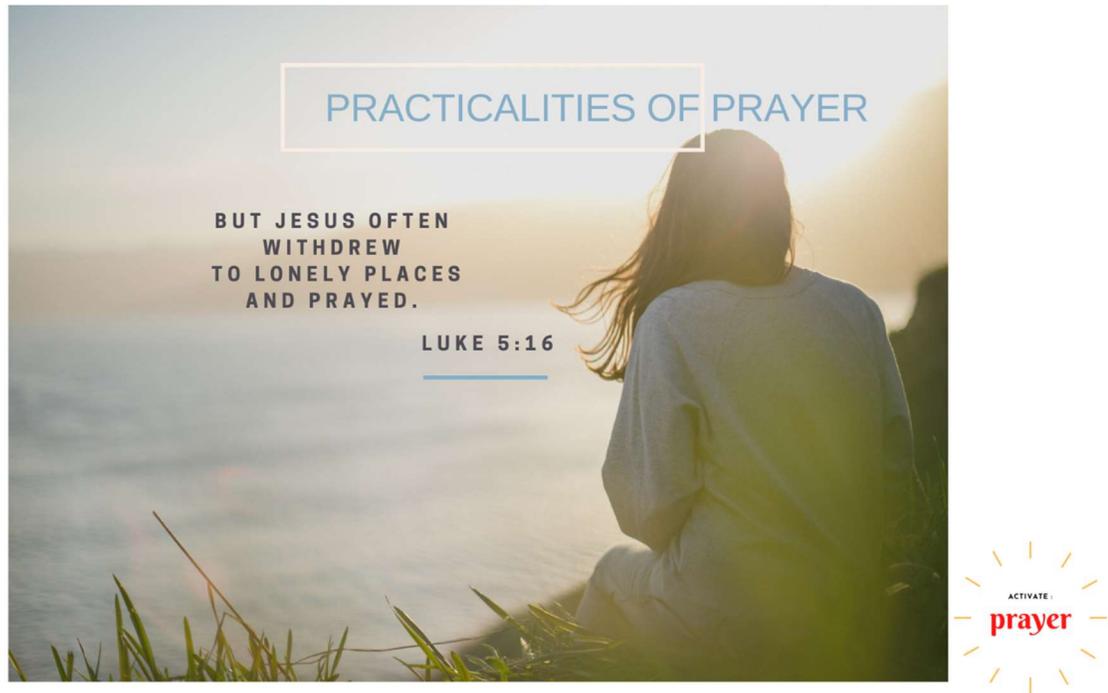
Closing time: reciting the prayer of response

(See Front Page)

Reminder of What will happen Next Week

Next week we will look at the **practicalities of prayer**. Be in prayer and focus on both **John 14:13-14** (from today) and **Luke 5:16** (our verse for next week).

Week 3 Practicalities of Prayer



Review

As we begin today, let's review and remind ourselves of the verse from **Luke 5:16** above. Read it aloud with the conviction of our **prayer of response**.

Our topic today is **practicalities of prayer**.

A Time to Listen

In class today we will now share a story, a testimony, or some anecdote about today's topic. You might hear a model of this topic, you might hear something that inspires you. We hope this sharing will illustrate the **practicalities of prayer**. We encourage you to make some notes of what you hear.

Questions for the Panel: Session #1

In class we will have a panel of people sharing about their response to the **practicalities of prayer**.

♥ Our heart's aim ♥: We are hoping that each of us will hear something of how others respond to the **practicalities of prayer** and also for you to consider how you will respond to the **practicalities of prayer**.

There are three practical things you can do during this session.

- Think through how you would answer the panel questions.
 - My thoughts on how to answer the questions...
- Listen to the questions and note down significant answers that you hear.
 - Significant answers...
- Write down at least one good idea with the resolution to carry it through.
 - One good idea for me to do...

Table Practice

Around your tables you have two activities to perform in the next 20 minutes.

- First: Answer the following questions (12-15 minutes).

Q1. There are various things to consider when it comes to practicalities of prayer. Discuss.

The following verses might help you practically in your prayers:

- *Prayer should be humble and not proud. Look up Luke 18:9-14*
- *Prayer should not be ostentatious nor pretentious. Look up Matt. 6:5-6*
- *Prayer should be expressed simply. Lookup Matt. 6:7-8*
To 'babble' in prayer would be to pray: foolishly, overly excitedly, or with no comprehension.
- *Prayers can be done sitting; kneeling; standing; lying prostrate; with arms stretched out; with hands raised. Lookup 2 Sam. 7:18; Luke 22:41; 1 Kings 8:22; 2 Chron. 20:18; Exod. 9:29; 1 Tim. 2:8*
- *Prayer can be offered at any time (several times a day; early; even all night). Look up Daniel 6:10; Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12*
- *Prayer can be done anywhere (inside; outside). Lookup Dan. 6:10; Mark 1:35.*
- *Prayer can be done alone and prayer can be done with others. Lookup Matt. 6:6 and then Acts 1:14; 12:5; Joel 1:14*
- *Prayer can be offered accompanied by fasting. Look up Acts 13:2-3*

Q2. Here is a sobering thought: Do you think that judgement comes on those that do not pray? How might Psalm 79:6 guide you?

Q3. How does Luke 5:16 guide us to pray? There are four aspects of prayer included in this verse. Can you see them?

Q4. What stirring in your heart do you sense? What action are you going to take?

- Second: Pray. You have five to eight minutes left. We exhort each of you to pray right now. Here's how...

Let each person take one of the following elements below. You start by repeating the opening sentence out loud and then continue to pray by adding to it, keeping in mind the time

available and that everyone on the table should have an opportunity to engage in **practicalities of prayer**.

- i. *“Lord, I thank You that You give me practical ways to pray. I want to pray humbly at this time by submitting to Your ways not mine...”*
- ii. *“Lord, I thank You that You give me practical ways to pray. I want to pray a simple prayer today...”*
- iii. *“Lord, I thank You that You give me practical ways to pray. I want to pray with my hands to You today to express...”*
- iv. *“Lord, I thank You that You give me practical ways to pray. I want to pray here right now where I am with the knowledge that You see me here and I know that You are listening to me right now...”*
- v. *“Lord, I thank You that You give me practical ways to pray. I want to pray to You without all of the busyness of life swirling around me...”*
- vi. *“Lord I thank You that You give me practical ways to pray. I want to start a practice of withdrawing to quiet places to pray...”*
- vii. *“Lord I thank You that You give me practical ways to pray. I want to start a practice of praying alone / praying with others...”*
- viii. *“Lord I thank You that You give me practical ways to pray. I want to start a practice of fasting and prayer...”*

Questions for the Panel: Session #2

It’s another session for the panel. Here we will have opportunity for people at the tables to ask questions and to hear the panel’s answers. Make notes and, most importantly, make a commitment to pray as God is exhorting us to do so, so that we, too, can pray with all kinds of **practical prayer**.

Let’s summarize

Prayer should be humble and not proud; prayer should not be ostentatious (flashy) nor pretentious (hollow); prayer should be expressed simply; prayers can be done sitting; kneeling; standing; lying prostrate; with arms stretched out; with hands raised; prayer can be offered at any time (several times a day; early; even all night; prayer can be done anywhere (inside; outside); prayer can be done alone; prayer can be done with others; and, prayer can be offered accompanied by fasting.

Luke 5:16 makes it clear that there are **practicalities** of prayer. In the first aspect, we might understand that life is calling us into action, but, from God’s perspective, we must practically contrast our active life with the idea of actively entering into prayer. Second, we might practically withdraw from the things that pull at us. Third, we might withdraw on a frequent basis. Fourth, we might go to lonely or isolated places to pray.

Are there **practicalities of prayer**? Absolutely! God is very much **practical** in how we pray to Him.

Closing time: reciting the prayer of response
(See Front Page)

Reminder of What will happen Next Week

Next week we will look at the **prayers of praise and thanksgiving**. Be in prayer and focus on both **Luke 5:16** (from today) and **Psalms 66:1** (our verse for next week).

