

## Prayer Lesson 2 January 15, 2012

### The *Practice* of Praying: How Do We Pray?

**Big Idea:** Pray for God's will to be done so that God will be glorified.

**Focal Scripture: Matthew 6:9–13 (NASB95)** — **9** “Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. **10** ‘Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. **11** ‘Give us this day our daily bread. **12** ‘And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. **13** ‘And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]’

**Class Objective:** To glorify God by learning to pray as Christ taught in the Lord's Prayer and to use the “ACTS” guide as a prayer outline.

#### I. Who Do We Pray To?

1. Pray *to* God, *through* Christ, *in* / *by* the Spirit (Matt. 6:9; Jn. 17; Jn. 16:24; Eph. 6:18).
2. Pray to God as a loving Father (Matt. 6:9 “*Our Father . . .*”; Rom 8:14-15; Matt. 7:11).
3. Realize Jesus is the only prayer mediator we need (Heb. 8:6; 12:4; 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 4:15-16).

#### II. What Are Some Common Misconceptions About Prayer?

1. Praying audibly is more potent than praying inaudibly (Gen 24:45; Psa. 139:23-24; Rom. 8:27).
2. Praying in a certain posture makes prayer more potent.
3. Praying for a long time makes prayer more potent (Eccl. 5:2; Lu. 11:2-4).
4. Praying at a certain time or place makes prayer more potent (1 Jn. 3:20; Psa. 139:7-10; Jn. 4:20-24).
5. Answers to prayer are not rewards for obedience (Jn. 15:7; Eph. 1:11; Psa. 66:18).

### III. For What Should We Pray?

1. Pray for the *person* of God: that God will be revered (*Matt. 6:9 "hallowed be Your name."*)
2. Pray for the *program* of God: for the kingdom of God to come (*Matt. 6:10 "Your kingdom come"*).
3. Pray for the *power* of God: for the ability to do the will of God on earth (*Matt. 6:10 "Your will be done"*).
4. Pray for the *provision* of God: for God to provide daily needs (*Matt. 6:11 "Give us this day our daily bread"*).
5. Pray for the *pardon* of God: for God to forgive sins because sins block fellowship with Him (*Matt. 6:12 "And forgive us our debts"*).
6. Pray for the *protection* of God: that God will allow as little temptation as possible (*Matt. 6:13 "And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil"*).

### IV. Elements Of Prayer: ACTS

1. Adoration (Jer. 32:17)
2. Confession (1 Jn. 1:9)
3. Thanksgiving (Eph. 5:20)
4. Supplication (Col. 1:3)
  - a. Intercession (Col. 1:3)
  - b. Petition (Rom. 8:32)

Additional prayer help:

For several years the Prayer Ministry of Houston's First Baptist have followed a prayer plan they developed using the acronym P.R.A.Y.

1. Praise
2. Repentance
3. Ask
4. Yield

If you are use this plan or find it easier to follow, by all means please use it as a guide in your prayers. These tools are just that tools to help us as we pray to stay focused and purposed as we pray.

