Women of Africa Care Pty Ltd

WOAC On Air – 09 March 2023

Inspiration brought by Murdel, Angelina

Episode 41 – What, and why we pray?

"Abba, Father," He said, "all things are possible for You. Take this cup from Me. Yet not what I will, but what You will." Romans 8.15

Quotes on Prayer?

Prayer enlarges the heart until it is capable of Containing God's gift of himself."
- *Mother Theresa*

"Do not make prayer a monologue...make it a conversation."
- *Author Unknown*

".....a vital and personal relationship with the living and true God. This relationship is prayer."
- *para. 2558 Catechism of the Catholic Church*

"God speaks in the silence of the heart. Listening is the beginning of prayer."
- *Mother Teresa*

"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*

https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/quote-archive1/quotes-about-prayer

Prayer is ACTS of fellowship with God?

ACTS "Adoration (Worship) Contrition (repentant/humility), Thanksgiving (Gratitude), and Supplication(Dependence on God – seek God help)

What is prayer?

1. Billy Graham - Prayer is spiritual communication between man and God, a two-way relationship in which man should not only talk to God but also listen to Him. Prayer to God is like a child's conversation with his father. It is natural for a child to ask his father for the things he needs. When you receive Christ into your heart, you become a child of God and have the privilege of talking to Him in prayer at any time about anything. The Christian life is a personal relationship to God through Jesus Christ. And best of all, it is a relationship that will last for all eternity.

2. Don Stewart - The Bible has many things to say about the subject of prayer. Prayer is talking to God. It is our way of communicating our thoughts, needs, and desires to Him. It is an avenue that God has provided for the believer of making known the deepest feelings of our heart. Prayer is an act, not merely an attitude. This can be seen by the way the Scripture speaks of people praying. https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don_stewart/don_stewart_543.cfm
3. Randall Niles - Prayer is our direct line with heaven. Prayer is a communication process that allows us to talk to God! He wants us to communicate with Him, like a person-to-person phone call. Cell phones and other devices have become a necessity to some people in today's society. We have bluetooth devices, blackberries, and talking computers! These are means of communication that allow two or more people to interact, discuss, and respond to one another.https://www.allaboutprayer.org/what-is-prayer.htm
4. Julia Oates - Prayer in the Bible is how believers of God talk to him. It's how they make their praise and requests known. The Scriptures are filled with beautiful examples of people crying out to God and asking for his strength, guidance, healing and more. https://justdisciple.com/prayer-meaning/

What is the purpose of prayer?

1. Billy Graham - There are many promises in God's Word to encourage us to pray, such as: "He shall call upon me and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honor him" (Psalm 91:15); "And it shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear" (Isaiah 65:24); "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7). The Scriptures tell us that we are to pray for one another and also assure us that God hears and answers prayer. https://billygraham.org/answer/what-is-prayer/
2. Julia Oates - The purpose of prayer in the Bible is to make your praise or request known to God. Through prayer, men and women of God were able to ask Him for deliverance, mercy, healing, and miracles. The reason Christians pray today is for the same reasons why people prayed in the Bible: to speak to God and ask for healing, forgiveness, and direction. Praying is how Christians grow a deeper relationship with Christ and how they know the direction he wants their life to go in.
   Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know. https://justdisciple.com/prayer-meaning/

Examples of prayer in the bible: - Julia Oates

1. **Abraham interceded for Sodom and Gomorroh** – Abraham pleads for mercy that God will spare the city if there are righteous people there. God preserves Lot and his family who chose to obey the angels and leave the place as judgement was to be actioned upon the place. God did not find ten people within Sodom and Gomorrah who were righteous. Genesis 19:23 says, "Then the Lord rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah."

2. **Jacob's Prayer for Deliverance-**Jacob asks God for deliverance Genesis 39:9-12. He was about to meet with his brother, Esau, and was fearful. Jacob had taken Esau's blessing years ago and believed his brother would kill him. In the midst of his fear he prayed to the Lord saying, "Save me, I pray, from the hand of my brother Esau, for I am afraid he will come and attack me, and also the mothers with their children. But you have said, 'I will surely make you prosper and will make your descendants like the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted.'" When Jacob finally reunites with Esau, he is not killed, instead, they both embrace each other and wept. Jacob's prayer was answered. Instead of Esau acting out in hatred and anger, he chose to love his brother and let go of the past! In the end, Esau blesses Jacob by giving him some of his men. This story of prayer and redemption is moving because we see first hand how afraid Jacob was to being blessed by the very man he feared! I am blessed by this story and knowing that God hears our prayers even when we are afraid.