Week 4 Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving



Shout for joy to God, all the earth!

PSALM 66:1



Review

As we begin today, let's review and remind ourselves of the verse from **Psalm 66:1** above. Read it aloud with the conviction of our **prayer of response**.

Our topic today is **prayers of praise and thanksgiving**.

A Time to Listen

In class today we will now share a story, a testimony, or some anecdote about today's topic. You might hear a model of this topic, you might hear something that inspires you. We hope this sharing will illustrate **prayers of praise and thanksgiving**. We encourage you to make some notes of what you hear.

Questions for the Panel: Session #1

In class we will have a panel of people sharing about their response to **prayers of praise and thanksgiving**.

♥ Our heart's aim ♥: We are hoping that each of us will hear something of how others respond to **prayers of praise and thanksgiving** and also for you to consider how you will respond with **prayers of praise and thanksgiving**.

There are three practical things you can do during this session.

- Think through how you would answer the panel questions.
 - My thoughts on how to answer the questions...
- Listen to the questions and note down significant answers that you hear.
 - Significant answers...
- Write down at least one good idea with the resolution to carry it through.
 - One good idea for me to do...

Table Practice

Around your tables you have two activities to perform in the next 20 minutes.

- First: Answer the following questions (12-15 minutes).

Q1. We might think that it is obvious that we should give praise and thanksgiving when we pray, but give some discussion to why should pray in this way?

The following verses might help increase your own praise and thanksgiving to our Lord:

- *Prayer embraces praising God for who He is, thanking Him for what He has already done, and looking forward with joy to what He has promised to do in the future. Lookup Psalm 69:30; Psalm 139:14; 1 Peter 1:3-4*
- *Prayer as a form of worship-praise is fundamental to life. Look up 1 Chron. 16:28-29*
- *The attitude of thankfulness in prayer. Look up Heb. 12:28-29*
- *Prayer can praise God for different aspects of His character. Lookup Psalm 103:1-8 (His love); Psalm 19:1-6 (His glory); Neh. 9:6 (His creative works)*
- *We are exhorted to praise and thank Him. Look up Phil. 4:6*
- *We can give praise and thanksgiving for His goodness to us. Lookup Phil. 1:3-6*

Q2. How does Psalm 66:1 encourage us to pray? There are seven aspects of prayer included in this verse. Can you see them?

Q3. What stirring in your heart do you sense? What action are you going to take?

- Second: Pray. You have five to eight minutes left. We exhort each of you to pray right now. Here's how...

Let each person take one of the following elements below. You start by repeating the opening sentence out loud and then continue to pray by adding to it, keeping in mind the time available and that everyone on the table should have an opportunity to pray **prayers of praise and thanksgiving**.

i. *“Lord, I give You praise and thanksgiving today. I glorify You with thanksgiving. You are wonderful to me in the following ways...*

- ii. *“Lord, I give You praise and thanksgiving today. I ascribe to You, I give You, all the credit for...”*
- iii. *“Lord, I give You praise and thanksgiving today. I glorify You with thanksgiving in reverence and awe...”*
- iv. *“Lord, I give You praise and thanksgiving today. I praise You for Your love; for Your glory; for all You have made...”*
- v. *“Lord, I give You praise and thanksgiving today. Thank You for calling me, for exhorting me, to praise and give You thanks...”*
- vi. *“Lord, I give You praise and thanksgiving today. Thank You for being so good to me, to us...”*
- vii. *“Lord, I give You praise and thanksgiving today. I shout for joy today...”*

Questions for the Panel: Session #2

It’s another session for the panel. Here we will have opportunity for people at the tables to ask questions and to hear the panel’s answers. Make notes and, most importantly, make a commitment to pray as God is exhorting us to do so, so that we, too, **praise** and **thank** Him.

Let’s summarize

Prayer embraces praising God for who He is, thanking Him for what He has already done, and looking forward with joy to what He has promised to do in the future; prayer as a form of worship-praise is fundamental to life; there is to be an attitude of thankfulness in prayer; and, prayer can praise God for different aspects of His character;

And, we are exhorted to praise and thank Him; for sure, we can give praise and thanksgiving for His goodness to us.

Psalm 66:1 makes it clear that joy can be expressed to God. And, not just simply expressed, but even shouted!

Are there **prayers of praise and thanksgiving**? Absolutely! God loves to be **praised** joyously and on occasion loudly! Be **thankful**!

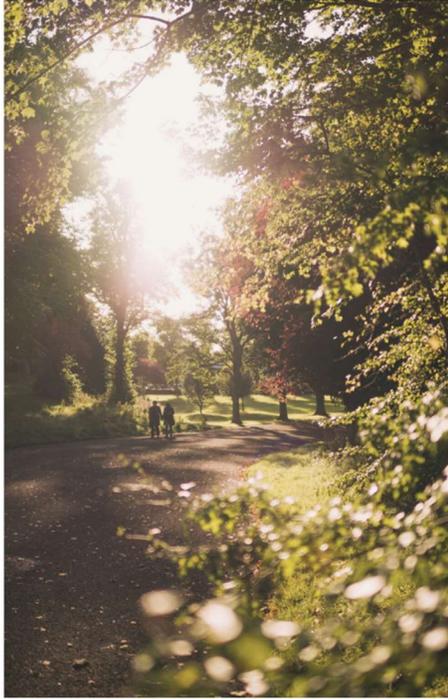
Closing time: reciting the prayer of response

(See Front Page)

Reminder of What will happen Next Week

Next week we will look at the **purposes and priorities of prayer**. Be in prayer and focus on both **Psalm 66:1** (from today) and **Matthew 6:9-10** (our verses for next week).

Week 5 Purposes and Priorities of Prayer



PURPOSES AND PRIORITIES OF PRAYER



"This, then, is how you should pray:

"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven."

MATTHEW 6:9-10

Review

As we begin today, let's review and remind ourselves of the verses from **Matthew 6:9-10** above. Read them aloud with the conviction of our **prayer of response**.

Our topic today is **purposes and priorities of prayer**.

A Time to Listen

In class today we will now share a story, a testimony, or some anecdote about today's topic. You might hear a model of this topic, you might hear something that inspires you. We hope this sharing will illustrate the **purposes and priorities of prayer**. We encourage you to make some notes of what you hear.

Questions for the Panel: Session #1

In class we will have a panel of people sharing about their response to (some of) the **purposes and priorities of prayer**.

♥ Our heart's aim ♥: We are hoping that each of us will hear something of how others respond to God's **purposes and priorities of prayer** and also for you to consider how you will respond to God's **purposes and priorities of prayer**.

There are three practical things you can do during this session.

- Think through how you would answer the panel questions.
 - My thoughts on how to answer the questions...
- Listen to the questions and note down significant answers that you hear.
 - Significant answers...
- Write down at least one good idea with the resolution to carry it through.
 - One good idea for me to do...

Table Practice

Around your tables you have two activities to perform in the next 20 minutes.

- First: Answer the following questions (12-15 minutes).

Q1. In your groups discuss what the purposes and priorities of prayer are.

The following verses might help you sharpen your sense of the purposes and priorities of prayer:

- *To call upon Him to save us. Lookup Joel 2:23; Acts 2:21; Romans 10:13*
- *To call upon Him to forgive us and to forgive others. Lookup Matt. 6:12; Psalm 86:5*
- *To express our longing for God, to express our love to Him. Look up Psalm 42:1-2*
- *To honor His name, to glorify His name. Lookup Psalm 115:1*
- *For God's will to be fulfilled. Lookup John 6:40; Matthew 26:39*
- *Prayer allows believers to discern His will. Lookup 2 Corinthians 12:7-9; Phil. 1:9-10*
- *To call upon Him for mercy (for us; from others). Look up Psalm 51:1-2; Psalm 123*
- *To draw near to God with freedom and confidence. Lookup Heb. 10:19-22; Eph. 3:12*
- *To have fellowship with God. Lookup Psalm 73:23-26*

... there are many, many, more purposes!

