

“ LORD , TEACH US TO PRAY ”

WHY MUST WE PRAY?

Because God Works by Prayer

1. *Co-operatively with His People*

- a. In the past (Dan. 9:2)
- b. In the present (Mt. 9:38)
- c. In the future (Mt. 24:20)

2. *Objectively through His People*

- a. Abraham—for Lot's preservation
- b. Moses—for God's people
- c. Daniel—for God's purpose

3. *Subjectively in His People*

- a. Fullness of joy (Jn. 16:24)
- b. The peace of God (Phil. 4:6-7)
- c. New strength (Isa. 40:31)
- d. Changed lives (2 Cor. 3:18)
- e. Our own needs met (Job 42:10)

FORMS OF PRAYER

- 1. Worship: ministering to the heart of God (see ♦ at lower right)
- 2. Praise: (to bless—εὐλογέω) (see Ps. 107, the OT commentary on the praise of God)
- 3. Thanksgiving: (Rom. 1:21) *“Neither were thankful”*
- 4. Confession: (ὁμολογέω) (1 Jn. 1:9) preceded by acknowledgement (Ps. 51:3)
- 5. Supplication: expressing a desire (Jn. 17:5) *“glorify Thou Me...”*
- 6. Intercession: standing between someone's need and God (Jas. 5:16)
- 7. Advocacy (Job 42:10): *“The Lord turned the captivity of Job when he prayed for his friends”*

WHY WE FAINT IN PRAYER

1. Laziness: a lack of personal discipline

2. Carelessness: due to slow erosion

3. Weariness: giving up in exhaustion

1. *The answer—not AS expected*

- a. Patience—tribulation (Rom. 5:8)
- b. Miracle—call to obey (Jn. 11:39)
- c. Closer walk—the Cross (Mt. 16:2)
- d. Great blessing—great testing (Eph. 3:16)

2. *The answer—not WHEN expected*

- a. Satan opposes mightily (Dan. 10:13)
- b. God wills differently (Lk. 11:9)
- c. We desire wrongly (Jas. 4:3)
- d. Must ask believingly (1 Jn. 5:14-15) (prayers of faith & hope, Rom. 4:18)
- e. God resisted stubbornly (Jn. 5:40)

WHAT IS PRAYER?

God's Word Describes Prayer

- 1. An activity of the mind
Problem: lack of concentration
- 2. A movement of the spirit
Problem: no appreciation
- 3. An emotion of the soul
Problem: mere repetition
- 4. An appeal for help
Problem: no petition
- 5. An expression of the heart
Problem: unhealthy heart condition

God's Word Distinguishes Prayer

- 1. The sudden prayer:
prayer & fear (Mt. 14:30)
- 2. The sacrificial prayer:
prayer & fasting (Mt. 17:21)
- 3. The steadfast prayer:
prayer & fighting (Eph. 6:12)

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♦ Tapes of a seminar on Worship at Rise Up & Build '97 are available from Uplook Ministries.

