

**Pray
With
Thanksgiving**

11-25-18

Luke 6:12 (ESV)

In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and **all night he continued in prayer** to God.

Jesus prayed all night! This is the Son of God in communion with God the Father. What lesson is revealed? What is the motivation to spend extended time in prayer? It has to be relational (time with a person you love), impactful (things will happen), insightful (revelation of things around you), and having all dependency on God with all sufficiency from God (recognition that the only way to survive is through God). We have an example of understanding this in Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 33:3 (ESV)

The Lord says call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.

What do we believe? Do we believe that prayer is absolutely essential to the Christian life? Truly most Christians have only scraped the surface the importance of prayer. How do we tap into the incredible promises revealed in the scripture? What I want to share this morning is not so much a study or teaching on prayer, but what I am working through personally concerning prayer. Hopefully my journey will help you work through your own understanding and exercising of Biblical prayer.

#1 Pray according to HIS will:

1 John 5:14–15 (ESV)

¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have toward 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 that we have asked of him.

God's will comes from God's Word! When we pray according to God's Word, God hears and God gives us what we ask. Personal: There is a "Word" in the Bible that God Spoke to me and from my heart I pray that "Word" back to God. I pray what God spoke! Based on the "Word of God" I am confident that HE will answer and bring it to pass! Sometime before I go home to be with the Lord I will share it!

#2 Pray according to God's Grace and Mercy:

Hebrews 4:16 (ESV)

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that **we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

- **Grace – receiving the good we don't deserve!**
- **Mercy – not receiving the punishment we do deserve!**

Therefore in everything boldly go before the throne of God and receive mercy and grace with grateful Thanksgiving!

Philippians 4:6 (ESV)

Do not be anxious about anything, **but in everything** by prayer and supplication **with thanksgiving** let your requests be made known to God.

#3 Pray according to Holy Spirit Prompting:

Ephesians 6:18 (ESV)

Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, **keep alert** with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

The Holy Spirit speaks immediate and direct! Be alert and pray as the Holy Spirit prompts us!

#4 Pray according to Obedience:

Colossians 4:2 (ESV)

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

JUST DO IT!! Why? Because God told us to pray! Pray for Government officials; pray when someone asks you to pray; pray on every occasion.

Huge Question? How can we be confident that God would answer our prayers?

Romans 8:32 (ESV)

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how **will he not also with him graciously give us all things?**

Good news; we receive grace, mercy, forgiveness from God. Therefore, God hears our prayers and answers us – Because:

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Prophetic Team

Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current situation or impact the future.