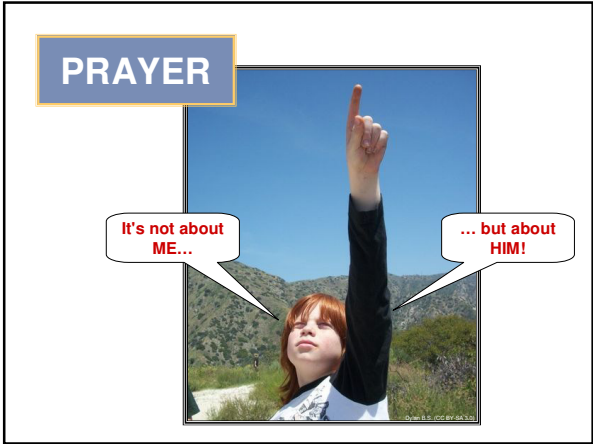


Assurance of Salvation
Part 91

Prayer:

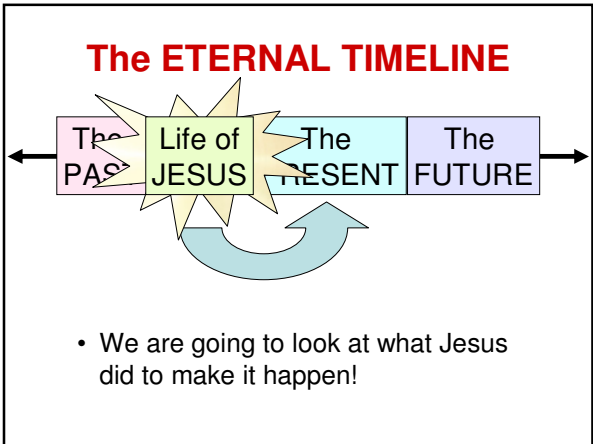
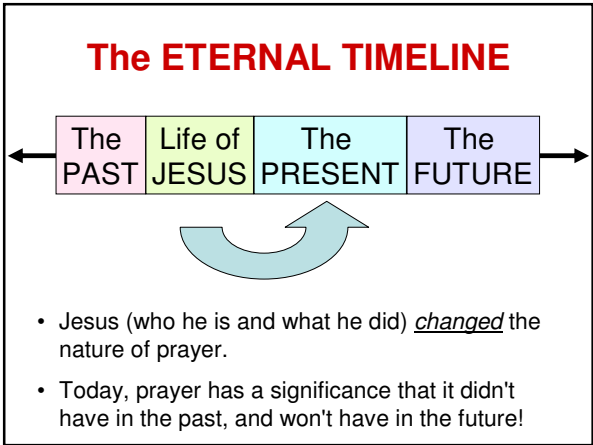
Living in the "Age of Prayer"



PRAYER ISSUES

PART 2: Living in the "Age of Prayer"

LEARNING ABOUT PRAYER



The "Age of Prayer"

- **NOW IS THE TIME** – between Jesus' ascension into heaven and his return back to earth.
- **PRAYER NOW HAS A UNIQUE PURPOSE** – one that it never had in the past and never will have in the future.
- **THIS "AGE" IS CONNECTED TO JESUS** – a direct connection with every aspect of who Jesus is, what he did, and what he will do in the future.

And one more thing about prayer during this age...

- **IT IS MANDATORY** – commanded a dozen+ times in the New Testament.
(Including examples and illustrations to teach us.)

Mat 9:38 *Pray that the Lord of the harvest will send out laborers into his harvest.*

Luk 11:9 *I tell you, keep asking, and it will be given you. Keep seeking, and you will find. Keep knocking, and it will be opened to you.*

Luk 18:1 *He also spoke a parable to them that they must always pray, and not give up.*

Rom 15:30b *Strive together with me in your prayers to God for me, ...*

Eph 6:18 *With all prayer and requests, pray at all times in the Spirit. Be watchful to this end with all perseverance and requests for all God's people.*

(Translation: WEB/DR)

Eph 6:19 *Pray on my behalf, ...*

Col 4:3-4 *Pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, ... and that I may reveal it clearly as I should.*

1Th 5:25 *Brothers, pray for us.*

2Th 3:1 *Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be glorified, even as also with you.*

1Ti 2:1 *I exhort therefore, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving, be made for all people.*

Heb 13:18a *Pray for us, ...*

Jas 5:16a *Confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, ...*

1Jn 5:16a *If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life for those who sin not leading to death.*

Praying isn't what makes you "spiritual";
but it does make you "obedient"!

JESUS' BIRTH "The beginning of the change"

- Jesus would prepare the way and would accomplish the change.

•••••

BEFORE Jesus came:

- People prayed to God as the Creator, the King, the one who is holy and righteous, the one to be feared, the judge.
- They also rejoiced in being "his people." (Psalm 100:3)

AFTER Jesus had accomplished his mission:

- God's people still pray to God all the ways they did before.
- But there is a new, intimate aspect that never before existed: God is "our dear Father." We are his adopted children.

[And while Jesus is away from us...]

- Prayer has become the vital link between us and Jesus.

