

Power in Prayer

Introduction

I. What is Prayer?

- Webster's 1828 definitions for *prayer*:
 - "In worship, a solemn address to the Supreme Being, consisting of adoration, or an expression of our sense of God's glorious perfections, confession of our sins, supplication for mercy and forgiveness, intercession for blessings on others, and thanksgiving, or an expression of gratitude to God for his mercies and benefits. A prayer however may consist of a single petition, and it may be extemporaneous, written or printed.
 - "A formula of church service, or of worship, public or private.
 - "Practice of supplication."
- A broader definition from GotQuestions.org:
 - "The most basic definition of prayer is "talking to God." Prayer is not meditation or passive reflection; it is direct address to God. It is the communication of the human soul with the Lord who created the soul. Prayer is the primary way for the believer in Jesus Christ to communicate his emotions and desires with God and to fellowship with God."
- Much of the substance of prayer is found in these two definitions. Prayer is a conversation with God but is also a means to communicate our desires for His action.

II. Why Pray?

- To find salvation – Romans 10:8-13
- To obey God's command – Philippians 4:6
- To follow Christ's example – Luke 11:1
- To seek guidance or direction from God – Luke 6:12-13
- To reach more souls – Luke 10:2
- To strengthen us for spiritual battles – Ephesians 6:18
- To receive what we ask for – Matthew 7:7
- To have joy in our life – John 16:24
- To put our burdens in God's care – I Peter 5:7
- To have Holy Spirit power in Christian service – Luke 11:13

"True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance. It is far deeper than that. It is a spiritual transaction with the creator of Heaven and Earth." – Charles Spurgeon

"Prayer is asking; the answer to prayer is receiving." – John R. Rice