Q2. What purpose and priority does Matthew 6:9-10 show us? There are many aspects of purpose and priority included in these verses. Can you see them?

Q3. What stirring in your heart do you sense? What action are you going to take?

- Second: Pray. You have five to eight minutes left. We exhort each of you to pray right now. Here's how...

Let each person take one of the following elements below. You start by repeating the opening sentence out loud and then continue to pray by adding to it, keeping in mind the time available and that everyone on the table should have an opportunity to engage in the **purposes and priorities of prayer**.

- i. *“Lord, I thank You that You have a purpose for prayer. And You also have priorities in how we pray. Lord, today I pray with this purpose. I pray that You will call upon all my family to save them...”*
- ii. *“Lord, today I pray with this purpose. I call upon You to forgive me...”*
- iii. *“Lord, today I pray with this purpose. I want to share how much I love you...”*
- iv. *“Lord, today I pray with this purpose. I want to honor Your name...”*
- v. *“Lord, today I pray with this purpose. I want for Your will to be fulfilled...”*
- vi. *“Lord, today I pray with this purpose. I want to discern Your will...”*
- vii. *“Lord, today I pray with this purpose. I need Your mercy...”*
- viii. *“Lord, today I pray with this purpose. I want to come to You in freedom and confidence...”*
- ix. *“Lord, today I pray with this purpose. I want to have fellowship with you...”*
- x. *“Lord, today I pray with this purpose. I want to pray the first part of the Lord’s Prayer again – but with a new emphasis...”*

Questions for the Panel: Session #2

It’s another session for the panel. Here we will have opportunity for people at the tables to ask questions and to hear the panel’s answers. Make notes and, most importantly, make a commitment to pray as God is exhorting us to do so, so that we, too, are **purposeful** and have the **right priorities** of prayer.

Let’s summarize

We can call upon Him in prayer to save us; we can call upon Him to forgive us and to forgive others; in prayer we can express our longing for God, we can express our love to Him;
We can honor His name; we can glorify His name; we can pray for His will to be fulfilled; in prayer we can discern His will;
We can call upon Him for mercy (for us; from others);
We can draw near to God with freedom and confidence;
And, in prayer we can have fellowship with God.

Matthew 6:9-10 makes it clear that there are purposes and priorities of prayer. Of course, we can pray in all kinds of ways, but in all those ways there is a very significant model of prayer and that is the model of prayer taught by Jesus as found in Matthew 6. It is important to note that Jesus disciplines us that we should pray in the manner that He sets out. There is purpose in how He directs us to pray and there are clear priorities in the model He gives us in Matthew 6. Our first priority is to pray to our Father in heaven. Then we are directed to petition God that three things would happen: that His name be Hallowed; that His Kingdom would come; and, that His will would be done. Our priority is to pray about Him first – for glory to come to His name, for His Kingdom; and for His will. Understanding the purpose of these prayers can come about when we understand the priority of praying to Him before we pray for our needs.

Are there **purposes and priorities of prayer**? Absolutely! God is very much **purposeful** and He has clear **priorities** when it comes to prayer. Our God is not an undecided God. Our God has a position for things, for life. He knows exactly what is important.

Closing time: reciting the prayer of response

(See Front Page)

Reminder of What will happen Next Week

Next week we will look at the **prayer with support**. Be in prayer and focus on both **Matthew 6:9-10** (from today) and **Romans 8:26** (our verse for next week).

Week 6 Prayer with Support

PRAY WITH SUPPORT

In the same way,
the Spirit helps us in our weakness.
We do not know what we ought to pray for,
but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

ROMANS 8:26



Review

As we begin today, let's review and remind ourselves of the verse from **Romans 8:26** above. Read it aloud with the conviction of our **prayer of response**.

Our topic today is **prayer with support**.

A Time to Listen

In class today we will now share a story, a testimony, or some anecdote about today's topic. You might hear a model of this topic, you might hear something that inspires you. We hope this sharing will illustrate the idea of **prayer with support**. We encourage you to make some notes of what you hear.

Questions for the Panel: Session #1

In class we will have a panel of people sharing about their response to **prayer with support**.

♥ Our heart's aim ♥: We are hoping that each of us will hear something of how others respond to God's **prayer with support** and also for you to consider how you will respond knowing that there is **prayer with support**.

There are three practical things you can do during this session.

- Think through how you would answer the panel questions.
 - My thoughts on how to answer the questions...
- Listen to the questions and note down significant answers that you hear.
 - Significant answers...
- Write down at least one good idea with the resolution to carry it through.
 - One good idea for me to do...

Table Practice

Around your tables you have two activities to perform in the next 20 minutes.

- First: Answer the following questions (12-15 minutes).

Q1. Have you ever felt at a loss (or something similar) when it comes to knowing what to pray? Guess what? We all do! Share some ways in how the Lord helps **support** you in your prayers.

The following verses might help you lean on Him in new ways. The focal point of these verses is the support and role of the Holy Spirit:

- *The love of the Holy Spirit motivates us to pray. Lookup Rom. 15:30-32; Luke 11:13*
- *The Holy Spirit enables God's children to address Him as "Abba". Look up Rom 8:15*
- *The Holy Spirit inspires prayers of praise. Look up Luke 10:21*

Q2. How does Romans 8:26 inspire us to pray? There are many aspects of prayer included in this verse. Can you see them?

Q3. What stirring in your heart do you sense? What action are you going to take?

- Second: Pray. You have five to eight minutes left. We exhort each of you to pray right now. Here's how...

Let each person take one of the following elements below. You start by repeating the opening sentence out loud and then continue to pray by adding to it, keeping in mind the time available and that everyone on the table should have an opportunity to engage the Holy Spirit for **prayer with support**.

- i. *"Lord, I thank You for Your Holy Spirit. I want to thank You for the love of the Spirit to me..."*
- ii. *"Lord, I thank You for Your Holy Spirit. I want to thank You that the Spirit helps me to pray to You as "Abba"..."*
- iii. *"Lord, I thank You for Your Holy Spirit. By Your Spirit, I want to pray praises to You today..."*

- iv. *“Lord, I thank You for Your Holy Spirit. I want to thank You for the Spirit that helps my weakness...”*
- v. *“Lord, I thank You for Your Holy Spirit. I want to thank You for the Spirit that helps me pray even when I don’t know what to pray...”*

Questions for the Panel: Session #2

It’s another session for the panel. Here we will have opportunity for people at the tables to ask questions and to hear the panel’s answers. Make notes and, most importantly, make a commitment to pray as God is exhorting us to do so, so that we too receive all His **support in prayer**.

Let’s summarize

The love of the Holy Spirit motivates us to pray; the Holy Spirit enables God’s children to address Him as “Abba”; and, the Holy Spirit inspires prayers of praise.

Romans 8:26 makes it clear that there is **support** in prayer. There are definitely times of weakness when we pray – but the Spirit is there brother and sister! He is there! There are even times when we just don’t know what to pray – but, again, the Spirit is there! He helps, He supports us!

Does God give us **prayer with support**? Absolutely! God is not separate from us when we pray. He is there! He upholds us and He even speaks for us when we cannot even speak.

Closing time: reciting the prayer of response

(See Front Page)

Reminder of What will happen Next Week

Next week we will look at the **prayer of humility and (another look at) the promise of prayer**. Be in prayer and focus on both **Romans 8:26** (from today) and **2 Chronicles 7:14** (our verse for next week).

Week 7 Prayer of Humility and the Promise of Prayer



PRAYER OF HUMILITY

2 CHRONICLES 7:14

if my people,
who are called by my name,
will humble themselves
and pray and seek my face
and turn from their wicked ways,
then I will hear from heaven,
and I will forgive their sin and will
heal their land.

PROMISE OF PRAYER



Review

As we begin today, let's review and remind ourselves of the verse from **2 Chronicles 7:14** above. Read it aloud with the conviction of our **prayer of response**.

Our topic today is **prayer with humility and the promise of prayer**.

