

Discipline #2: CONTINUAL PRAYER – I am always talking to God.

Key Verses for the Series

Col 4:23 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;

Eph 6:18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints

Phil 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

Series Schedule

February 8 – What Does It Mean (& NOT Mean) To Pray?	March 1 – What to Pray For (and Not to Pray For)
February 15 – Why Pray?	March 8 – What to Pray For (and Not to Pray For)
February 22 – How to Pray	March 15 & 22 – Review

REVIEW: What Does It Mean (& NOT Mean) To Pray?

Praying Is Talking to God

1 Tim 2:1 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks be made for all men, (compare with the Model Prayer: Matt 6:9-13)

<u>Praising</u> God (prayers)	Telling God that You Know Who He Is (holy, creator, savior, lord of the universe) Telling God that You Want What He Wants
<u>Asking</u> God	To meet your physical and spiritual needs (supplications) To meet the physical and spiritual needs of others (intercessions)
<u>Thanking</u> God (giving of thanks)	For What God Has Done For What God Has Not Done

What Does It NOT Mean?

- Praying is not repeating empty words. (Matthew 6:7)
- Praying is not telling God something He does not know. (Matthew 6:8)
- Praying is not getting God to do something that He would not otherwise do. We must ask according to His will. (Matt 6:9-10; John 14:13-14; James 4:3; 1 John 5:14)
- Praying is not a way to bypass obedience. (Matt 6:12-13; 1 John 3:22; James 5:16)
- Praying is not getting God to work against the choices that people make for themselves. He will help people, but He will not MAKE someone change his mind. (Rom 1; Col 3:1-4)
- Praying is not two-way communication. Through prayer we talk to God. God talks to us through His Word.

Why Pray?

If God knows everything, and knows our needs before we ask (Matthew 6:8), why should we pray at all?

We pray because we can. | We pray because we should. | We pray because others prayed. | We pray because of good.

1. We Are to Be Praying Because We CAN (Privilege – It is a great privilege to pray to God.)

1 Tim 2:5-6 ⁵ For [there] is one God and one Mediator between God and men, [the] Man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

Eph 2:18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

Heb 4:14-16 ¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed 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 was in all [points] tempted as [we are, yet] without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

2. We Are to Be Praying Because We SHOULD (Command – We are commanded to pray to God.)

Matt 5:44 ... love your enemies..., and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you (Lu 6:28)

Matt 6:9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

Matt 9:38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. (Lu 10:2)

Matt 7:7 Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Matt 26:41a Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation... . (Mk 14:38; Lu 22:40)

Luke 18:1 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,

Eph 6:18; Phil 4:6

Col 4:2-3a Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; ³ meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word...

1 Thes 5:17-18 Pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God ... for you.

Heb 13:15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of [our] lips, giving thanks to His name.

1 Pet 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

3. **We Are to Be Praying Because OTHERS Prayed (Examples – Prayer to God was characteristic of those that walked with God in the Bible.)**
- **OT Believers** (Abraham, Hannah, Daniel, Nehemiah, Elijah, etc.)
 - **NT Believers**
Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine...and in prayers.
Acts 12:5 Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.
Acts 13:3 Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent [them] away.
Acts 6:4 "but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."
Rom 1:9 ...God is my witness...that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers,
2 Cor 13:9b And this also we pray, that you may be made complete.
 - **Jesus!**
John 17
Matt 26:39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You [will]."
Mark 1:35 Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.
Luke 5:16 So He Himself [often] withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.
4. **We Are to Be Praying Because of GOOD (Benefits – We ourselves receive many benefits as we pray to God.)**
- a. **By praying we know that the results came from God –** (God waits to act until we ask.)
Jer 33:3 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'
 - b. **By praying we keep proper perspective on life**
Matt 6:9-10 ⁹ "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as [it is] in heaven.
 - c. **By praying we develop true dependence on Him**
Matt 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread.
 - d. **By praying we gain help to be holy**
Matt 6:12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.
 - e. **By praying we understand our need of His protection from the devil**
Matt 6:13a And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.
 - f. **By praying we learn perseverance in waiting on Him to answer**
Luke 11:5-8 ⁵ And He said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; ⁶ 'for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; ⁷ "and he will answer from within and say, 'Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you'? ⁸ "I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.
 - g. **By praying we understand the goodness of God**
Luke 11:9-13 ⁹ "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. ¹¹ "If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if [he asks] for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? ¹² "Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³ "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will [your] heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"
 - h. **By praying we learn to care for the needs of others**
1 Tim 2:1-6 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, [and] giving of thanks be made for all men, ² for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. ³ For this [is] good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For [there is] one God and one Mediator between God and men, [the] Man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,
 - i. **By praying we learn proper motivation in asking**
James 4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend [it] on your pleasures.
 - j. **By praying we gain God's mercy and grace to help us**
Heb 4:14-16 ¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed 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 was in all [points] tempted as [we are, yet] without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.