



## **PGW Sunday School Chapter 4 Prayer Christian Essentials**

“We grow in Prayer”

*Ephesians 4:13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

It is coming into the fullness of our Christian Humanity

**What is that?**

Because of Jesus we can talk to God in a different way p. 62

And if that is true

Then we ought to see Jesus in a deeper and more meaningful life

Oswald Chambers

Does our preaching bring everyone to judgement?

When the truth is preached, the Holy Spirit of God, brings everyone face to face with God himself.

“When I pray coincidences happen and when I don’t they stop” Bishop Temple

Jesus speaks to God “for us,” we speak to God “In him”

Prayer then according to Williams “in a nutshell is.....letting Jesus pray in Us”

**Do we do that?**

The “Our Father” is the cornerstone to our prayer p.63

“And our prayers are *bathed in the light* of that relationship”

Section 2

Three Early Christian Writers

Origen-Theological Scholar and teacher

Gregory of Nyssa-Bishop from Asia Minor (Turkey)

John Cassian- Monk from Russia to Egypt



Origen:

"If God knows what we are going to pray/ask, then why bother to pray?"

In other words

**Do we change God's mind when we pray?**

\*\*\*God works his purposes through our prayers and our prayer then becomes part of the set of causes. AMEN\*\*\*

Our prayers are always "in Jesus, rather than to Jesus"

Pray anywhere                      One minute pause

3 Fold pattern of our prayer life growing

1. From a place of Practical life (My sin)
2. To a place of Freedom in the world around us (see God acting)
3. To a response to God's action in the world

The whole of our life says "our Father"

100 years later

Bp Gregory of Nyssa

Prayer is about reconciliation and the resolving of conflict and rivalry

No longer at odds with God or man

Lords prayer section "forgive us our sins, as we HAVE forgiven"

Mike Breen, you watch I do, now I watch you do

Gregory like Origen see prayer as a an area of CONSTANT GROWTH

Few are born natural prayer warriors

Alpha = simple childlike prayers

John Cassian

- |                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| • Supplication | Adoration    |
| • Commitment   | Confession   |
| • Intercession | Thanksgiving |
| • Thanksgiving | Supplication |



"Let your prayers be frequent and brief" p.78

The prayer of Jesus, the repeated prayer;

"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

Cassian goes simpler still (Compline BCP p 58)

"Oh Lord make Speed to save us"

*In the end, prayer*

Three things

1. Prayer is God's work in us
2. Deep connection that all three see between praying and living justly in this world (our prayers begin to inform our actions)
3. Prayer from our point of view is about fidelity, faithfulness and sticking with it.

Even when we feel absolutely nothing is happening, just stay there and in doubt say:

Oh God make speed to save me.

Prayer is our promise and pledge to be there for God, who is always there for us.