

Discipleship. Prayer in Focus. Dated May 1992. Unsure if or when shared with SCF \*

We are instructed to pray for a number of reasons.

1. Because Jesus says that we should.

### **Luke 18 verse 1-2**

*Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart, 2 saying, "In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man.*

2. Because it will bring wisdom to us.

### **James 1 verse 5**

*But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*

3. Because it will bring us joy.

### **John 16 verse 24**

*Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.*

4. Because it will reveal great and mighty things.

### **Jeremiah 33 verse 3**

*'Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'*

5. Because it is a sin not to pray.

### **1 Samuel 12 verse 23**

*Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you; but I will instruct you in the good and right way.*

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Prayer is asking, seeking, knocking, waiting, listening, believing, communicating. It is a two way dialogue, not a monologue. Prayer is not an end in itself, it is the means to an end.

There are many aspects of prayer:

### 1. Thanksgiving

#### **John 11 verse 41**

*So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.*

#### **Philippians 4 verse 6**

*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

### 2. Praise and Worship

#### **Daniel 4 verse 34-35**

*But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; for His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom endures from generation to generation. 35 All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, but He does according to His will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of earth; and no one can ward off His hand or say to Him, 'What have You done?'*

### 3. Confession

#### **1 John 1 verse 9**

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

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#### 4. Supplication

##### **1 Timothy 2 verse 1-4**

*First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. 3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

#### 5. Intercession

##### **James 5 verse 14-15**

*Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; 15 and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.*

#### 6. Warfare

##### **Ephesians 6 verse 11**

*Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.*

Prayers of faith (there are no other kinds of prayer) will lead to something happening, either God directly intervening or we may be called to intervene on His behalf in the name of Jesus.

How can I pray more effectively?

1. Desire 2. Discipline 3. Delight

If its in our hearts to do it we will.

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## **Matthew 7 verse 7**

*"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.*

## **John 15 verse 7**

*If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*

What is God's will will for you and me? It is that we should **ask** Him and He will **give** to us.

The Greek word for ask is *Aiteo*. We are to ask of God. The Greek word for demand is *Aitema*. We are to demand or command satan to go in the name of Jesus. The Greek word for questioning is *Eperotao*, we question satan's right over us. Prayer is central to our communication or relationship with God.

## **1 Thessalonians 5 verse 16-22**

*Rejoice always; 17 pray without ceasing; 18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 19 Do not quench the Spirit; 20 do not despise prophetic utterances. 21 But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; 22 abstain from every form of evil.*

Jesus said that we should pray in this way:

## **Matthew 6 verse 9-15**

*"Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 'Give us this day our daily bread. 12 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.'*

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*14 For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.*

*Our Father - that is who He is, Jesus' Father is our Father. Who art in heaven - this is where He is. Hallowed be Thy Name - He is a Holy God. Thy Kingdom come - we agree with Him that we want His Kingdom to come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven - Jesus is to rule in our lives and on the earth - we acknowledge that this is what we want too. Give us this day our daily bread - it is not referring to eating and drinking.*

### **Romans 14 verse 17-18**

*For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, 18 because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.*

It is speaking of the bread of life.

### **John 6 verse 26-40**

*Jesus answered them and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. 27 Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal." 28 Therefore they said to Him, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."*

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**30** So they said to Him, "What then do You do for a sign, so that we may see, and believe You? What work do You perform? **31** Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'HE GAVE THEM BREAD OUT OF HEAVEN TO EAT.'" **32** Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven. **33** For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world." **34** Then they said to Him, "Lord, always give us this bread." **35** Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. **36** But I said to you that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe. **37** All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. **38** For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. **39** This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. **40** For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

*And forgive us our debts (trespasses) as we also forgive our debts. We ask God to forgive us our trespasses, to be forgiven we have to forgive others, all resentments and bad feelings are to be given up to the Lord.*

## **1 John 1 verse 9**

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

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When we find that we cannot forgive, then we should recognise that it is a sin and we should ask God to forgive us **first**. He will forgive us and we can then forgive others with that same forgiveness.

*And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one (the devil). For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. We give You all the glory, it's all Yours. For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. Who forgives first? I must do that. But if you do not forgive men then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.*

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