

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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May 17, 2026

“Elements Of Prayer: Confession”

By Nicholas Edwards

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy” (Proverbs 28:13).



When a Christian sins (1 John 1:8,10), confession is required to be forgiven and cleansed. Public sin is to be confessed publicly with prayers of confession and pleading for forgiveness offered (James 5:16). Private sins can be taken care of privately in prayer unto God.

Moses made confession of Israel's sin, saying, "...Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin..." (Exodus 32:30-35). Moses often interceded for God's people. In so doing, he appealed to the long-suffering and great mercy of God when asking for forgiveness (Numbers 14:17-19).

You can't study confession without looking at David. *"And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the Lord, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O Lord, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly" (2 Samuel 24:10).*

"I said, LORD, be merciful unto me: heal my soul; for I have sinned against thee" (Psalm 41:4). "I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid, I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin" (Psalm 32:5).

Psalm 51 is filled with expressions we can use in confession of our sin today. From David, we learn that for confession to be accepted it must come from a broken and contrite heart (Psalm 51:17). Contrite means crushed. My heart should be broken and crushed because of my sin. I will never properly confess my sins without contrition. When a Christian confesses sin without contrition, insincerely, without repentance, or just because he got caught, it is unacceptable to God (Exodus 9:27-35; Joshua 7:20-26).

Ezra 9:5-15 is a great example of confession. Ezra has the right attitude: heaviness and shame. *"... O our God, what shall we say after this? for we have forsaken thy commandments...we cannot stand before thee because of this."* Ezra referenced the commandments broken when making confession.

After hearing of the state of Jerusalem, Nehemiah prayed weeping and mourning. He addressed God as "the great and awesome God", asked God to hear his prayer, confessed his sin, and asked God to remember His promise to gather His people if they repent. *"Both I and my father's house have sinned. We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses."*

Don't forget Daniel (Daniel 9:3-20). *"I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession...We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgment...O Lord forgive."*

“Elements Of Prayer: Thanksgiving”

By Nicholas Edwards

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men" (1 Timothy 2:1). "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" (Philippians 4:6). "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving" (Colossians 4:2).

Paul practiced what he preached. He gave thanks for his food (Acts 27:35), for brethren (Ephesians 1:16; Colossians 1:3; 1 Thessalonians 1:2), for victory through Christ (1 Corinthians 15:57), triumph in Christ (2 Corinthians 2:14), the care Titus had in his heart (2 Corinthians 8:16). He was thankful for physical and spiritual blessings. Paul taught to give thanks always for all things unto God (Ephesians 5:20).

Hannah prayed a prayer of thanksgiving after God granted her petition and blessed her with a child (1 Samuel 2:1-10). It is good and right to ask petitions of God during times of sorrow and bitterness, but we must not forget to praise and thank God when He blesses us!

David prayed, *"Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name" (1 Chronicles 29:12-13). "Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name" (Psalm 18:49).*

Ezra thanked God for the king's kindness. *"Blessed be the LORD God of our fathers, which hath put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to beautify the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem: And hath extended mercy unto me before the king, and his counsellors, and before all the king's mighty princes" (Ezra 7:27-28).*

Psalm 100 is a psalm of praise and thanksgiving to God. God is to be thanked because He is God, He made us, I can be added among His people, He is good, He is faithful and Has revealed the truth.

We have so much to be thankful for. Let us continually give thanks to God. *"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).*

"HAVING KNOWLEDGE"

There is something wrong with your knowledge of...

Botany – If you have never discovered the true Vine (John 15:1).

Geology – If you are still ignorant of the Rock upon which the church is built.

Mathematics – If you have not considered the width, height, and depth of the love of Jesus (Ephesians 3:18,19).

Biology – If you have not traced life back to the Creator (Genesis 1).

Sociology - If you seek any other cure for sin than that which God has supplied through Jesus (1 John 1:9).

Finance – If you have not calculated the debt that Christ has paid (Matthew 18:27).

Chemistry – If you have not seen how faith and works react with each other (James 2:17).

English – If you have not heard how the Teacher saw each jot and tittle of the law (Matthew 5:18).

Geography – If you have not discovered the beauty of Mount Zion and the city of the living God (Hebrews 12:22).

History - If you are unaware of why things of old were written down to begin with (1 Corinthians 10:11).

Physical Education – If you don't realize that your senses have to be exercised as well as any muscle (Hebrews 5:14).

Agriculture – If you think you can reap what you do not sow (Galatians 6:7).

Art – If you do not appreciate the beauty of creation (Romans 1:20).

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Daniel Holloway, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, LuAnne Parrish, Billy Grisham, B.J. Graves, Chandler McCain (Cancer), Stacy & Annette Meeks, Anita Harris' mother: Hillard Switcher, Kiefer Norman (Robbie Doles' relative), Evelyn Trimble, Danny Briggs (cancer), Kelcy Whittemore, Cameron Hutchins, the McCarthy family in Baldwyn (two men have cancer, one is terminal), Josh Boswell, Karen Kennemur, Dianne Johnson, Randy Ferrell (diagnosed with Parkinson's disease), & Price Whittemore was sick last week with Strep.

