

What is Prayer?

Student Manual

PRAYER

- No matter what you think about prayer, somehow it works
- There is an art to prayer and how it works
- Prayer is the result of God's established authority structure between heaven and earth, as well as a product of His faithfulness to His Word. Prayer is as simple as respecting God's authority.
- Prayer was born out of God's arrangements for man's assignment on earth;
- God defined the boundaries of His right to legally influence and interfere in the earth realm

Key Principles

- God's purpose is more important than our plans
- God has placed His Word above even Himself
- God will never violate or break His word
- God's holiness is the foundation of His integrity and faithfulness
- These principles are essential to an understanding of the nature and purpose of prayer
- The precepts make prayer necessary
- God's original intent for us his creation motivates and regulates all His actions
- God will never violate his spoken or written word to fulfill his purpose in our lives
- The Word of God is the basis of prayer principle
- The word of God is not just the law for man, but the law for God himself. It is called the Law of God
- He subjects himself to His promises and decrees because of His integrity.
- He places his word above all things including His name.
- Whenever God speaks, He Himself is willfully obligated to obey His own Word. Any law of God is a law to God. He is faithful to His word at all costs.

What is prayer?

- Prayer is man giving God the legal right and permission to interfere in earth's affairs.
- Prayer is man giving heaven earthly license to influence earth
- Prayer is terrestrial license for celestial interference

- Prayer is man exercising his legal authority on earth to invoke heaven's influence on the planet

Scripture gives mankind the authority and prerogative to determine what happens on earth.

Every action taken by God in the earth realm required the involvement of a human being

God does nothing but answer prayer

Prayer is not an option for mankind but a necessity

Heaven depends on us, and earth needs us

With us heaven will not – and without heaven, earth cannot!

What is Prayer – Questions for reflection

As you study what prayer is, it's helpful to be mindful of where you are in your prayer journey. In the New Testament there are many scriptures in which we are exhorted to 'pray continually', 'pray always, in every way'. Jesus Himself said '**when** you pray'. Prayer isn't just for 'intercessors' or certain people who 'are called' to pray. Prayer is a biblical mandate for all brothers and sisters in Christ. These questions are intended to help you go deeper in your prayer journey, whether you have never prayed before, or are a seasoned pray-er. Prayerfully answer the following questions and be prepared to share briefly at the next class.

1. Finish this statement with a choice from below – To me, prayer is....
 - a. A complete mystery, isn't that for other people?
 - b. Confusing and/or intimidating
 - c. A way to talk to God about my problems
 - d. Part of my daily walk with God in which we have a two-way conversation
 - e. Other:

2. Share an example of a time God answered your prayer –

3. Read Hebrews 4:16. In this verse, 'boldly' is defined as "freedom in speaking, openly, frankly." We are encouraged to come before His throne of grace with total freedom in speaking with Him. Are you able to pray freely to your heavenly Father? If not, you're not alone. If not, what do you think holds you back?

4. Have you ever read the prayer Jesus prayed not only for His disciples, but for you, in John 17? Please take a few minutes to do so now. What verse(s) is especially encouraging to you, and why?

5. Read Matthew 6:8-13, paying close attention to vs. 10. Reflecting back on the discussion from lesson 1, how do you think God's kingdom comes and His will is done, on earth as it is in Heaven?

6. Proverbs 18:21 says that what we say produces life or death. How might this impact your prayers as you grow in your prayer life?
