

Thursday Evening Bible Study

Series: Prayer

Week 9

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 the 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

12. Luke 18:1-8

13. John 17:1-26

14. Ephesians 1:15-23

15. Ephesians 3:14-21