

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

Growing in Prayer

For the month of January, the Elders are teaching a short series on the disciplines of discipleship. Sermons on prayer, evangelism, and fellowship are planned for the remaining Sundays in January, and then we will be back in 1 Corinthians.

Because of the topical nature of this series, some of the preparatory lessons will be different than you might be used to or from what you can expect once we return to serial exposition of 1 Corinthians. We hope the change of pace and nature of the training you receive in January is refreshing to your soul and enhances your practice of these critical spiritual disciplines!

In order to prepare you for a sermon on prayer, we are going to look at a select few of the significant prayers in Scripture and ask how applying some of their characteristics might empower our prayer life today. As always, if you don't understand part of the lesson, feel free to email me (Mike Hoffman) at theostudent@yahoo.com.

❖ Day 1

From the Old Testament...

Read Daniel 9:1-19.

1. Where are the people of Israel at that time?

2. What motivates Daniel to pray on this occasion? (see verse 2)

3. What kind of prayer is this? (see verse 4)

4. What resources from God did His people ignore?

5. Does Daniel blame God for being unfair or unclear, and from where in the text do you get your answer?

6. On what basis does Daniel ask God to relent his anger? (see verses 16-17)

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7. Does Daniel think he has earned the right to approach God, and from where in the text do you get your answer?
8. What does Daniel imply that will happen to the LORD's reputation if His people and city are not restored?
9. How do you see Daniel approaching God both confidently and humbly?
10. List at least five characteristics of this prayer that you can apply in your own prayer life.

❖ Day 2

From the life of Jesus...

Read Matthew 6:7-14

11. What does Jesus say not to do when praying and why?
12. In Jesus' model prayer, what is the first request? (Rephrase it in your own words.)
13. What is the second request? (Hint: it is in two parts) (Rephrase it in your own words.)

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14. What is the third request? (Rephrase it in your own words.)
15. What is the fourth request? (Rephrase it in your own words.)
16. What is the fifth request, another two-parter? (Rephrase it in your own words.)
17. In verses 14-15, which of these requests does Jesus emphasize?
18. List at least five characteristics of this prayer that you can apply in your own prayer life.

❖ Day 3

From the life of Paul...

Read Ephesians 1:15-23; 3:14-19; and 6:18-20.

1:15-23

19. Is Paul praying for believers or unbelievers?
20. What does Paul ask God to give?
21. What is the immediate effect Paul hopes for their hearts in verse 18?

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22. What three things does he pray for their hearts to be enlightened to know?

23. Do believers need to continually hear and understand the gospel? Explain.

3:14-19

24. Through what means does Paul pray that the Father will strengthen His people?

25. Summarize the three results of being strengthened that Paul prays for. (Hint: look for 'so that' and 'that' in verses 17-19)

6:18-20

26. What does Paul ask the Ephesians to pray that God would give him?

27. Note that Paul, the teacher, ends his letter by asking those he has disciplined and shepherded to pray for him. Reflecting on all three passages in Ephesians, list at least five things you will pray for our Elders who faithfully shepherd and pray for us.

In preparation for Sunday, ask God to teach us to pray according to His Word and His will.