Also, take a moment to look at week #2's lesson which began looking at God's promises regarding prayer. Remind yourself of what you learned at that time and acted upon and with the Lord's help today you can build on that!

A Time to Listen

In class today we will now share a story, a testimony, or some anecdote about today's topic. You might hear a model of this topic, you might hear something that inspires you. We hope this sharing will illustrate the idea of **prayer with humility and the promise of prayer**. We encourage you to make some notes of what you hear.

Questions for the Panel: Session #1

In class we will have a panel of people sharing about their response to **prayer with humility and the promise of prayer**.

♥ Our heart's aim ♥: We are hoping that each of us will hear something of how others respond to **prayer with humility and the promise of prayer** and also for you to consider how you will respond to the idea of **prayer with humility and the promise of prayer**.

There are three practical things you can do during this session.

- Think through how you would answer the panel questions.
 - My thoughts on how to answer the questions...
- Listen to the questions and note down significant answers that you hear.
 - Significant answers...
- Write down at least one good idea with the resolution to carry it through.
 - One good idea for me to do...

Table Practice

Around your tables you have two activities to perform in the next 20 minutes.

- First: Answer the following questions (12-15 minutes).

Q1. There are two combined topics we are tackling today but they are connected. How might prayer with humility be connected with the promises of prayer? Discuss.

The following verses might help you as you seek to be humble in prayer:

- *Have a worshipping heart. Lookup Psalm 100:4-5*
- *Have a grateful heart. Look up Col. 3:16*
- *Have a heart fully reverent to Him and not in any way lifting ourselves over Him. Look up Phil. 2:6-7*
- *Have a considerate heart. Look up Phil. 2:3-5*
- *Have an obedient heart. Lookup Phil. 2:8*
- *Have a servant's heart. Look up John 13:3-17*

The following verses might help you remind you of more of God's promises:

- *The promise of finding God. Lookup Jeremiah 29:13*
- *The promise of unity and God's response. Lookup Mark 18:19*
- *The promise of staying away from temptation. Lookup Mark 14:38*
- *The promise of life; life in the Spirit. Lookup Romans 8:13*

Q2. How does 2 Chronicles 7:14 encourage us to pray? There are several aspects of prayer included in this verse. Can you see them?

Q3. What stirring in your heart do you sense? What action are you going to take?

- Second: Pray. You have five to eight minutes left. We exhort each of you to pray right now. Here's how...

Let each person take one of the following elements below. You start by repeating the opening sentence out loud and then continue to pray by adding to it, keeping in mind the time available and that everyone on the table should have an opportunity to engage in **prayer with humility and to receive the promise of prayer**.

- i. *"Lord, I thank You for understanding more of humility. Today I want to praise you..."*
- ii. *"Lord, I thank You for understanding more of humility. Today I want to say how grateful I am..."*
- iii. *"Lord, I thank You for understanding more of humility. Today I want to stop grasping so much at life instead I want to truly follow what You want..."*
- iv. *"Lord, I thank You for understanding more of humility. Today I want to consider others more..."*
- v. *"Lord, I thank You for understanding more of humility. Today I want to serve you..."*
- vi. *"Lord, I thank You for understanding more of humility. Today I want to be more obedient to you..."*
- vii. *"Lord, I thank You for understanding more of Your promises. I want to find you..."*
- viii. *"Lord, I thank You for understanding more of Your promises. I want to be in unity with others..."*
- ix. *"Lord, I thank You for understanding more of Your promises. I want to stay away from temptation..."*
- x. *"Lord, I thank You for understanding more of Your promises. I want to live in the Spirit and no more live in the flesh..."*

Questions for the Panel: Session #2

It's another session for the panel. Here we will have opportunity for people at the tables to ask questions and to hear the panel's answers. Make notes and, most importantly, make a commitment to pray as God is exhorting us to do so, so that we too pray in **humility** and receive the **promises of God in prayer**.

Let's summarize

Have a worshipping heart; have a grateful heart; have a heart fully reverent to Him and not in any way lifting ourselves over Him; have a considerate heart; have an obedient heart; have a servant's heart: these are all aspects of how our lives are to be humble before our Lord.

2 Chronicles 7:14 makes it clear that our posture in prayer is to defer always to God; to be humble. There are wonderful promises in such type of prayer that are given by God. If we humble ourselves then God tells us that He will hear from heaven. We know that God will forgive our sin. God will heal our land.

Keep in mind that God is calling us all to be like this. This is not just a case of a few humbling themselves while the rest pay no attention to it. God doesn't say in this admonition "*if a couple of persons*"; no! He says, "*If my people.*"

Does God give us a calling to **pray with humility and the promise of prayer**? Absolutely! God wants to be our God. If He is truly God in our lives, and in all aspects, we can trust that God will provide abundantly by His promises.

Closing time: reciting the prayer of response
(See Front Page)

Reminder of What will happen Next Week

Next week we will look at the **relationship of prayer; the effectiveness of prayer**. Be in prayer and focus on both **2 Chronicles 7:14** (from today) and **Luke 11:9, 13** (our verses for next week).

Week 8 The Relationship of Prayer and the Effectiveness of Prayer



Review

As we begin today, let's review and remind ourselves of the verses from **Luke 11:9, 13** above. Read them aloud with the conviction of our **prayer of response**.

Our topic today is the **relationship of prayer and the effectiveness of prayer**.

A Time to Listen

In class today we will now share a story, a testimony, or some anecdote about today's topic. You might hear a model of this topic, you might hear something that inspires you. We hope this sharing will illustrate the idea of the **relationship of prayer and the effectiveness of prayer**. We encourage you to make some notes of what you hear.

Questions for the Panel: Session #1

In class we will have a panel of people sharing about their response to the **relationship of prayer and the effectiveness of prayer**.

♥ Our heart's aim ♥: We are hoping that each of us will hear something of how others respond to God's **relationship of prayer and the effectiveness of prayer** and also for

you to consider how you will respond to God's **relationship of prayer and the effectiveness of prayer.**

There are three practical things you can do during this session.

- Think through how you would answer the panel questions.
 - My thoughts on how to answer the questions...
- Listen to the questions and note down significant answers that you hear.
 - Significant answers...
- Write down at least one good idea with the resolution to carry it through.
 - One good idea for me to do...

Table Practice

Around your tables you have two activities to perform in the next 20 minutes.

- First: Answer the following questions (12-15 minutes).

Q1. What makes prayer relational and how can our prayers (from our perspective) be more effective?

The following verses might help you form some further ideas to how we view our relationship in prayer – we are children of God:

- *We become God's children by the Spirit. Lookup Gal. 4:6*
- *We become God's children by new birth. Lookup Gal. 3:26*
- *God loves His children. Lookup 1 John 3:1*
- *God disciplines His children. Lookup Deut. 8:5*
- *God does not abandon His children. Lookup Hosea 1:10*
- *God's children desire to be without fault. Lookup Phil. 2:15*
- *God's children follow their heavenly Father. Lookup Eph. 5:1*

The following verses might help you form some further ideas to how prayer can be more effective:

- *Humbleness in prayer and its effectiveness. Lookup Psalm 51:16-17*
- *Obedience in prayer and its effectiveness. Lookup 1 John 3:21-22*
- *Righteousness in prayer and its effectiveness. Lookup Proverbs 15:29*
- *Single-mindedness in prayer and its effectiveness. Lookup Jer. 29:13*
- *Faith in prayer and its effectiveness. Lookup Matt. 21:21-22*

Q2. How does Luke 11:9, 13 exhort us to pray? There are seven aspects of prayer included in this verse. Can you see them?

Q3. What stirring in your heart do you sense? What action are you going to take?

- Second: Pray. You have five to eight minutes left. We exhort each of you to pray right now. Here's how...

Let each person take one of the following elements below. You start by repeating the opening sentence out loud and then continue to pray by adding to it, keeping in mind the time available and that everyone on the table should have an opportunity to engage in the **relationship of prayer and the effectiveness of prayer**.

