



Class 1, April 17

Class Goal: The disciples saw Jesus praying, and asked, “Lord, teach us to pray!” (Luke 11:1, NIV) It is a natural desire of everyone who believes in God to want to communicate with God. And so Jesus taught them.

This class answers that desire. We want to learn to pray effectively and powerfully. We will study the prayers of the Bible to learn how to pray, what to pray for, and how to become people of prayer!

Introductory Thoughts on Prayer

1. Prayer is a u_____ desire. Every human culture has believed in and wanted to reach out to a God. It has taken many forms: Music, sacrifice, ritual, repetition, and cries from the heart.
2. Prayer is a n_____ response to bridge the gap between the natural and supernatural. We look at the world and recognize *there is much I can't understand*—the mysteries of the universe, life and death, and the “why” questions of life.
3. Unfortunately, a r_____ approach to life has led to a lessening of prayer. And a s_____ approach to life has led people to seek answers from within rather than from God.
4. An u_____ understanding of prayer leads to false religion, superstition, and misunderstandings among the faithful.

The Bible and Prayer

There is a wealth of Biblical understanding awaiting us—more than we can study in one class, but we will get a good introduction to the types of prayers in the Bible—with an emphasis on how to pray!

1. There are at least _____ recorded prayers in the Bible.
2. At least _____ of them have recorded answers!

Answering Basic Question About Prayer

1. Who can pray? A _____ .
2. When should we pray? A _____ .
3. Where should we pray? A _____ .
4. Are all prayers answered? Y_____ but not g_____ .
5. Are some prayers more powerful than others? Y_____ .
6. How should we pray? T _____ .

First Recorded Prayer in the Bible

Prayer—at its heart—is communication between God and man. It can be communication from God to man, or from man to God. The best prayer is a conversation. God calls. Men respond and seek Him. God answers.

The context of Genesis 2-3 shows free and open communication between God and Adam and Eve. We see two specific prayers in Eden:

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.” Genesis 2:15-17, NIV

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?” He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.” Genesis 3:8-10, NIV

Lessons From These First Prayers

1. God wants f_____ and c_____ with us and He i_____ prayer.
2. God will s_____ in prayer. It was the primary path for instruction, guidance, and instruction before the Bible was written.
3. Sin h_____ prayer in many ways. It s_____ us from God and makes us too a_____ to pray.