3. **Jesus Prayed Regularly -** Why did Jesus pray?

   To follow the instructions of Abba Father:
   a. John 5.18-19 "Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does." - The Father is Spirit – If Jesus didn't prayer daily in the spirit He would not have enlightenment to see what the Father Does, and hear what the Father says and do it.
   b. John 12.49 "For I have not spoken on My own *authority;* but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak."

   <u>Some of Jesus prayer times highlighted in the bible:</u>
   a. "After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray." - Matthew 14:23
   b. "Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.'" -Matthew 26:36
   c. "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed." -Mark 1:35
   d. "But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." -Luke 5:16
   e. "One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God." -Luke 6:12
   f. Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up." -Luke 18:1

Different types of prayers and their purpose

1. Prayer of Faith – ""Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." **Mark 11:24;** *And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."* Matthew 21:22

2. Prayer of Petition – "*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."* Phillipians 4:6

3. Prayer of Thanksgiving – "*No matter what happens, always be thankful for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus."* I Thessalonians 5:18 Prayer of Intercession – "*In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God."* Romans 8:26-34

4. A Song of Victory Prayer – Judges 5 On that day Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang this song

[2] "When the princes in Israel take the lead,
when the people willingly offer themselves—
praise the LORD!

[3] "Hear this, you kings! Listen, you rulers!
I, even I, will sing to[a] the LORD;
I will praise the LORD, the God of Israel, in song.

[4] "When you, LORD, went out from Seir,
when you marched from the land of Edom,
the earth shook, the heavens poured,
the clouds poured down water.
[5] The mountains quaked before the LORD, the One of Sinai,
before the LORD, the God of Israel.

[6] "In the days of Shamgar son of Anath,
in the days of Jael, the highways were abandoned;
travelers took to winding paths.
[7] Villagers in Israel would not fight;
they held back until I, Deborah, arose,
until I arose, a mother in Israel.
[8] God chose new leaders
when war came to the city gates,
but not a shield or spear was seen
among forty thousand in Israel.
[9] My heart is with Israel's princes,
with the willing volunteers among the people.
Praise the LORD!

[10] "You who ride on white donkeys,
sitting on your saddle blankets,
and you who walk along the road,
consider [11] the voice of the singers[b] at the watering places.
They recite the victories of the LORD,
the victories of his villagers in Israel….

[31] "So may all your enemies perish, LORD!
But may all who love you be like the sun
when it rises in its strength."Then the land had peace forty year

5. Corporate Prayer – "*For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."* Matthew 18:20

Outcomes of Prayer

1. **Friend of God -** "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." **Jeremiah 33:3**

2. **God answers prayers "**This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us." **1 John 5:14**

3. **Christlikeness** - "Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always." **1 Chronicles 16:11**

4. **Forgiveness is an act of humility for the finished work on the cross for humanity – If God forgives we to must forgive**- "And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins." **Mark 11:25**

5. **God is willing -** "Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you."
   Jeremiah 29:12

6. **Faith** - "But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind." **James 1:6**

7. **Humility -** "But to you who are listening, I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." **Luke 6:27-28**

8. **Overcome temptation** - "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." **Matthew 26:41**

9. **God answers prayers** - "And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son." **John 14:13**

10. **Petition (Governmental)** - "So we fasted and petitioned our God about this, and he answered our prayer."
    Ezra 8:23

11. **Healing** - "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." **James 5:16**

12. **Salvation** - "And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." **Acts 2:21**

13. **Prayer ushers in God's presence** - "After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly." **Acts 4:31**

14. **Deliverance** - "This poor man called, and the Lord heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles." **Psalm 34:6;** "For I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance." **Philippians 1:19**

15. **Restoration**" … if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." **-2 Chronicles 7:14**

16. **Strengthen**- "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:29-31).

17. **Boldness/Confidence to fellowship with God** - Hebrews 4:15-16 reads, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

" Without communication, relationships fall apart. So, too, our relationship with God suffers when we do not communicate with Him" ROBERT VELARDE
HTTPS://WWW.FOCUSONTHEFAMILY.COM/FAITH/PRAYER-HAS-ITS-REASONS/