- i. *"Lord, I thank You that You want me to be Your child. Lord, I pray for the Spirit to come into me right now ..."*
- ii. *"Lord, I thank You that You want me to be Your child. Lord, I pray for a new life ..."*
- iii. *"Lord, I thank You that You love Your children. I am so grateful that You love me because..."*
- iv. *"Lord, I thank You that You for correction. Today, I confess I need Your correction..."*
- v. *"Lord, I hear that You never abandon Your children. Lord, here is my prayer..."*
- vi. *"Lord, I know You want me to be without fault. Help me today..."*
- vii. *"Lord, I know You want me to follow you. Help me today..."*
- viii. *"Lord, I truly have a broken spirit. Today, my heart truly is contrite..."*
- ix. *"Lord, I offer You my obedience..."*
- x. *"Lord, I know that only You are righteous, but help me grow daily in righteousness..."*
- xi. *"Lord, I sense today I need to focus more and be more single-minded in prayer..."*
- xii. *"Lord, I trust in you. That's it, it really is, I trust in You fully and completely..."*

Questions for the Panel: Session #2

It's another session for the panel. Here we will have opportunity for people at the tables to ask questions and to hear the panel's answers. Make notes and, most importantly, make a commitment to pray as God is exhorting us to do so, so that we too **relate** to God as our Father; **relate** to Jesus as our Lord and Savior; and, receive the Holy Spirit as a gift by asking in **prayer**. Determine also to be active in how you pray – and see how the Lord will show you **effectiveness!**

Let's summarize

We become God's children by the Spirit; we become God's children by new birth; God loves His children; God disciplines His children; God does not abandon His children; God's children desire to be without fault; and, God's children follow their heavenly Father.

Luke 11:9, 13 makes it clear that prayer is relational: we are not just saying words into "thin air"; God hears us! The simplicity that God offers for us to be effective in prayer is this: ASK, SEEK & KNOCK!

Does God give us the **relationship of prayer and the effectiveness of prayer**? Absolutely! God is our loving Father and He delights when we ask Him. So... go ahead... ASK!

Closing time: reciting the prayer of response
(See Front Page)

Reminder of What will happen Next Week

Next week we will look at the **prayer of faith**. Be in prayer and focus on both **Luke 11:9, 13** (from today) and **Hebrews 11:6** (our verse for next week).

Week 9 The Prayer of Faith

PRAY
in Faith

ACTIVATE:
prayer

AND WITHOUT
FAITH
IT IS
IMPOSSIBLE TO
PLEASE GOD,
BECAUSE
ANYONE WHO
COMES TO HIM
MUST BELIEVE
THAT HE EXISTS
AND THAT HE
REWARDS THOSE
WHO EARNESTLY
SEEK HIM.

HEBREWS 11:6

Review

As we begin today, let's review and remind ourselves of the verse from **Hebrews 11:6** above. Read it aloud with the conviction of our **prayer of response**.

Our topic today is the **prayer of faith**.

A short commentary on faith by Pastor Clive

What is faith? First of all, faith is a response. It's not something that occurs in us from nothing or from a vacuum. Faith occurs in response to God. If God doesn't initiate that response – well, it's not faith!

The response (as I call it), though, is not just something minor or inconsequential; faith occurs when we are captivated. It's a strong feeling of being so drawn to God that, well, nothing else matters. And what is it that is being captivated? At its core it is our heart. Sure, my mind and my will might be affected but it's only when my heart is really captured that I have faith.

Why are we captivated so? Because we have a genuine response to Him as a being and also to His words as found in Scripture. We can sense this in our own being because He truly does exist and He is reaching out to us. That is a reality. Think about the truth that God consistently reassures us of His love toward us. Think too of the truth that God is Himself described in this way: *God is love* (1 John 4:8); think about the fact that God draws us to Himself and into a fully redeemed relationship where our thoughts, words, and deeds growingly become a true response to the consistency of God. We love as He first loved; we become holy as He is holy; and, we serve as He truly serves.

Faith is a heartfelt captivated response to God. Wherever there is faith – there is love at the center. Plenty of people in the world have faith (Buddhist faith, Hindu faith, Muslim faith etc.) – they even say “*my faith is virtuous*” but if faith is just a virtue that we possess then faith only ever starts with us. That, however, is not what the Scriptures portray. Faith is a response that begins with Him!

Today we will see the necessity of faith in prayer but we should be careful that we are not just compliant and only have the attitude “*I need faith, it is necessary, so therefore I will be a person of faith.*” Such words have a nobility to them, but such sentiments might be words of straw. Why? Because they might just be self-generated. Rather than seeking faith, we need to seek Him. That only truly happens after He has reached out to you – AND HE HAS! Once you sense that He loves you and He has reached out to you, faith has begun. As His love awakens us, then faith is birthed! Then comes the process of seeking Him. And, if we seek Him, faith will grow.

A Time to Listen

In class today we will now share a story, a testimony, or some anecdote about today’s topic. You might hear a model of this topic, you might hear something that inspires you. We hope this sharing will illustrate the idea of the **prayer of faith**. We encourage you to make some notes of what you hear.

Questions for the Panel: Session #1

In class we will have a panel of people sharing about their response to **prayer of faith**.

♥ Our heart’s aim ♥: We are hoping that each of us will hear something of how others respond in **prayers of faith** and also for you to consider how you will respond to **prayers of faith**.

There are three practical things you can do during this session.

- Think through how you would answer the panel questions.
 - My thoughts on how to answer the questions...
- Listen to the questions and note down significant answers that you hear.
 - Significant answers...
- Write down at least one good idea with the resolution to carry it through.
 - One good idea for me to do...

Table Practice

Around your tables you have two activities to perform in the next 20 minutes.

- First: Answer the following questions (12-15 minutes).

Q1. Isn't all prayer of faith? Discuss.

The following verses might help you consider prayers of faith and praying in faith:

- *The necessity of faith in receiving God's provision. Lookup Mark 6:5-6; James 5:16-18*
- *The necessity of faith for effective prayer. Lookup Matt. 21:21-22; James 1:5-8*
- *The model of Jesus in His response to people's needs on the basis of faith. Lookup Matt. 9:27-30; 15:21-28*

What do you see in the following examples of faith?

- *Elijah: 1 Kings 17:19-22*
- *Elijah: 1 Kings 18:36-37*
- *Elijah: James 5:17-18*
- *Elisha: 2 Kings 4:32-35*

Q2. What is the necessity of faith in approaching God as found in Hebrews 11:6? What is God saying in this verse?

Q3. What stirring in your heart do you sense? What action are you going to take?

- Second: Pray. You have five to eight minutes left. We exhort each of you to pray right now. Here's how...

Let each person take one of the following elements below. You start by repeating the opening sentence out loud and then continue to pray by adding to it, keeping in mind the time available and that everyone on the table should have an opportunity to engage in **prayer of faith**.

- i. *"Lord, I thank You that You want me pray in faith. I pray in faith that You will provide for me...*
- ii. *"Lord, maybe I never thought of it before, but for my prayers to be effective, I, myself, must put my whole trust in you. Today, I put my faith in You for...*
- iii. *"Lord, I see what Jesus did when He responded to people's needs. Lord, help me to see people's needs, to pray for them, trusting that you, Lord can and will provide...*
- iv. *"Lord, I see how people like Elijah and Elisha were faithful in their prayers...*
- v. *"Lord, help me have the faith that You speak of in Hebrews 11:6...*

Questions for the Panel: Session #2

It's another session for the panel. Here we will have opportunity for people at the tables to ask questions and to hear the panel's answers. Make notes and, most importantly, make a commitment to pray as God is exhorting us to do so, so that we too **pray in faith**.

Let's summarize

There is a necessity of faith in receiving God's provision - absolutely; there is a necessity of faith for effective prayer - absolutely; and, we see how important faith is in the model of Jesus in His response to people's needs. But, we should absolutely and fundamentally keep in mind that faith is a heartfelt captivated response to God. Wherever there is faith – there is love at the center.

