

Discipline #2: CONTINUAL PRAYER – I am always talking to God.
Key Verses for the Series

Col 4:2 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,

Praising 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
Asking God	To meet your physical and spiritual needs (supplications) To meet the physical and spiritual needs of others (intercessions)
Thanking 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.) – Eph 2:18**
2. **We Are to Be Praying Because We SHOULD (Command – We are commanded to pray to God.) – Luke 18:1**
3. **We Are to Be Praying Because OTHERS Prayed (Praying was characteristic of those that walked with God in the Bible.)**
4. **We Are to Be Praying Because of GOOD (Benefits – We ourselves receive many benefits as we pray to God.)**

How To Be Praying

Pray secretly (pray to God, not “to” people; pray to be heard by God, not people) Matt 6:5-6

Pray concisely (more words ≠ better praying – use all the words you need, but don’t pad your prayers) Matt 6:7-13

Pray continually (Luke 18:1; Eph 6:18a; 1 Thes 5:17)

Pray persistently (patiently keep asking) Luke 18:2-8

Pray evangelistically (for boldness and opportunity to share the gospel) Eph 6:19-20; Col 4:3-4

Pray corporately (for others) Eph 6:18

Pray completely (all) Eph 6:18; Phil 4:6

Pray watchfully (alert and aware of what is going on around you, tuned into danger?) Eph 6:18; Col 4:2

Pray thankfully (Phil 4:6; Col 4:2; 1 Thes 5:18)

Pray proactively / confidently (pray first, not as a last resort – Phil 4:6)

Pray knowingly, seriously & soberly

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

What to Pray For: What Did Jesus Pray For? (John 17:14-21)

Three General Requests From Jesus' Prayer in John 17

17:14-15 – He prayed for our spiritual safety → PROTECTION – That We Each Would STAY PURE

¹⁴I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should **keep** them from the evil one.

- Matt 6:13 "And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one."
- 2 Thes 3:3 "But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one."
- Lu 22:31-32 "And the Lord said, 'Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.'"
- 1 Pet 5:8-9 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world."

17:16-17 – He prayed for our spiritual maturity → SANCTIFICATION – That We Each Would GROW UP

¹⁶They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷**Sanctify** them by Your truth. Your word is truth. ¹⁸As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

- Setting apart
- By the Word (as we learn & obey, we change, and therefore...)
- For service in the world (words & works)

What Paul Asked For (Colossians 1:9-11)

9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it,

do not cease to pray for you, and to ask

that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all – **for spiritual content & perspective**

wisdom and – application

spiritual understanding; – understanding

10 that you may walk – **for spiritual conduct & practice**

worthy of the Lord, – target of our practice

fully pleasing [Him,] – extent of our practice

being fruitful in every good work and – giving of spiritual effort – service (Heb 10:24-25)

increasing in the knowledge of God; – growing in spiritual knowledge (in experience) –

seasoning

11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, – gaining in spiritual strength –

strength

for all – **for spiritual conditioning & persistence**

patience and – remaining – endurance

longsuffering – restraining – edification

with joy; – rejoicing – enjoyment

17:20-21 – He prayed for our spiritual unity → VALIDATION – That We Each Would WORK TOGETHER

²⁰"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who [£]will believe in Me through their word; ²¹**that they all may be one**, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, **that the world may believe** that You sent Me. ²²And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and **that the world may know** that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

- Plan – That they may be one
- Purpose – That the world may know
- Unity validates Authenticity (it's real)
- Behavior validates Belief (it works)

Parallel Between John 17 and 1 John 2:12-14?

1 John 2:12-14 ¹² ¶ I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. ¹³ I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father. ¹⁴ I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.

- **Growing Strong** - able to serve
- **Getting Wise** - living the Word
- **Gaining Victory** - defeating the Enemy

Psalm 119 has an entire list of more specific requests...