

Thursday Evening Bible Study

Series: Prayer

Week 13

No Bible study on Thursday August 8th. Church vacation week.

Let's look at a sampling of prayers in the Bible.

We will read each one quietly first and make our own notes about the prayer.

Then we will read it out loud together and discuss what we notice about the prayer.

What do we learn about prayer from these passages?

1. Exodus 33:12-23 [Completed week 1]

- Be bold in prayer
- Prayer deepens our relationship with God
- "Let me know Your ways"
- "That I may know You" is perhaps the greatest prayer we can pray
- The Lord speaks back to Moses!
- God answers prayer
- Prayer can be a back and forth conversation
- "Remind" our Father that you are His child
- Leaders pray for all God's people
- "Show me Your glory!" All for the glory of God

2. 1 Kings 18:36-41 [completed week 2]

- Elijah is bold and God answers him immediately
- Elijah's desire in his bold request is to let it be known that the Lord is God in Israel. And that He has turned their hearts back again.
- The Lord answers Elijah's prayer in dramatic fashion: His fire.
- The Lord also fulfills Elijah's desire for the people to turn their hearts back again to the Lord, worshipping Him as the one and only God.

3. 1 Samuel 1:9-2:11 [completed week 2]

- Hannah is desperate in her desire for a son
- She pours out her heart to the Lord
- She makes a vow. If You...then I....
- The vow is structured in a legal way, and this makes sense for the Jews who were under the Law. The Lord does not want members of the church to make vows.
- She is overjoyed when the Lord answers her prayer. She praises the Lord : “there is none like You”. She recognizes Him as her savior, holy, and all-knowing
- Her prayer of thanksgiving is very similar to the Mary’s song of praise in Luke 1.

4. Psalm 31 [completed week 3]

This Psalm has many kinds of prayer

- Verses 1-2: Petitions
- Verses 3-5: Praise and Promises
- Verses 6-8: Answered prayer and David’s response
- Verse 9: Cry out for grace in his distress
- Verses 10-13: Pouring out his heart by describing his distress in detail
- Verses 14-18: Petitions
- Verses 19-22: Praise and gratitude for answered prayer
- Verses 23-24: Exhorting the godly ones

5. Psalm 65 [week 4]

- All praise
- The focal point is God – acknowledge God
- Verses 1-4: Worshipping the Redeemer in silence and praise– God’s grace in salvation, forgiving our sins
- Verses 5-8: Awe for the Creator – God’s awesome power in creation – nature
- Verses 9-13: Rejoicing in God our Provider – God’s overflowing blessings

6. Psalm 17 [week 4]

- A prayer for deliverance from evil people
- Bold requests : hear me, give heed, show, keep, hide, arise, deliver
- Verse 1: Petition – hear a just cause, give heed to my cry
- Verses 2-5: You have tested me and found nothing
- Verses 6-8: Petition for protection – You will answer me, show your lovingkindness, hide me in the shadow of Your wings.
- Verses 9 -12: Describes his enemies
- Verses 13-14: Petition against his enemies
- Verse 15: Hope for the future

7. Psalm 86 [week 5]

- David cries out to the Lord to be gracious to him in his affliction
- David enjoys a covenant relationship with God and petitions Him on that basis
- Petitions in verses 1-5, 7, 11, 16-17
- Adoration, praise and thanksgiving in verses 5, -10, 12-13, 15.
- Description of enemies in verse 14.
- He praises the Lord for His graciousness, mercy, patience, abundant lovingkindness, and truth

8. Psalm 102 [week 6]

- Verses 1-11 : the Psalmist's present troubles as representative of Israel in exile
- Verses 12-18: Israel's glorious Messianic future (esp. the Millennial kingdom)
- References to the Messiah and His coming kingdom include
 - Verse 13: Zion's appointed time
 - Verse 15: The nations will fear the name of the Lord, and all the kings of the earth His glory
 - Verse 16: The Lord has built up Zion (Jerusalem), He has appeared in His glory.
 - Verse 18: a people yet to be created
 - Verses 21-22: the peoples and the nations will be gathered together in Jerusalem to praise and to serve the Lord.

- Verses 25-27: quoted in Heb 1:10-12 where it refers to God's Son, our Lord Jesus Christ
- There are strong parallels to verses 12-18 in Isaiah 66:7-24

9. Psalm 139 [week 7]

- This Psalm reveals how much the Lord knows about David – and vice versa.
- Prayer leads to intimacy with the Lord.
- This psalm is 100% praise. David praises God's essence: His sovereignty, omniscience, omnipotence, omnipresence, righteousness, and justice.
- Knowing these things causes the soul to rest secure in the Lord.
- It has six parts: verses 1-6, 7-12, 13-16, 17-18, 19-22, and 23-24.
 - Verses 1-6: God's omniscience
 - Verses 7-12: God's omnipresence
 - Verses 13-16: God's sovereignty and omnipotence
 - Verses 17-18: God's intimacy and love for David
 - Verses 19-22: God's justice; David's hatred for God's enemies
 - Verses 23-24: David's petition to the Lord that He may search David, know his heart, Try him and know his anxious thoughts, see if there be any hurtful way about David, and lead him in the everlasting way (eternal life).