Heb. 11:6 makes it clear that prayer is a complete matter of faith. In fact, it is categorical – without faith it is impossible to please God. There are two components to this: we must believe He exists *and* we must believe that He rewards. The promise happens when we earnestly seek Him.

Does God give us a declaration that **prayer** should be said **in faith**? Absolutely! God wants us to ask Him with our fullest trust. We are to believe that God does exist and that He wants to reward us; He loves us! So, with that in heart and mind, continue to earnestly seek Him.

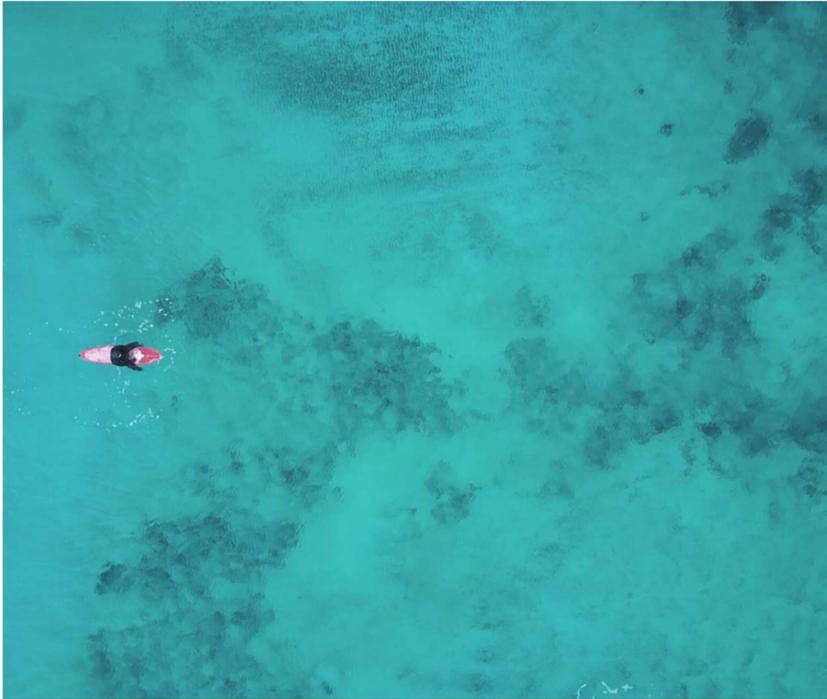
Closing time: reciting the prayer of response

(See Front Page)

Reminder of What will happen Next Week

Next week we will look at the **patience and persistence of prayer**. Be in prayer and focus on both **Hebrews 11:6** (from today) and **Psalm 40:1** (our verse for next week).

Week 10 The Patience and Persistence of Prayer



PATIENCE AND PERSISTENCE OF PRAYER

I waited patiently for the Lord;
he turned to me and heard my
cry.

PSALM 40:1



Review

As we begin today, let's review and remind ourselves of the verse from **Psalm 40:1** above. Read it aloud with the conviction of our **prayer of response**.

Our topic today is the **patience and persistence of prayer**.

A Time to Listen

In class today we will now share a story, a testimony, or some anecdote about today's topic. You might hear a model of this topic, you might hear something that inspires you. We hope this sharing will illustrate the idea of the **prayer of patience and persistence**. We encourage you to make some notes of what you hear.

Questions for the Panel: Session #1

In class we will have a panel of people sharing about their response to **patience and persistence of prayer**.

♥ Our heart's aim ♥: We are hoping that each of us will hear something of how others respond to **patience and persistence of prayer** and also for you to consider how you will respond to the idea of the **patience and persistence of prayer**.

There are three practical things you can do during this session.

- Think through how you would answer the panel questions.
 - My thoughts on how to answer the questions...
- Listen to the questions and note down significant answers that you hear.
 - Significant answers...
- Write down at least one good idea with the resolution to carry it through.
 - One good idea for me to do...

Table Practice

Around your tables you have two activities to perform in the next 20 minutes.

- First: Answer the following questions (12-15 minutes).

Q1. What do you feel and/or know about patience and persistence in prayer? Discuss.

The following verses might help you form some (deeper) ideas as to the nature of patience and persistence in prayer:

- *There is a timeless truth to persistence in prayer. Lookup Psalm 88:1; Luke 18:1-8; Acts 1:14; Eph. 6:18*
- *There are many examples of persistence in prayer. Lookup:*
 - Abraham for a city: Gen. 18:23-33*
 - Jacob as he wrestled with God: Gen. 32:24-32*
 - Moses for Israel: Deut. 9:25-29*
 - Hannah for a son: 1 Sam. 1:10-11*
 - Elijah for rain: James 5:17-18*
 - The Psalmist in calling out to God: Psalm 119:147-149*
 - Jesus in pursuing the Father's will: Luke 22:42-44*
- *Persistence is exemplified in prayer. Lookup Micah 7:7; Psalm 27:14; Isaiah 26:8*
- *God answers corporate petition. Lookup:*
 - How people cried out in times of hardship together: Deut. 26:7-8*
 - When needing deliverance from enemies: 1 Sam. 12:10-11*
- *God answers the prayers of the oppressed. Lookup James 5:4*
- *God answers prayers for healing. Lookup James 5:14-16; Matt. 8:2-3*
- *God answers prayers for others. Lookup Acts 12:5-8; 1 Sam. 7:8-9*

Q2. How does Psalm 40:1 encourage us to pray?

Q3. What stirring in your heart do you sense? What action are you going to take?

- Second: Pray. You have five to eight minutes left. We exhort each of you to pray right now. Here's how...

Let each person take one of the following elements below. You start by repeating the opening sentence out loud and then continue to pray by adding to it, keeping in mind the time available and that everyone on the table should have an opportunity to engage in **patience and persistence of prayer**.

- i. *“Lord, I thank You that You we can persistently and consistently pray to you. Thank You for this...”*
- ii. *“Lord, I thank You for so many examples of people in the Bible who persistently prayed. Here is my prayer today...”*
- iii. *“Lord, today I learned about watching for You and also waiting for you. That’s me, I want to do that from now on...”*
- iv. *“Lord, I feel that I should (continue) to pray with others or start to pray with others. Lord, where can I do that? How can I do that? The reason I ask is because I feel our church needs to be more “together” in corporate prayer...”*
- v. *“Lord, I’m feeling a burden of an issue. Here it is. ... I pray to You today, and I will continue to pray for this...”*
- vi. *“Lord, I come to You in need of healing. The healing needed is for... I will come to You again today and tomorrow to ask, for I know that’s what You want me to do.”*
- vii. *“Lord, thank You so much for looking after me, but today I want to pray for others...”*
- viii. *“Lord, please would You hear my cry? Here are the details of a situation I’m in or aware of... I will continue to wait upon You patiently for Your answers whatever they may be.”*

Questions for the Panel: Session #2

It’s another session for the panel. Here we will have opportunity for people at the tables to ask questions and to hear the panel’s answers. Make notes and, most importantly, make a commitment to pray as God is exhorting us to do so, so that we too respond in **patience** and are **persistent in prayer**.

Let’s summarize

There is a timeless truth to persistence in prayer; there are many examples of persistence in prayer (Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Hannah, Elijah, the Psalmist... Jesus!); persistence is exemplified in prayer; God answers corporate petition; God answers the prayers of the oppressed; God answers prayers for healing; and, God answers prayers for others. In the Bible, you will see many examples of the **patience and persistence of prayer**.

Psalm 40:1 makes it clear that persistent and patient prayer is heard by the Lord.

Does God show us **patience and persistence of prayer**? Absolutely! We can turn consistently to Him; we can continually cry out to Him – He will hear us!

Closing time: reciting the prayer of response

(See Front Page)

Reminder of What will happen Next Week

Next week we will look at the **Amen! of prayer**. Be in prayer and focus on both **Psalm 40:1** (from today) and **2 Cor. 1:20** (our verse for next week).

