

# PRAYER

A Biblical Theology and Exposition of Prayer

INTRODUCTION TO  
PRAYER

# Discouraged in Prayer

- How do you feel about prayer and why do you feel that way?
- Why don't we pray more?

“But the news about Him was spreading even farther, and large crowds were gathering to hear Him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray.”

—*Luke 5:15–16*

# Discouraged in Prayer

- How do you feel about prayer and why do you feel that way?
- Why don't we pray more?

# Discouraged in Prayer

- Why don't we pray more?
  - Sin.
  - Too busy.
  - Self-sufficiency.
  - Lack of love for the Lord.
  - Lack of commitment to God's purposes and glory.

# Discouraged in Prayer

- Why don't we pray more?
  - Sin.
  - Too busy.
  - Self-sufficiency.
  - Lack of love for the Lord.
  - Lack of commitment to God's purposes and glory.
  - **We think incorrectly about prayer.**

# Encouragement in Prayer

- We need to think about prayer rightly.
- What will **motivate** us to pray differently than we do now?
- What will **encourage** us to pray differently than we do now?



# Encouragement in Prayer

## Aspects of Prayer

- Praise
- Worship
- Thanksgiving
- Confession
- Petition (praying for ourselves)
- Intercession (praying for others)
- Affirmation
- Questions

# Encouragement in Prayer

## Attitudes in Prayer

- Waiting
- Watching
- Listening
- Scripture Saturation
- Meditation

# Encouragement in Prayer

- Prayer is broader than we (often) think.
- Prayer is more exciting than we (often) think.
- Prayer is an amazing, exciting, unlimited ministry opportunity!

“Is anyone among you suffering? *Then* he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises. Is anyone among you sick? *Then* he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.”

—*James 5:13–15*

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.”

—*James 5:16*

“Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.”

—*James 5:17–18*

“In that day you will not question Me about anything. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you. Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.”

—*John 16:23–24*

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and *so* prove to be My disciples.”

—*John 15:7–8*



# Encouragement in Prayer

- Prayer is broader than we (often) think.
  - It is for every aspect of our lives and involves many different aspects and attitudes.
- Prayer is more exciting than we (often) think.
  - It is an amazing, exciting, effective, powerful, joy-giving, ministry opportunity open to every believer through which God will be glorified.

# Encouragement in Prayer

## The Prayer of Jesus

- Jesus prays as God and man.

“Then He \*said to them, ‘My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me.’ And He went a little beyond *them*, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, ‘My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.’”

—*Matthew 26:38–39*

“He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, ‘My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done.’ . . . And He left them again, and went away and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more.”

—*Matthew 26:42, 44*

# Encouragement in Prayer

## The Prayer of Jesus

- Jesus prays as God and man.

“There were about five thousand men who ate, besides women and children. Immediately He made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away. After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone. But the boat was already a long distance from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary. And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea.”

—*Matthew 14:21–25*

“When evening came, after the sun had set, they *began* bringing to Him all who were ill and those who were demon-possessed. And the whole city had gathered at the door. And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He was not permitting the demons to speak, because they knew who He was. In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left *the house*, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there.”

—*Mark 1:32–35*

“It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God. And when day came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles:”

—*Luke 6:12–13*



“Some eight days after these sayings, He took along Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while He was praying, the appearance of His face became different, and His clothing *became* white *and* gleaming.”

—*Luke 9:28–29*

“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded *permission* to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”

—*Luke 22:31–32*

“The *former* priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing, but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently. Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens; who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the *sins* of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.”

—*Hebrews 7:23–27*

# Encouragement in Prayer

## The Privilege of Prayer

- Salvation brings us into the communion with the Father that the Son enjoyed in eternity past.
- This is the highest privilege of our salvation.
- Salvation also conforms us to Christ making us into people who pray and (increasingly) enjoy that fellowship with God.

“for through Him we both have our access in one  
Spirit to the Father.”

—*Ephesians 2:18*

“*This was* in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.”

—*Ephesians 3:11–12*

“Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, ‘Ananias.’ And he said, ‘Here I am, Lord.’ And the Lord *said* to him, ‘Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying,’”

—*Acts 9:10–11*