

# **HOW DO YOU PRAY?**

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**There is a question that needs to be asked today, “HOW DO YOU PRAY?”** That question needs to be answered in our hearts. There are all kinds of prayers. There are short prayers and long prayers. There is the prayer of a joyful soul. There is the prayer of a broken heart. There is the determined prayer of a heavenly intercessor. There is the fervent prayer of a man facing death, like Hezekiah. All prayer is not the same. “HOW DO YOU PRAY?”

As we take a brief look into the spiritual realities of prayer, let us turn to the eleventh chapter of Luke. Let us read the 1<sup>st</sup> verse,

“And it came to pass that as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.”

You see, the disciples came face to face with reality. Their prayers were lacking a special something. I’m not saying that their prayers were dead prayers, or cold prayers. The facts that are before us, however, can not be denied. The disciples could see that there was an undeniable, unmistakable, and unquestionable difference between their prayers and the glorious prayers of our Lord and Saviour. Do you know what it’s like to pray day after day, night after night, for something and feel like you are just talking to the wind? Have you ever heard somebody pray a prayer that seemed to open up the windows of heaven, and hunger in your spirit to have such a connection? Do you know what it’s like to be so deep in prayer, in communion with God, that you find yourself lifted up into another place? Well, today I want us to see the wonderful glory of God that is available if we would just learn HOW to pray.

The disciples came face to face with reality. Something vital was missing in their prayers. Some spark. Some fire. They came face to face with the reality that their own prayers were lacking something that was necessary. Looking at the eleventh chapter of Luke gives us a benchmark. It is the high calling of God. Press toward the mark. Let us seek God with all our hearts. Then, we will find Him. He’s not far away. The kingdom of God does not come with observation. It is inside. HOW DO YOU PRAY?

Moses cried out at the Red Sea when he saw that deliverance was only in the hands of the Lord. David addressed the Goliath in his life by proclaiming the truth, “Who is this uncircumcised Philistine to deny the armies of the living God?” It was not about David. It was not about the Israelites. It was all about God. Jehoshaphat was surrounded by a huge army and basically cried out, “Lord, it’s not about us. It’s all about you.” The Lord delivered. Nebuchadnezzar wandered in the wilderness seven years and then returned to his senses and praised the God that rules in the kingdom of heaven and kingdom of men. God granted him mercy. HOW DO YOU PRAY?

You see, mountain moving prayer connects to the will of God. Mountain moving prayer submits to the will of God. Mountain moving prayer understands the will of God. It’s not about you. It’s not about me. It’s about Our Lord and Saviour. It’s about God’s Honor. It’s about God’s Glory. “Our Father which art in heaven”. Above all, in all, and through us all. Give glory to whom glory is do. HOW DO YOU PRAY? Abraham humbled himself. Moses humbled himself. David, Joseph, Daniel, Zechariah, Mary & Joseph. Every last one of them humbled themselves beneath the mighty hand of God. “Father, it’s not about me. It’s about You. Glorify your name.”

Miraculous results, Amazing results, Great and Mighty Things will happen If and When we give the Lord total priority in Prayer. There is no other foundation that can be laid. He is the First and the Last. What if our cupboard is empty? What if we do not have a job? What if our children refuse to listen? Trouble is on the left. Trouble is on the right. Peter sank beneath the waves, beneath the waters of darkness, when he took his eyes off Jesus. Keep your eyes on the Lord and behold His glory. Put Him first, and He will meet your every desire.

You see, when we understand in our hearts that *God is glorified when we recognize that the very breath of life in our lungs comes from Him*, then we will know How To Pray. When we understand that it is God's good pleasure to fill up our cupboard, then we will no longer have to worry about where the groceries come from. We will know How To Pray. When we understand that it is God who is ready, willing, and able to deliver our children from the hands of our enemy, and give Him praise and honor, then the armies of the living God will come to our rescue.

You see, when we know in our hearts that we deserved hell, and not mercy, then we can see beyond the darkness of this world to love the child molester, serial killer, knuckle head of a boss, and any other person who rubs us the wrong way. Then, we can pray with a compassionate, understanding heart that is focused on God's will, and not our fleshly desires. When we truly understand God's eternal mercy towards us in Jesus, then we can humble ourselves and shake the gates of hell on behalf of those who have not been enlightened like us. The same liar that deceived me has also deceived my brother. Surely, I can forgive those who have transgressed against me. The Lord forgave me. That's grace. I didn't deserve it. Yet, I received it. As the song goes, Justice said kill him. Grace and Mercy said let me go. HOW DO YOU PRAY?

In Closing, there are several points that I want to make to you about prayer.

1. **Get Alone With God.** (Put the world behind you, and seek the kingdom of God when you pray)
2. **Pray In The Name Of Jesus. Recognize Jesus' Dominion, Authority, Power, & Glory** (There is no greater name in heaven or in earth. Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty.)
3. **Pray For The Lord To Be Glorified By Answering Your Prayer.** (Can you see God's glory in the simple act of giving you a piece of bread? Even the very hairs of your head are numbered. Jesus knows His sheep individually)
4. **Have Faith. Believe and Trust In God.** (Otherwise why even bother to open your mouth. You must believe that God is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.)
5. **Be Clear, Definite, and Specific.** (God is not the author of confusion. He gives us a spirit of a sound mind.)
6. **Be Humble.** (Only the blood of Jesus allows us to kneel in the presence of the living God.)
7. **Lift Up Holy Hands.**(Show submission and reverence to the Almighty)
8. **Be Persistent.** (Like the widow, keep on asking. Keep on seeking. Keep on knocking. Wrestle in prayer like Jacob wrestled with the angel).

9. **Be Bold.** (Through Jesus, we have confidence to boldly approach the throne of glory to receive mercy so that we have grace in times of need)
10. **Pray With Understanding Concerning The Will Of God.** (With all your getting, get understand. Jesus was manifested to destroy the works of the devil. God is the Father of Light. In Him is no darkness. Sin shall not have dominion over you. Jesus said “Get behind Me, Satan!” God’s thoughts toward you are peace, and not evil, to bring you to an expected end.)
11. **Thank God for His Mercy, Even In Allowing You To Pray.** (Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith. God’s mercy and goodness is forever.)
12. **Be Watchful. Look and listen.** (Expect to see results. Stand and see the salvation of the Lord.)