Week 11 The Amen! of Prayer

FOR NO MATTER
HOW MANY PROMISES
GOD HAS MADE,
THEY ARE “YES” IN CHRIST.
AND SO THROUGH HIM

THE “**AMEN**” IS SPOKEN
BY US TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

2 COR. 1:20



THE
AMEN
OF
PRAYER



Review

As we begin today, let's review and remind ourselves of the verse from **2 Cor. 1:20** above. Read it aloud with the conviction of our **prayer of response**.

Our topic today is the **Amen! of prayer**.

A Time to Listen

In class today we will now share a story, a testimony, or some anecdote about today's topic. You might hear a model of this topic, you might hear something that inspires you. We hope this sharing will illustrate the idea of the **Amen! of prayer**. We encourage you to make some notes of what you hear.

Questions for the Panel: Session #1

In class we will have a panel of people sharing about their response to the **Amen! of prayer**.

♥ Our heart's aim ♥: We are hoping that each of us will hear something of how others respond to the **Amen! of prayer** and also for you to consider how you will respond to the **Amen! of prayer**.

There are three practical things you can do during this session.

- Think through how you would answer the panel questions.
 - My thoughts on how to answer the questions...
- Listen to the questions and note down significant answers that you hear.
 - Significant answers...
- Write down at least one good idea with the resolution to carry it through.
 - One good idea for me to do...

Table Practice

Around your tables you have two activities to perform in the next 20 minutes.

- First: Answer the following questions (12-15 minutes).

Q1. Do you say “amen” at the end of a prayer? What does it mean to you? Discuss.

The following verses might help you form some (deeper) ideas regarding the word Amen:

- *‘Amen’ is an expression of worship praise. Lookup 1 Chron. 16:36*
- *‘Amen’ is an expression of worship giving God, the Father, and Jesus the Beloved Son... glory. Lookup Eph. 3:21*
- *‘Amen’ is a double expression of worship to God bestowing on Him praise, glory, wisdom, thanks and honor, power and strength. Lookup Rev. 7:11-12*
- *‘Amen’ as a corporate solemn formal acceptance of God’s commandments. Lookup Neh. 5:13, 8:6*
- *‘Amen’ as a confirmation of grace or blessing. Lookup Gal. 6:18, Rev. 22:21-22*
- *‘Amen’ as a confirmation of vow, commitment or action. Lookup Jer. 28:5-6*

Q2. How does 2 Cor. 1:18-20 affect us in our prayers? Can you see that in some way “Amen” is a title of Jesus Christ?

Commentary: As we read the Bible, we see that the promises of God have been fulfilled and confirmed in Christ. Jesus was, as it were, a living incarnate "Amen" to those promises. We can compare this to John's use of the word "Amen" which is definitively given as a name of Christ, namely, the "faithful and true witness" as found in Revelation 3:14.

Q3. What stirring in your heart do you sense? What action are you going to take?

- Second: Pray. You have five to eight minutes left. We exhort each of you to pray right now. Here’s how...

Let each person take one of the following elements below. You start by repeating the opening sentence out loud and then continue to pray by adding to it, keeping in mind the time available and that everyone on the table should have an opportunity to engage in the **Amen! of prayer**.

- i. *“Lord, I thank You that when I say ‘Amen’ it is one way I can worship You in praise of You...*
- ii. *“Lord, I thank You that when I say ‘Amen’ it is one way I can give You as Father and Son glory...*
- iii. *“Lord, today I give You praise, glory, wisdom, thanks and honor, power and strength ... I say ‘Amen’...*
- iv. *“Lord, together with my brothers and sisters, I want to declare our acceptance of Your commandments and I will share just one or two commands of Yours now and then ask us all to say ‘Amen’...*
- v. *“Lord, I ask for Your grace, I ask for Your blessing in this matter... ‘Amen!’*
- vi. *“Lord, I ask that You hear a commitment that I want to make... here it is... ‘Amen!’*
- vii. *“Lord, I think that ‘Amen’ is a way of speaking about You. If that’s so, then when I say ‘Amen’, I am really saying Your name... Lord, here is my prayer and I will end it with ‘Amen’...*

Questions for the Panel: Session #2

It’s another session for the panel. Here we will have opportunity for people at the tables to ask questions and to hear the panel’s answers. Make notes and, most importantly, make a commitment to pray as God is exhorting us to do so, so that we too say ‘Amen!’ conveying all the meaning that is truly intended in that wonderful short affirmation!

Let’s summarize

‘Amen’ is an expression of worship praise; ‘amen’ is an expression of worship giving God, the Father, and Jesus, the Beloved Son, glory; ‘amen’ is a double expression of worship to God bestowing on Him praise, glory, wisdom, thanks and honor, power and strength; ‘amen’ is a corporate solemn formal acceptance of God’s commandments; ‘amen’ is a confirmation of grace or blessing; and, ‘amen’ is a confirmation of vow, commitment or action.

2 Cor. 1:20 makes it clear that the ‘Amen’ of prayer is our affirmation of what we are praying. But it is more than simple affirmation; it is our full commitment to all of God’s promises. When we say ‘Amen’ we are saying “Yes!” with our “yes” firmly rooted in the person of Jesus. As God speaks to us through Jesus, the ‘Amen’ is spoken by us (in response) and such response is to the glory of God.

Does God give us the **Amen! of prayer**? Absolutely! God wants to hear our “Yes!” He wants to hear our “Amen!” We can do that when we pray *together!*

Closing time: reciting the prayer of response

(See Front Page)

Reminder of What will happen Next Week

Next week we will look at the **unity of prayer**. Be in prayer and focus on both **2 Cor. 1:20** (from today) and **John 17:23** (our verse for next week).

Week 12 The Unity of Prayer



THE UNITY OF PRAYER

I IN THEM AND YOU IN ME—
SO THAT THEY MAY BE BROUGHT
TO COMPLETE UNITY.
THEN THE WORLD WILL KNOW
THAT YOU SENT ME
AND HAVE LOVED THEM
EVEN AS YOU HAVE LOVED ME.

JOHN 17:23



Review

As we begin today, let's review and remind ourselves of the verse from **John 17:23** above. Read it aloud with the conviction of our **prayer of response**.

Our topic today is the **unity of prayer**.

A Time to Listen

In class today we will now share a story, a testimony, or some anecdote about today's topic. You might hear a model of this topic, you might hear something that inspires you. We hope this sharing will illustrate the idea of the **unity of prayer**. We encourage you to make some notes of what you hear.

Questions for the Panel: Session #1

In class we will have a panel of people sharing about their response to **unity of prayer**.

♥ Our heart's aim ♥: We are hoping that each of us will hear something of how others respond to **unity of prayer** and also for you to consider how you will respond to the idea of **unity of prayer**.

There are three practical things you can do during this session.

- Think through how you would answer the panel questions.
 - My thoughts on how to answer the questions...
- Listen to the questions and note down significant answers that you hear.
 - Significant answers...
- Write down at least one good idea with the resolution to carry it through.
 - One good idea for me to do...

Table Practice

Around your tables you have two activities to perform in the next 20 minutes.

- First: Answer the following questions (12-15 minutes).

Q1. Are we in unity when we pray? What brings about such unity? Discuss.

The following verses might help you form and strengthen your sense of the unity of believers as we pray:

- *The unity of the Church. Lookup Rom. 12:5*
- *The unity of the Church is our reflection of the unity found in the Trinity. Lookup Eph. 4:4-6; John 17:11*
- *The unity of the Church is the work of the Trinity. Lookup Eph. 2:16-18*
- *We are called to keep the unity of the Spirit with each other and it takes effort. Lookup Eph. 4:3*
- *Unity is expressed most clearly in Scripture by being in fellowship:*
 - ~ *with God*; Lookup 1 Cor. 1:9
 - ~ *meeting in person with others*; Lookup Acts 2:46; Heb. 10:25
 - ~ *through sharing resources*; Lookup Acts 2:44-45
 - ~ *through suffering*; Lookup Rom. 8:17; Phil. 3:10; Rev. 1:9
 - ~ *through shared spiritual blessings*. Lookup 1 Cor. 9:23

Q2. How does John 17:23 exhort us to pray? There are many aspects of prayer included in this verse. Can you see them?

