

Prayer Training 1

The **Person** we pray to

Q. What is the most important subject in the Christian faith?

A. GOD!

John 17:3 *And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

The primary purpose of pray is to learn to *know* God personally and to cultivate a loving, on going, growing Relationship with Him.

Q. What Did Jesus tell us was the most important and greatest commandment?

A. Mark 12:30 *And you must **love the LORD** your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.'*

Q. How do we develop our **Relationship** with someone?

A. We spend time with them, we talk to them, we listen to them, love them, obey and serve them.

Q. What is prayer?

A. Prayer is how we communicate, talk to and listening to and learn about the real **Person, God**

Jeremiah 29:11-13 *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a **future** and a **hope**.¹² Then you will call upon Me and go and **pray to Me**, and I will listen to you.¹³ And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.*

Q. How do develop our prayer lives?

A. You need to take time to have and to develop our **RELATIONSHIP** with a **real Person, God**

Again: The primary purpose of pray is to learn to *know* God personally and to cultivate a loving, on going, growing Relationship with Him. We learn to know Him as we listen to Him and obey Him. No one can do this for you. We each have to do this relationship ourselves

Q. How do you communicate with someone that you can not see?

A. Describe their physical characteristics, personality, attributes. You need to meet someone personally to recognize them. You learn to **know** them as you talk to them and learn from them. (Use a volunteer to illustrate knowing and recognizing a person you know by sight and by voice)

Q. Can you recognize a person from their voice?

A. Yes, when you learn to listen and obey His voice

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John 10:27 Jesus said, *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.*

Learning to hear the voice of God is *critical* to receive what the Lord wants us have and to know

Q. Do you personally know any people or friends with great **power, resources and wisdom**?

A. Yes, We have continual access to the **Person** with all the **power, resources and wisdom** to create and maintain all of heaven and earth

Q. Who are we really praying to?

A. There are hundreds of names and attributes of God written in the Bible. We begin with just two attributes of God

First, let us start at the **beginning**

Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.* God is also very humble and modest. Genesis 1:16 ... *He made the stars also.*

God is the CREATOR

(Share some amazing facts about creation including the Earth, the Sun and the Universe)

WOW! God designed, created and maintains all this!

This is the Person that we are praying to!

“Anything God can do, prayer can do because God is the One who answers our prayers”

Pray is powerful and can ‘move mountains’ of opposition and change hearts.

Q. How can we approach someone so awesome and so powerful?

A. The disciples asked Jesus, *“Teach us to pray.”* Jesus answered them and said,

Matthew 6:9-10 *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.*

God, our FATHER

We pray to **God our Father** in heaven as His *children*, and members of His family.

Q. What does a perfect loving Holy Father want to do for His children?

He loves, talks, provides, cares for, protects, teaches the truth, trains, prepares and disciplines them. He also forgives them, shows compassion and mercy. He always acts in truth and righteously and justly. God is perfect and is always GOOD

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Romans 8:28 *And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.*

Q. What is Jesus doing right now?

A. He is praying for us!

Romans 8:34 *...It is **Christ** who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even **at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.***

Since this is what Jesus is doing now, then Intercession or prayer is the highest occupation in the universe and Jesus invites us to partner with Him!

Q. What is intercession?

A. **Intercession is simply – ‘Telling God what He tells us to tell Him.’** This is how we come into agreement with Him. Intercession is *standing in the gap* between heaven and earth on behalf of the needs of others

Pray in the Spirit

John 4:23 Jesus said, *... the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ **God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.***

Pray in the name of Jesus

John 15:16 Jesus said, *You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever **you ask the Father in My name** He may give you.*

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, ***“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.***

We are to maintain continuous communication and fellowship with God through prayer

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 *Rejoice always, ¹⁷ **pray without ceasing,** ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

God has made prayer is so simple that a child can do it!

Luke 18:17 *Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as **a little child** will by no means enter it.”*

Here are three basic prayers:

- **Help me Jesus**
- **Thank you Jesus**
- **I love you Lord**

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Stay CONNECTED to the *power* of God

John 15:5 NLT “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For **apart from me you can do nothing.**”

(Lamp illustration to be plugged into the power) We need to stay CONNECTED to the power of God to fulfill the purpose that we were created for!

Take the time and effort to seek personal encounters with the Lord in prayer

Moses had a personal encounter with God

Exodus 3:4 When the LORD saw Moses coming to take a closer look, **God called to him** from the middle of the bush, “**Moses! Moses!**” “**Here I am!**” Moses replied.

Saul met the Lord on the road to Damascus

Acts 9:3-6 As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. ⁴ Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” ⁵ And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ...” ⁶ So he, trembling and astonished, said, “**Lord, what do You want me to do?**”...

This is the best question to ask when the Lord reveals himself to you

Review:

- Prayer is how we learn to *know* God
- Prayer is how we *communicate* with God
- Prayer is how we learn to *hear* His voice
- We *pray to* God our Father, in the Spirit in the Name of Jesus
- Prayer and obedience is how we show our *whole hearted love* for the Lord
- God is so polite and will not violate our free wills. He comes to those who *invite* Him into their lives

Revelation 3:20 Jesus said, “**Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.**”

Invitation to pray:

Lord humbly pray that You will reveal Yourself to me personally so that I can truly know You for who You really are. I ask for personal divine encounters with Your Holy Spirit.