JESUS



PRAYER



US

Open Bible - By KDS444 (CC BY-SA 3.0)

JESUS' MINISTRY "Teaching us how to pray"

He taught by his own example.

- The disciples observed him praying, and saw that he prayed differently from the way they had been taught.
- Jesus gave them a pattern to follow, which explained how he prayed. We often call it "The Lord's Prayer"!
 - Matthew 6:9-13; also a similar model in Luke 11:2-4.

He gave them specific instructions, just hours before his death on the cross.

- These instructions can be found in John 14-16.*
- These things did not exist under the Old Covenant. They are now mandatory, and part of what it means to "follow Jesus."
- There are 3 main instructions, which together form a **"Prayer-Obedience Cycle."**



* (John 14:13-15; 15:4-10, 16; 16:23-28)

1. Asking the Father directly

John 15:7-8, 16; 16:23, 26

- We don't need to go through someone else to get to God! No "in-between"!
- We can go directly to God, because of our new relationship as adopted "sons" in God's family.
- These verses point out a connection between:

"Asking" the Father



"Fruit-bearing" and "glorifying" the Father

Chain link - By NDSAM (CC BY-SA 3.0)

2. Asking "in Jesus' name"

John 14:13-14; 15:16; 16:23-24, 26

- (NOT a magical phrase we add to prayer.)
- **It means:** We claim the following:
 - The basis of our prayer is Jesus: who he is and what he did.
 - We are his representatives, and have the same mission and goals as he does.
- **It implies:** We have been united with Christ and are "remaining" in him (= his 3rd instruction).



3. "Remaining" in Jesus Christ

John 15:4-10, 16

(some translations use the word "abide")

- **THIS ISN'T:**
 - A "feeling" of some kind.
 - A reference to our union with Christ (which the Holy Spirit accomplishes in salvation).
- **THIS IS:**
 - Accepting and obeying Jesus' words.

You cannot rightfully pray "in Jesus' name" if you aren't "remaining" in him!

- **As we do this, WE ARE AWARE:**

- We are totally dependent on Jesus for our ability to have fruit and to glorify the Father. (These things are impossible if we don't remain in him.)

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

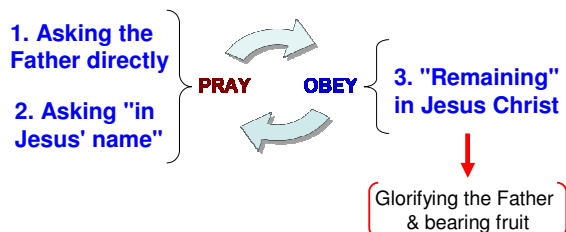
If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

John 15:5, 7-8 (NIV)

FRUIT = PROOF!

The "Prayer-Obedience Cycle" (summary)



JESUS' DEATH AND RESURRECTION "The victory that makes it all possible"

In heaven: The victory is fully implemented; Jesus is King, and is central in all that happens.

On earth:

- **AT PRESENT:** This victory has been partially implemented through the **prayer** of his people.
- **IN THE FUTURE:** It will be fully implemented on earth when Jesus returns as the King of Kings. (Rev. 19:16)

Our present tension:

- We want God's kingdom to be central in all of life.
 - Not just in our lives, but in all the world.
- We want God's kingdom to be manifested now.
 - The way it will be in the future, and already is in heaven.

★ THIS INFLUENCES HOW WE PRAY. ★

- This is why we pray (in the "Lord's Prayer"):
*"Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth, as it is in heaven."*

"Your kingdom come, your will be done, On earth, as it is in heaven"

- It's like saying:

"In the future, your power will be seen throughout the world. We are asking you to bring some of this power into the world now!"

"In the future, you will be central in all the world. We want you to be central today, in our lives and in the lives of those around us!"

YES!! We can pray for our needs, for healing, and for similar matters!

- When God heals or provides for us, it's an expression of God's power. And we want people to see his power!

When we pray for such things, the KEY ISSUE is MOTIVES.

- Do we want God's power and glory to be seen in the world?
OR: Do we have our convenience and interests at heart?
- And are we willing to leave the matter in God's hands? ("You (God) decide what is best!")

JESUS' SENDING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

"The 'Age of Prayer' is now here!"

- **HOW LONG?**
 - It began 10 days after Jesus ascended into heaven. It will continue until he returns.
- **DURING THIS TIME:**
 - Jesus is LORD over all; he is KING.
 - But he is not physically here on earth; and only his chosen people will submit to his rule.

AT THE PRESENT TIME...

- Jesus has sent the Spirit to control our lives.
 - So we will want his will to be done in all the world.
- The Spirit uses prayer as the link between us and Jesus.
 - So that we can remain in him, and can glorify the Father in all that we do.

IN THE FUTURE...

- Jesus will return; the "Age of Prayer" will end.
 - From then on, prayer will have a different significance.

YOUR MISSION: Use your glorious opportunity!

- PRAY for God's kingdom to be manifest in your life and in all the world!!
 - This type of prayer opportunity didn't exist before Jesus came... it will be gone when he returns.

**DON'T THROW AWAY
your
"once-in-an-eternity"
opportunity!**



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