



40 Days of Prayer

Week 1- The Purpose of Prayer

What does prayer mean to you?

Foundation Passage

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. **John 15:7 NKJV**

Prayer is God's method of communicating with man, and it was always intended to be a two-way conversation. If God did not want to hear from us, then He would not have invited us to pray. God wants to hear from you because he loves you. He cares about every detail of your life. There is nothing too big or too small for His attention. As we talk and listen to God, He will also direct us.

FOUR PRIMARY PURPOSES FOR PRAYER

- Prayer is an act of DEDICATION

"I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will what you desire, and it shall be done for you. **JOHN 15:5-7**

- Prayer is an act of COMMUNICATION

¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. **JOHN 15:15-16**

- Prayer is an act of SUPPLICATION

⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. **Philippians 4:6-7**

²³"And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. ²⁴Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. **John 16:23-24**

²You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet^[a] you do not have because you do not ask. **James 4:2**

¹⁹ He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them.

Psalm 145:19

⁴ Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

Psalm 37:4

⁹ Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? ¹¹ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

Matthew 7:9-11

- Prayer is an act of COOPERATION

Prayer is God's way of letting us partner with Him to accomplish His purposes.

¹² "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. **John 14:12**

¹³ And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. **John 14:13-14**

Your prayers release the power of God into the most hopeless situations. They can penetrate places where not man or woman can go. Prayer makes the impossible possible.

The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

Proverbs 21:1

Discovery Questions

Please feel free to discuss one or more of the questions listed below. Please choose the question(s) that are most relevant for your group. The point is to take time to allow God to work in your lives.

What role has prayer had in shaping your relationship with God?

Based on today's lesson about the purpose of prayer, what can you do to deepen your conversation with God?

What are you hoping to get out of this study over the next 40 days.

Activate

We do not just want to be hearers of the Word, we also need to be doers of the Word (James 1:22). To activate this Word on the Purpose of Prayer, go to the prayer resources section at the back of this book select one of the patterns of prayer to

Action 1 – Set a daily alarm as a reminder to pause and pray this week. This works best if you pick the same time every day. It does not have to be a long time, but the best time that you can dedicate when you will be most effective. Many people find that mornings are best to start the day fresh. The key is to develop a consistency in our prayer life.

Action 2 – Pull out your ALWC Prayer Calendar and integrate the daily prayer focus into your prayers.