

Praying With Anticipation

Text : **John 16: 22 – 17: 5**

A. The scriptures instruct Christians to never stop praying.

S#1.

S#2.

1. **I Thes. 5: 16-18** – Rejoice always; **17** pray without ceasing; **18** in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
2. **Luke 18: 1** – Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart, ...

S#3.

B. Unlike lost people, Christians are promised that God hears and answers prayers.

1. **Luke 11: 9-10** – So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. **10** For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened.
2. **I John 5: 14-15** – This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. **15** And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

S#4.

S#5.

C. Even so, our lessons have observed that many of our prayers are not granted.

1. All of God's promises are conditional and most require something of us, e.g.,
 - a. Promised **Rom 10:13**, "Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved."
 - b. Condition of **Matt 7:21**, "Not everyone who says to Me 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of My Father will enter."
2. We've observe seven (7) of the reasons prayers may be refused :
 - a. Often prayers are not granted because they were never asked.
 - b. More often prayers are not granted because they are not asked in faith.
 - c. God does not listen to the requests to those who do not listen to His word.
 - d. If one harbors evil in his heart, God will consider his prayer an abomination.
 - e. Prayer offered out of duty that is not from the heart will not be granted.
 - f. Vain repetition, especially repeating the words of others will not be received.
 - g. Prayer offered from wrong motives, those offered from selfishness.

S#6.

S#7.

D. With this lesson we want to address some of the positive aspects of one's praying.

1. The need to develop our prayer relationship with the Godhead.
2. Our confidence to approach God about anything.
3. We must pray in the name of Jesus.
4. Always approach God with praise, adoration and gratitude.

I. We have a need to develop a prayer relationship with the Father and Son.**S#8.****S#9.****A. I'm told it's not unusual to be more guarded in one's conversation with strangers**

1. The more we talk with someone the more we learn how to communicate with them.
 - a. Some people talk because they are enamored with the sound of their own voice.
 - b. The objective of talking is to communicate to another.
2. Words transmit thoughts and ideas so when one speaks he seeks to synchronize his speech pattern to the thought process of the listener.
 - a. This synchronization process is normally done at the subconscious lever.
 - b. When we talk to strangers, we're uncertain of how well we're communicating.
3. Prayer is not as comfortable when God is a stranger to us.

B. God desires a close relationship with all men.

1. **John 6: 37** – All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. **S#10.**
2. **James 4: 7-8** – Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. **8** Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

C. Jesus desires a relationship with you as His friend.

1. **John 15: 14-15** – You are My friends if you do what I command you. **15** No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. **S#11.**
2. **I John 1: 7** – If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; **7** but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. **S#12.**

D. Study, meditation and prayer are required to have a relationship with God. S#13.

1. One must obey the commands of Jesus before he can be His friend.
 - a. How can one know the commands ?
 - b. He must study the book in which they are revealed.
2. In order to have fellowship with God one must “walk in the light.”
 - a. Jesus is the light in which and with whom we are to walk.
John 8:12 – Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." (Compare ... **I John 1:6-7**)

- b. When one has the “**Light of life**” he becomes light for the world.
Matt. 5: 14 – You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;
- c. **John 9: 5** ... While Jesus was in the world He was the light, now we’re the light.

II. Christians have the confidence to go to God in prayer about anything. S#14.

A. We develop our friendship with Jesus so we are comfortable to discuss anything.

- 1. Jesus must be to closest kind of friend.
Prov. 18: 24 – A man of too many friends comes to ruin,
But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. S#15.
- 2. Our brother, Jesus should be that friend that is closer than a brother.
Heb. 2: 11 – For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, S#16.

B. God will never rebuff one who humbles himself and come to Him in faith.

- 1. **James 1: 5** – But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.
- 2. If it is important to you, Jesus will listen and never laugh at whatever it is.

