

Prayer

The Most Underutilized Weapon in the Angelic Conflict

A. Introduction

1. For this study I ask you to set aside any presuppositions you may have about the meaning/purpose of prayer.
2. In this study we will examine what the Bible has to say about prayer and glean principles of application from the Scriptures.

B. Vocabulary

1. Hebrew Words

- a. פָּגַע (paw-gah) H6293 (46x)
 - 1) Meaning: to meet, reach, entreat, pray
 - 2) Earliest occurrence in time (Job 21:15)
- b. פָּלַל (paw-lal) H6419 (84x)
 - 1) Meaning: to pray, intercede, intervene
 - 2) Most occurrences in O.T.
- c. תְּפִלָּה (tef-il-law) H8605 (77x)
 - 1) Meaning: prayer
- d. עָתַר (aw-thar) H6279 (20x)
 - 1) Meaning: to entreat, pray
- e. אָנַח (awn-naw) H577 (13x)
 - 1) Meaning: to beseech, pray
 - 2) Marker of emphasis
- f. צָלַח (tsel-aw) H6739 (2x)
 - 1) Meaning: to pray (bow down to pray)

2. Greek Words

- a. προσεύχομαι (pros-oo-kom-ai) G4336 (87x)
 - 1) Meaning: to pray, pray for
- b. αἰτέω (ai-teh-oh) G153 (71x)
 - 1) Meaning: to ask, ask for (often in prayer)
- c. ἑρωτάω (er-oh-tah-oh) G2065 (58x)
 - 1) Meaning: to ask , beseech, pray, entreat
- d. προσευχή (pros-oo-kay) G4335 (37x)
 - 1) Meaning: prayer
- e. δέομαι (deh-om-ai) G1189 (22x)
 - 1) Meaning: to pray, beseech, make request
- f. δέησις (deh-ey-sis) G1162 (19x)
 - 1) Meaning: prayer, supplication
- g. εὐχομαι (yoo-kom-ai) G2172 (7x)
 - 1) Meaning: to wish, pray, pray for
- h. εὐχή (yoo-kay) G2171 (3x)
 - 1) Meaning: vow, prayer
- i. ἔντευξις (ent-ook-sis) G1783 (2x)
 - 1) Meaning: meeting, intercession, prayer

C. Word Study

1. The word pray or prayer is found in 2/3 of the books of the NASB.
2. Bible Search: pray, prayer, beseech, entreat, entreaty or supplication
 - a. Hits By Book
 - 1) In the O.T. these words are found most in Psalms (54x), 2 Chr (38x), and 1 Kgs (34x)
 - 2) In the N.T. these words are found most in Acts (29x), Luke (27x), and Matt (21x)
 - b. Hits By Chapter

- 1) In the O.T. these words are found most in 1 Kgs 8 (28x),
2 Chr 6 (23x), Dan 9 (10x), Neh 1 (7x), 2 Chr 33 (7x)
- 2) In the N.T. these words are found most in
Jam 5 (7x), Matt 6 (6x), and Luke 22 (6x), Matt 26 (5x), Acts 10 (5x), 1
Cor 14 (5x)
- c. Hits By Chapter / 1000 Words (Density)
 - 1) In the O.T. these words are most dense in Neh 1 (18.92), 2 Chr 6
(16.92), 1 Kgs 8 (13.47) and Psalm 142 (12.27)
 - 2) In the N.T. these words are most dense in James 5 (14.06), 1 Tim 2
(11.24), Col 4 (7.48) and Matt 6 (7.43)
3. O.T. By Chapter Density
 - a. Nehemiah 1
 - b. 2 Chronicles 6 / 1 Kings 8
 - c. Psalm 142
4. O.T. By Chapter
 - a. 1 Kings 8 / 2 Chronicles 6
 - b. Daniel 9
 - c. Nehemiah 1
 - d. 2 Chronicles 33
5. N.T. By Chapter Density
 - a. James 5 (vv.7-20)
 - b. 1 Timothy 2 (vv. 1-8)
 - c. Colossians 4
 - d. Matthew 6 (vv. 1-13)

6. N.T. By Chapter
 - a. James 5 (vv.7-20)
 - b. Matthew 6 (vv. 1-13)
 - c. Luke 22 (vv. 39-46) / Matthew 26 (vv. 36-46)
 - d. Acts 10 (vv. 1-33)
 - e. 1 Corinthians 14 (vv. 12-19)

D. Principles

1. God hears prayers.
2. God answers prayers.
3. Some prayers are intercessory.
 - a. For other believers.
 - b. For nations and leaders of nations.
4. Prayer can accomplish much.
5. We must devote ourselves to prayer.
6. We must pray with a thankful attitude.
7. Prayer is not a show for men.
8. Prayer is not to be rote.
9. Prayer is directed to God the Father.
10. Prayer can help us avoid sin.
11. Prayer can be continual.
12. Prayer is of the spirit and the mind.