10. Matthew 6:5-15 [week 8]

- We address our prayers to God the Father
- In this section of Matthew, Jesus is teaching about life in the kingdom
- Don't be a hypocrite by praying in public to be noticed by people.
- Pray to God in private and in secret.
- Do not use meaningless repetition. Our Father knows what we need before we ask Him. Ask for what you need.
- Pray in adoration of His holy name – who He is. Praise Him!
- Pray for His will to be done.
- Our sins have already been forgiven. (Eph 4:32, Col 3:13). As the Father has forgiven us, so we should forgive others.
- Pray to be led away from temptation and evil.

11. Matthew 14:30 [week 9]

- In a situation of overwhelming fear and doubt
- Cry out “Lord save me!”
- Jesus immediately answered Peter’s prayer by stretching out his hand and taking hold of him.
- Then Jesus chastised him for his little faith.
- Philippians 4:6-7 provides instructions for us not to be anxious but instead to make our requests known to God

12. Luke 18:1-8 [week 9]

- Pray at all times. Cry out to God day and night.
- Do not lose heart. Never give up. Continually come to the Lord with your needs.
- A widow had no one to look out for her and was usually very poor. She had no other choice but to keep appealing to this evil judge.
- If an evil judge will provide legal protection for a penniless widow , how much more will our heavenly Father give us what we need.

13. John 17:1-26 [week 10]

- Jesus prays to His Father on the night before He will go to the cross
- He prays for Himself (vv. 1-5), His disciples (vv. 6-19), and the church (vv. 20-26)
- This prayer includes petitions, praises, and reports.
- His petitions for **Himself** include: (a) that the Father may glorify Him so He may glorify the Father; and (b) that the Father may glorify Him together with Himself
- His petitions for **His disciples** include: (a) to keep them in Your name (essence, especially His power); (b) that they may be one even as the Father and the Son are one; (c) to have the Lord’s joy made full; (d) to keep them from the evil one; and (e) to sanctify them in the truth (the word of God).
- His petitions for **the church** include: (a) that they may all be one as the Father is in the Son and the Son is in the Father, that the church may also be in Us (baptism by the Spirit into Christ); (b) that the Lord may be in them (Col 1:27); (c) that they may be perfected in unity; (d) that they may be with Christ where He is so that they may see His glory; and

(e) that the love with which the Father has loved the Son may be in them.

- He praises His Father for: (a) the glory which Christ had with Him before the foundation of the world; (b) that all things that are Christ's are His; (c) that He has loved Him; and (d) that He is righteous.

14. Ephesians 1:15-23

- Paul is describing his prayer rather than praying directly
- His main request is that they (and we) might know the Father, His calling, inheritance, and power.
- “For this reason” in verse 15 refers back to all the blessings in verses 3-14.
- He first thanks God for their faith in the Lord and their love for the saints.
- In verses 17-19, Paul addresses his PETITIONS to the Father of glory:
 - That the Father give to the saints a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the **knowledge of Him**
 - That they will know the hope of **His calling**, the riches of the glory of **His inheritance** (which is the saints), and the surpassing greatness of **His power** toward the saints
- This power is in accordance with the working of His mighty strength which He brought about in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand.
- Verses 19b-23 are a recital of glories:
 - The glory of the Father (His power, His authority over all creation)
 - The glory of Christ (all things subjected to Him)
 - The glory of the Church, which is Christ's body (the fullness of Christ)
- Takeaway: We ought to pray in view of God's glory and power, and as members of Christ's body

15. Ephesians 3:14-21

- “for this reason” points back to verses 3-13:
 - The mystery of Christ – Gentiles are fellow members of the body
 - The manifold wisdom of God is made known through the church

- We have boldness and confident access through faith in Christ
- Paul begins his prayer by praising God as the Father of the whole family, and for the riches of His glory
- Paul presents his petitions in verses 16-19.
- V. 16: that the saints may be strengthened with power in the inner man through the Spirit
- V. 17: that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith, and that we will be rooted and grounded in love
- V. 18: that we may be able to comprehend what is the breadth and length and height and depth (of the love of Christ)
- V. 19: that we may know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, and
- That we may be filled up with all the fullness of God.
- Vs. 20-21 are a hymn of glory and praise to the Father
- When we pray, keep in mind that God is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think.

Q&A : Your questions about prayer.

What have you learned about prayer?

What things are you ready to adopt in your own prayer life?