Updates: Billy Grisham had another fall Wednesday and is recovering.

Sherry Fuqua Doles is now home from luka!

Camden (Chad's son) is still sore from his hunting accident.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Blake Briggs
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: *"Lord, Teach Us To Pray"*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Fred Johnson
Author: Passing The Torch
Mike Willis
Starting Page & Question: *First Lesson, Question #1*

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Jerry Kennemur
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Conner Whittemore
Scripture Reading: *Luke 17:1-5*
Song Leader: Paul Busby
Lord's Supper: Fred Johnson
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: *"Lord, Increase Our Faith"*
Closing Prayer: Dan Cottrell

Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7:00 P.M.

May 20, 2026

Auditorium Bible Class: Brian Meade
Workbook: The Book Of Mark
Author: By Mike Willis
Starting Page & Question: *Page #48, Question #17*
Invitation: Dan Cottrell
Song Leader: Paul Busby
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Sr.



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Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qlfBtw?view_as=subscriber

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“Lord, Teach Us To Pray”

Lesson Text: **Luke 11:1-4.**

I. Jesus Teaches Us A Pattern For Prayer.

- **Luke 11:2-4.**
- Prayer Is Directed To The Father. (**Vs. 2**). **Matthew 6:6.**
 - Through The Son- **John 16:23.**
- Prayer Shows The Upmost Respect & Reverence (**Vs. 2**). **Psalm 111:9 (ASV; KJB).**
- Prayer Seeks God’s Will (**Vs. 2**). **Luke 22:42.**
- Prayer Depends Upon God Daily (**Vs. 3**).
- Prayer Includes Forgiveness (**Vs. 4**). **Acts 8:22.**
- Prayer Seeks Spiritual Strength & Divine Help (**Vs. 4**).

II. Jesus Teaches Us The Right Spirit Of Prayer: Humility.

- Jesus Gave The Example Of Two Men- **Luke 18:9-14.**
- Acceptable prayer is not about:
 - Eloquent words, Impressive Speeches, Or Public Recognition.
- God is looking for:
 - Humility, Sincerity, Brokenness, & Honesty.
 - **Psalm 51:17; 1 Peter 5:5.**

III. Jesus Teaches Us Persistence In Prayer.

- **Luke 11:5-10.**
- **Luke 18:1-8.** Why We Sometimes Faint- **Mark 11:24.**
- **1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NET; NIV; RSV); Ephesians 6:18.**

IV. Jesus Teaches Us Not To Pray As The Heathen Do.

- **Matthew 6:7.**
- The Heathen Believed They Would Be Heard Because Of:
 - Endless Repetition, Many Words, Rituals, Chants, & Empty Ceremonies.
- Jesus said:

“For your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.” **Matthew 6:8.**

V. Jesus Teaches Us Prayer By His Example.

- Jesus never asked His disciples to do something He would not do Himself- **Acts 1:1.**
- He prayed:
 - Early In The Morning – **Mark 1:35**
 - All Night – **Luke 6:12.**
 - Before Major Decisions – **Luke 6:12-13.**
 - Before Eating Meals – **Matthew 15:36; Luke 24:30-31.**
 - Before The Cross – **Matthew 26:36-39.**
- And even while dying, On the cross He prayed: *“Father, forgive them...”* **Luke 23:34.**

“Lord, Increase Our Faith”

Lesson Text: **Luke 17:1-5.**

I. The Apostles Saw Dissatisfaction With Their Faith.

- Many People Today Are Satisfied With Weak Faith:
 - Faith that only serves God when life is easy.
 - Faith That Disappears During Trials.
 - Faith That Attends Worship, But Never Changes The Heart.
 - Faith That Talks Loudly, But Trusts Little.
- But the disciples were honest enough to admit: “Lord, we need more.”
- In **Luke 17:1-4**, Jesus had spoken about difficult responsibilities:
 - Avoiding Offenses.
 - Rebuking Sin.
 - Forgiving Repeatedly.
- They Understood That Great Responsibilities Require Great Faith.

II. Why Do We Need To Increase Our Faith?

- To Please God- **Hebrews 11:6.**
- To Endure Trials- **Matthew 13:21.**
- To Overcome Fear- **Matthew 8:23-26.**
- To Remain Faithful Until Death- **Revelation 2:10.**

III. How Do We Increase Our Faith?

1. Faith Comes By Hearing God’s Word- **Romans 10:17.**
2. Faith Grows By Prayer. **Matthew 17:19-21.**
3. Faith Grows By Obedience. **Hebrews 11:7; vs. 8; vs. 17-19.**
4. Faith Grows By Trials. **1 Peter 1:6-7; 5:10.**
5. Faith Grows By Remembering God’s Faithfulness. **2 Chronicles 20:1-12.**