C. Jesus solicits your prayers based upon His relationship with you.

- 1. **I Pet. 5: 6-7** – Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, **7** casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. S#17.
- 2. If we carry anxiety, we are out of the will of God.
Phil. 4: 6 – The Lord is near. **6** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

D. Absence makes the heart forget. (*NOT grow fonder.*)

- 1. Life on the mission field taught me just how forgettable one is.
- 2. This is why God exhorts us to be faithful in our attendance.
Heb. 10: 23-25 – Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, S#18.
for He who promised is faithful; **24** and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, **25** not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.
- 3. God instructs us that our relationship with the brethren requires time together.
 - a. Shared experiences pull group closer together. (*church, sports team, marriage*)
 - b. Shared struggles create a bond between people. (*military unit, congregation*)
- 4. Time spent in prayer, study and meditation draws one closer to God. ALWAYS PRAY

III. Christians pray in the name of Jesus.**S#19.****A. Jesus is the only access man has to God.****S#20.**

1. **John 14: 6** – said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."
2. **Eph. 3: 11-12** – This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.

B. Asking in the name of Jesus (the Son) glorifies the Father,**S#21.**

1. **John 14: 13-14** – Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** "If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it."
2. Any father will be honored by the accomplishments of the son.

C. Jesus is the only mediator between God and man.**S#22.**

1. **I Tim. 1: 5** – For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, **6** who gave Himself as a ransom for all,
2. We pray through Jesus our advocate before the bar of God's judgment.
I John 2: 2 – And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus **S#23.**
Christ the righteous; **2** and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins;
3. We pray through Jesus our intercessor before the throne of God.
Heb. 7: 25 – 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.
4. We pray through Jesus because He is our great High Priest.
Heb. 4: 14-16 – Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed **S#24.**
through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. **15** For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. **16** Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

S#25.**D. "In the name of Jesus" is not just a tag line to be tacked on the end of our prayers.**

1. Praying in the name of Jesus is fundamental to receiving your petition
I John 5: 14-15 – This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. **15** And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.
2. Notice that prayers offered in the name of Jesus must be in accordance with His will.

IV. We should always approach God with praise, adoration and gratitude.**S#26.****A. When Jesus gave us the blueprint for prayer He emphasized praise.****S#27.**

1. Jesus started His outline with praise.

Matt. 6:9 – Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

2. He indicated the submission to the will of the Father and a desire to accomplish it.

Matt. 6:10 – Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

3. He ended his prayer with praise.

Matt. 6:13 – For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

B. The Lord's Apostles also praised God in their prayers.**S#28.**

1. Peter .. **I Pet. 4: 11** – ... so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

2. John .. **Rev. 1: 6** – and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father — to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. **S#29.**

3. Paul .. **Rom. 16: 27** – to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.

4. Jude .. **Jude 25** – to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. **S#30.**

5. Heb. .. **Heb. 13: 21** – even Jesus our Lord, **21** equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. **S#31.**

C. One of the most sincere forms of praise in expressing gratitude for His blessings.

1. **Heb. 13: 15** – Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

2. **I Thes. 5: 16-18** – Rejoice always; **17** pray without ceasing; **18** in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. **S#32.**

D. With this lesson we have observed some of the positive aspects of one's praying.

1. The need to develop our prayer relationship with the Godhead.
2. The confidence to approach God about anything.
3. Praying in the name of Jesus.
4. Always approach God with praise, adoration and gratitude.

INVITATION :**S#33.** ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :

John 16: 23-17:5

22 Therefore you too have grief now; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you.

23 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. **24** Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.

25 These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; an hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but will tell you plainly of the Father. **26** " In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I will request of the Father on your behalf; **27** for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father. **28** " I came forth from the Father and have come into the world; I am leaving the world again and going to the Father."

29 His disciples said, "Lo, now You are speaking plainly and are not using a figure of speech. **30** Now we know that You know all things, and have no need for anyone to question You; by this we believe that You came from God." **31** Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? **32** Behold, an hour is coming, and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own home, and to leave Me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. **33** These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

17 Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, **2** even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. **3** This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. **4** I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. **5** Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.