E. Word Study – Ask (αἰτέω / ἐρωτάω)

1. Matthew 7:7-11 / Luke 11:9-13
2. John 11:22
3. John 14:13,14
4. John 15:7,16
5. John 16:23-28

6. John 17
7. Ephesians 3:20
8. James 1:5,6
9. James 4:2,3
10. 1 John 5:13-16

F. Principles

1. If we ask God for something good, He will not give us something bad.
2. If we ask according to God's Will, He will answer our prayers.
3. God is glorified in answering prayers.
4. We ask our prayers in Christ's name.
5. Jesus prays on our behalf.
6. God blesses us beyond what we ask.
7. We must ask our prayers in faith.
8. We must not pray selfishly, with the wrong motives.

G. Chapter / Section Titles

1. Solomon's Prayer (1 Kings 3:6-15)
2. Ezra's Prayer (Ezra 9:5-15)
3. Prayer of Trust in God (Psalm 4)
4. Prayer in Time of Trouble (Psalm 6)
5. Prayer for Protection (Psalm 17)
6. Prayer in Need (Psalm 86)
7. Prayer for Mercy (Psalm 102)
8. Jonah's Prayer (Jonah 2)
9. Habakkuk's Prayer (Habakkuk 3)

10. Prayer for Leaders (1 Timothy 2)

H. Principles

1. We can pray for understanding.
2. Prayer for wisdom is pleasing to God.
3. Shame and embarrassment can convict us to confess our iniquities.
4. God hears prayers of the righteous.
5. We can pray for mercy.
6. We can ask God to fight our battles.
7. We can pray for strength.
8. We can ask God to teach us His way.
9. We can offer up praise of God in prayer (and song).

I. Does God Always Hear?

1. Psalm 66:18
2. Proverbs 15:29
3. Proverbs 28:9
4. Isaiah 1:15
5. John 9:31

J. Principles

1. God will not listen to the prayers of the unrighteous.
2. We are unrighteous when we are out of fellowship with God (1 John 1:9).
3. Therefore, confession of sin is prerequisite for effective prayer.

K. Devotion to Prayer

1. Luke 2:37
2. Acts 1:14; 2:42; 6:4
3. Romans 12:12
4. Eph 6:18
5. Col 4:2
6. 1 Thessalonians 3:10; 5:17
7. 1 Tim 5:5
8. 2 Tim 1:3

L. Corporate Prayer

1. Psalm 95:1-6
2. Isaiah 56:7
3. Zechariah 8:20-22
4. Acts 2:42-27; 4:24; 12:5,12; 13:3; 16:16
5. 1 Tim 2:8

M. Principles

1. Many Scriptures implore believers to be devoted to prayer.
2. Our prayer should be unceasing, day and night - a continual part of our way of thinking.
3. Our prayers must be given in the power of the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:26).
4. Praying with brothers and sisters in Christ can be one of the most unifying functions we can perform as members of the Body of Christ.

N. Concluding Thoughts

1. Prayer is one of the central themes of the Bible.
2. God hears and answers the prayers of the righteous.
3. God cannot hear the prayers of the unrighteous.
 - a. The petitions of unbelievers are ineffective.
 - b. Believers must be in fellowship as a prerequisite for effective prayer.
4. We can ask for wisdom, understanding, strength, courage, mercy, guidance, etc.
5. When we pray in accordance with the Will of God, He grants us our petitions.
6. God is glorified in answering our prayers.
7. As Church Age saints we are to direct our prayers to the Father, in the Name of the Son and in the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. Jesus Christ intercedes on our behalf.
 - b. The Holy Spirit intercedes on our behalf.
8. Prayer can help believers avoid temptation.
9. We are commanded to pray on behalf of others.
 - a. Other believers.
 - b. Our leaders.
 - c. Our enemies (Matt 5:44).
10. Public (corporate) prayer is very important, but prayer is not for show.
11. Prayer should not be repetitious or done without our undivided attention.

12. Prayer should always be done in faith, with confidence (Heb 4:16), with proper motives, and with an attitude of praise and thanksgiving.
13. Prayer should be an ongoing, moment-by-moment part of the way we function in our daily walk.