Q3. What stirring in your heart do you sense? What action are you going to take?

- Second: Pray. You have five to eight minutes left. We exhort each of you to pray right now. Here's how...

Let each person take one of the following elements below. You start by repeating the opening sentence out loud and then continue to pray by adding to it, keeping in mind the time available and that everyone on the table should have an opportunity to engage in the **unity of prayer**.

- i. *“Lord, I thank You that You want unity; especially that the Church itself be one with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit...”*
- ii. *“Lord, today I learned or was reminded that it is Your work as Father, Son and Spirit to bring about unity in us. On the one hand that takes a tremendous burden off us (You are doing the work) on the other hand...”*
- iii. *“Lord, it is clear that you want us to keep the unity of the Spirit. That means that unity already exists. So, Lord help us...”*
- iv. *“Lord, our unity first starts by each of us, including me, having unity with You as God...”*
- v. *“Lord, our unity also means we need to meet with others...”*
- vi. *“Lord, our unity means that we need to hear each other’s needs and, as we can, share resources...”*
- vii. *“Lord, our unity means that we need to hear each other’s burdens and suffering and, as we can, grieve and lament together...”*
- viii. *“Lord, our unity means that we need to hear how each other is blessed by You spiritually and rejoice in Your giving spiritually...”*
- ix. *“Lord, we know that You as Father and Son have perfect unity. That is so awesome. We know that You even want us to have the same unity too. How double awesome. Thank You so much for the love You give to us so that...”*

Questions for the Panel: Session #2

It’s another session for the panel. Here we will have opportunity for people at the tables to ask questions and to hear the panel’s answers. Make notes and, most importantly, make a commitment to pray as God is exhorting us to do so, so that we too **pray in unity**.

Let’s summarize

The unity of the church is so important; the unity of the Church is our reflection of the unity found in the Trinity; the unity of the Church is the work of the Trinity; we are called to keep the unity of the Spirit with each other and it takes effort; unity is expressed most clearly in Scripture by being in fellowship: with God; meeting in person with others; through sharing resources; through suffering; and, through shared spiritual blessings.

John 17:23 makes it clear that there is unity of prayer.

Does God give us the **unity of prayer**? Absolutely! God is Himself in unity as Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Through prayer, we are more than encouraged to have unity.

Closing time: reciting the prayer of response

(See Front Page)

Reminder of What will happen Next Week

Next week we will look at our final aspect on prayer: **prayer for God’s glory**. Be in prayer and focus on both **John 17:23** (from today) and **Eph. 3:20-21** (our verses for next week).

Week 13 Prayer for God's Glory



NOW TO HIM
WHO IS ABLE TO DO
IMMEASURABLY MORE
THAN ALL WE ASK OR IMAGINE,
ACCORDING TO HIS POWER
THAT IS AT WORK WITHIN US,
TO HIM BE GLORY IN THE CHURCH
AND IN CHRIST JESUS
THROUGHOUT ALL GENERATIONS,
FOR EVER AND EVER!
AMEN.

EPH. 3:20-21



PRAYER FOR GOD'S GLORY

Review

As we begin today, let's review and remind ourselves of the verse from **Eph. 3:20-21** above. Read it aloud with the conviction of our **prayer of response**.

Our topic today is **prayer for God's glory**.

A Time to Listen

In class today we will now share a story, a testimony, or some anecdote about today's topic. You might hear a model of this topic, you might hear something that inspires you. We hope this sharing will illustrate the idea of **prayer for God's glory**. We encourage you to make some notes of what you hear.

Questions for the Panel: Session #1

In class we will have a panel of people sharing about their response to **prayer for God's glory**.

♥ Our heart's aim ♥: We are hoping that each of us will hear something of how others respond to God's **prayer for God's glory** and also for you to consider how you will respond to **prayer for God's glory**.

There are three practical things you can do during this session.

- Think through how you would answer the panel questions.
 - My thoughts on how to answer the questions...
- Listen to the questions and note down significant answers that you hear.
 - Significant answers...
- Write down at least one good idea with the resolution to carry it through.
 - One good idea for me to do...

Table Practice

Around your tables you have two activities to perform in the next 20 minutes.

- First: Answer the following questions (12-15 minutes).

Q1. How do our prayers bring glory to God and how can we recite different types of prayer that bring Him ALL the glory He desires? Discuss.

The following verses might help you form some (deeper) ideas as to the nature of prayer that glorifies God.

- *God is glorified in His Son Jesus Christ. Lookup John 13:31; John 14:13; 17:4*
- *God is glorified in His loving mercy. Lookup Psalm 63:3*
- *God is glorified in His Holiness. Lookup Psalm 99:9*
- *God is glorified in His great deeds. Lookup Psalm 86:8-10*
- *God is glorified in His righteous judgments. Lookup Rev. 14:7*
- *Glorifying God is the believer's loving response. Lookup Psalm 118:28*

- *We can praise God to glorify Him. Lookup Rev. 4:11; 1 Peter 4:11*
- *We can live for God to glorify Him. Lookup 1 Cor. 10:31; Rom. 4:20*
- *We can do good works and bear fruit to glorify Him. Lookup John 15:8; Phil. 1:9-11*

Q2. How does Ephesians 3:20-21 exhort us to pray? There are many aspects of prayer included in this verse. Can you see them?

Q3. What stirring in your heart do you sense? What action are you going to take?

- Second: Pray. You have five to eight minutes left. We exhort each of you to pray right now. Here's how...

Let each person take one of the following elements below. You start by repeating the opening sentence out loud and then continue to pray by adding to it, keeping in mind the time available and that everyone on the table should have an opportunity to engage in **prayer for God's glory**.

- i. *“Lord, I thank You that You exhort me to pray. This is just one way I worship you...*
- ii. *“Lord, I thank You that You exhort me to pray. This is so helpful to me with anxiety...*
- iii. *“Lord, I thank You that You exhort me to pray. This is just one way I can express my thankfulness to you.*
- iv. *“Lord, I thank You that You exhort me to pray. This is one of the ways I am devoted to you.*
- v. *“Lord, I thank You that You exhort me to pray. This is one of the ways I sacrifice my heart’s desires, my time, my thinking, my acts to you...*

Questions for the Panel: Session #2

It’s another session for the panel. Here we will have opportunity for people at the tables to ask questions and to hear the panel’s answers. Make notes and, most importantly, make a commitment to pray as God is exhorting us to do so, so that we too receive the promises of prayer.

Let’s summarize

God is glorified in His Son Jesus Christ; God is glorified in His loving mercy; God is glorified in His Holiness; God is glorified in His great deeds; God is glorified in His righteous judgments; glorifying God is the believer’s loving response.

We can praise God to glorify Him; we can live for God to glorify Him; and, we can do good works and bear fruit to glorify Him.

Ephesians 3:20-21 makes it clear that we are encouraged to turn toward God and give Him glory. We can be a part of a long line of people that have praised Him in the past, and we can hand on the baton to others to praise Him in the future! Why so? God is able to do way more than we could even ask or even imagine to ask; past, present and in the future! He should receive glory for having such immense and immeasurable ways of responding to us. God wants to give to us! Furthermore, what God is able to do is not just external to us, He can work immeasurably *within* us! All praise to Him for ever and ever! Amen!

Does God give us **prayer for His glory**? Absolutely! God is to be glorified!

Closing time: reciting the prayer of response

(See Front Page)

Reminder of What will happen Next Week

Next week... we will **continue to pray!** 😊

Here are the key verses we covered over the last 13 weeks

Eph. 6:18; John 14:13-14; Luke 5:16; Psalm 66:1; Matthew 6:9-10; Romans 8:26; 2 Chron. 7:14; Luke 11:9, 13; Hebrews 11:6; Psalm 40:1; 2 Cor. 1:20; John 17:23 and Eph. 3:20-21.