

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

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### “The Importance of Prayer in the Christian’s Life”

By Brian Meade

We cannot emphasize enough the role that prayer plays in the life of the child of God. Prayer is truly indispensable to every Christian, as it is the life force of our relationship with God! For without it, we would certainly miss many of the blessings, benefits, and comforts that prayer brings to our lives. Therefore, the Christian life is really not complete without this avenue to God!

Some of the most cherished hymns we sing are about prayer and the value of it. Songs like “*Sweet Hour of Prayer*” and “*What A Friend We Have in Jesus*” are so loved because they describe the value and sublime need of prayer to everyone who names the name of Christ. They teach us (Colossians 3:16) to make prayer a dominating part of our lives that we cannot do without!

But what makes prayer so important to us?

#### 1. Prayer is Our Only Avenue to God.

Contrary to a lot of the thinking in the religions world, prayer is the only way the Scriptures offer as a means of communication with our Heavenly Father.

In Matthew 6:6, Jesus is correcting the false concept of prayer as a hypocritical show to others. But we also learn that the Father desires the prayers of His people to be a personal experience with Him alone in our “*inner room*.”

In essence, it is the communication of our thoughts, desires, concerns, fears, and problems of our lives. Another song that we often sing expresses the idea of taking our burdens to the Lord and leaving them there with Him. This is the avenue that Hannah used as she “*poured out her soul before the Lord*.” (1 Samuel 1:15) Her first, last, and only recourse was to go to God through prayer for a son. What a contrast between the prayers of the of the hypocrites who, “*love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men*” (Matthew 6:5) and Hannah who was “*speaking in her heart*” (1 Samuel 1:13) to God alone!

#### 2. Prayer is a Defensive Protection Against Temptation.

In Matthew 6:9-13, Jesus was teaching His famous discourse on the Mount (Matthew chapters 5-7) and here He teaches us how to pray to the Father. He says to pray, “*...do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil*.”

Prayer to God for help and strength for deliverance from the Devil’s temptations is a powerful ally to the child of God. It expresses to God our desire to be delivered from the evil desires to do wickedness (James 1:14). We need to go in that direction and not the other!

Notice in Hebrews 4:14-16, “*Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need*.”

Jesus is there for us and understands our weaknesses in being tempted by the Devil— just as He was! He is our help in times of temptation to go before God’s throne for help!

### 3. Prayer is a Comfort in Times of Suffering.

God is pictured in 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 as the, “*God of all comfort, Who comforts us in all our affliction.*” As we are sometimes painfully made aware of how hard suffering can be here on the earth— it is a great blessing that we can still go to God through the avenue of prayer. Prayer can give us hope to cope with the difficulties and problems we are facing.

When the disciples were suffering for the preaching of the resurrection of Jesus in Acts 4:1-31, “...*they lifted their voices to God,*” (vs. 24) in prayer for help in their hour of need. And God gave them the strength, confidence, and comfort to continue their work despite the obstacles (vs. 31). It was comforting to know that God was on their side and our’s as well!

### 4. Prayer is How We Ask for Our Needs.

Prayer is the avenue we go to for our needs (Matt 6:8-12; James 1:5-7). God knows what we need before we ask, but He still wants us to ask. We need our daily needs to be met, but we also need to realize where they all come from....God or ourselves? It is the self-reliant that never sees the need to pray for his needs to be met. A good prayer life flows out of need and knowing what we need, so we can ask God. We need prayer in our lives more than we know!

### 5. Prayer is Asking for the Needs of Others.

Paul told Timothy, “*First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men.*” (1 Timothy 2:1). This involves praying for them and even that God will supply what is lacking in their lives.

Paul said of his brethren at Colossae, “*For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.*” (Colossians 1:9)

We need to even pray for others when they are sin-sick and need the forgiveness of sins (James 5:16)

### 6. Prayer Shows Our Dependence & Trust in God.

Jesus’ main point of why we need not worry and fret about our needs in Matthew 6:28-33, is to show trust and dependence in God. When we pray as we should and not give in to doubts and insecurities of what might happen to us, we are showing our confidence in God. We can worry or we can trust, but we can’t do both!

Finally, we need to Imitate our master and teacher Jesus— Who teaches us by His actions (Acts 1:1).

#### 1. Jesus got up early to pray.

“*In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there.*” (Mark 1:35)

#### 2. Jesus went to a mountain top or secluded place.

“*After bidding them farewell, He left for the mountain to pray.*” (Mk 6:46).

“*Then Jesus \*came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and \*said to His disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.”* (Mt 26:36).

#### 3. Jesus prayed before choosing the twelve disciples. (Luke 6:12-16)

#### 4. Jesus prayed all night long.

“*.....and He spent the whole night in prayer to God.*” (Luke 6:12).

How important is prayer to your life?  
Take time to pray everyday!



**News and Notes:** sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Betty Hurst, Janis Johnson, Steve Switcher, Billy Mac Fredrick, Gail Armstrong, Nicky Curtis, Cheryl Ridgeway, Anna Hearn, and Mackenzie Whittemore, and Krystal Harris, Janell Eaton.

**Those Who Serve:**

**Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:**

**Opening Prayer:** Paul Johnson  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon:** *"Speaking the Truth in Love"*

**Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am**

**Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:** Fred Johnson  
The Book of Luke  
Page 55, Question # 15

**Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:**

**Announcements:** Tony Whittemore  
**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Russell Briggs  
**Song Leader:** Dan Cottrell  
**Lord's Table:** Sam Johnson  
**Assisting:** Adam Harris & Lee Busby  
**Song Service:** Singing & Praise to God  
**Invitation:** Sam Johnson  
**Closing Prayer:** Brian Meade

**Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.**

**November 29<sup>th</sup>:**

**Auditorium Bible Class:**

Paul Busby  
Joshua, Judges, & Ruth  
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**Invitation:**

**Song Leader:**

**Closing Prayer:**

Brian Meade  
Russell Briggs  
Paul Johnson