

# Most Sensible of All Things

## James 5:13



# Learning to Pray



John 16:33



<sup>33</sup> These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

## II Timothy 3:12



<sup>12</sup> Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

“Christians are bidden to turn constantly to prayer, whatever the circumstances of their life may be. The habit of prayer should be, and indeed is, one of the most obvious features which differentiates a Christian from other people.” - Tasker

## Luke 11:1



<sup>1</sup> It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples.”

## Psalm 66:18



<sup>18</sup> If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear;





I Peter 5:7



<sup>7</sup> casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

## Romans 8:32



<sup>32</sup> He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

“What is prayer? Prayer is talking with God, and the place to begin in any true definition of prayer is with the fact that prayer is for believers only. It is the means by which an empty soul that has been touched by Jesus Christ can be thrust beneath the lifegiving fountain of God’s grace, can bask in God’s goodness, and can be supernaturally refreshed for life’s tasks. Prayer is the Christian’s antidote for anxiety.

I know something called prayer is offered a billion times daily by millions of people who are not Christians, but this is not prayer in any real sense. Scores of non-Christian people in the East spend the better part of a day spinning prayer wheels. Savages chant prayers in many jungle clearings. New Agers finger prayer beads. Many poor souls cry out a prayer in the midst of some calamity. Many non-Christians give themselves to a life of meditation. But this is not true prayer, if the person involved is not a Christian. Prayer is talking with God, and the only prayer that God hears and answers is one that is made through His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who alone provides access to His presence.

This truth was taught by Jesus. Jesus said, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me' (John 14:6). Jesus did not say that He was one of several ways to come to God, that He was a prophet who pointed out the ways to God; He said that He was *the* way to God, and He added, lest anyone misunderstand Him, 'No one comes to the Father except through Me.' This means that no prayer offered to God apart from faith in the Lord Jesus Christ has ever reached God His heavenly Father.

There are more passages in the Bible that tell when God will not answer prayer than there are passages in which He promises to do it, and God definitely says He will not answer prayer of anyone who does not come through faith in His Son.” - Boice

## Isaiah 59:1 & 2



<sup>1</sup> Behold, the LORD's hand is not so short that it cannot save; nor is His ear so dull that it cannot hear. <sup>2</sup> But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden *His* face from you so that He does not hear.

## Luke 18:1



<sup>1</sup> Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart,



# Right Praying



## Philippians 4:6 & 7



<sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## I Samuel 12:23



<sup>23</sup> Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you; but I will instruct you in the good and right way.

“Simply put, prayer is the infinite power of God committed to the hand of mere finite man. It is the closest that man can come to wielding divine omnipotence. Nothing can prevail against prayer, not even Satan and hell itself. Yet, tragically, prayer is often the most neglected of all Christian disciplines. And our lives and ministries suffer for it.” - Lawson

“The Jews had a saying that the one who prays surrounds his house with a wall stronger than iron. They said, ‘Penitence can do something, but prayer can do everything.’ To them, prayer was nothing less than contacting the power of God; it was the channel through which the strength and grace of God were brought to bear on the troubles and problems of life. How much more this must be so for a Christian” - Barclay

## Luke 5:16



<sup>16</sup> But Jesus Himself would *often* slip away to the wilderness and pray.

## Luke 6:12



<sup>12</sup> It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God.

Luke 9:18a



<sup>18a</sup> And it happened that while He was praying alone,.....



“Jesus’ earthly ministry was remarkably brief, barely three years long. Yet in those three years, as must have been true in His earlier life, He spent a great amount of time in prayer. The Gospels report that Jesus habitually rose early in the morning, often before daybreak, to commune with His Father. In the evening He would frequently go to the Mount of Olives or some other quiet spot to pray, usually alone. Prayer was the spiritual air that Jesus breathed every day of His life. He practiced an unending communion between Himself and the Father.”

- MacArthur

## I Corinthians 10:31



<sup>31</sup> Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

“Prayer, like everything else in the Christian life, is for God’s glory and for our benefit, in that order. Everything that God does, everything that God allows and ordains, is, in the supreme sense, for His glory. It is also true that while God seeks His own glory supremely, man benefits when God is glorified. We pray to glorify God, but we also pray in order to receive the benefits of prayer from His hand. Prayer is for our benefit, even in light of the fact that God knows the end from the beginning. It is our privilege to bring the whole of our finite existence into the glory of His infinite presence.” – RC Sproul

“Praying at all times is living in continual God-consciousness, where everything we see and experience becomes a kind of prayer, lived in deep awareness of and surrender to our Heavenly Father. It is something I share with my Best Friend – something I instantly communicate with God. To obey this exhortation means that, when we are tempted, we hold the temptation before God and ask for His help. When we experience something good and beautiful, we immediately thank the Lord for it.

When we see evil around us, we ask God to make it right and to allow us to help accomplish that, if it is according to His will. When we meet someone who does not know Christ, we pray for God to draw that person to Himself and to use us to be a faithful witness. When we encounter trouble, we turn to God as our Deliverer. Thus life becomes a continually ascending prayer: all life's thoughts, deeds, and circumstances become an opportunity to commune with our Heavenly Father." - MacArthur