**Prayer Part 4: “What Do I Pray For?”**

Prepared By Nathan L Morrison For Sunday September 8th, 2019

Text: John 14:13-15; 15:7

Intro

1. Many times the question comes up of “What do I pray for?”
2. There are many examples in the Scriptures of things for which to pray.
3. However, these things are only used as examples, for there are things we ask for that are not found in Scripture, but we do know we can ask of Him anything.
4. Jn. 14:13-14; Jn. 15:7: *Whatever* we ask in His name will be done, and in order to ask in His name, one must love Him by doing His will (Jn. 14:15; I Jn. 3:21-22).
5. God answers prayer according to His will *(I Jn. 5:14-15; Js. 4:13-15):*
   * 1. Withholds answers *(Mt. 26:39-44; Job 30:20)*
     2. Delays answers *(Lk. 18:7)*
     3. Exceeds request *(Acts 12:15-16; Eph. 3:20)*
     4. Does not grant request *(Mt. 26:39; II Cor. 12:8-9)*
6. We may not always know the things for which to pray or how to pray for it (Rom. 8:26-27), and thus the Spirit is said to intercede for us, for He knows our hearts, and the mind of God!
7. The Scriptures provide examples of things for which we are to pray!

## Forgiveness of Sins

* 1. If the Christian, with Jesus as his Advocate, confesses his sins to Him, God is faithful and just to forgive him and to cleanse him from all unrighteousness (I John 1:9).
  2. In teaching His disciples how to pray *(Mt. 6:5-15; Lk. 11:1-4: His disciples asked Him how to pray!),* Jesus taught them to ask for forgiveness of sins (Mt. 6:12; *Lk. 11:4).*
  3. Peter told Simon (formerly the sorcerer) to pray for forgiveness of his sin of attempting to purchase the gift of God with money *(Acts 8:22).*
  4. God will not forgive one who does not forgive others! (Mt. 6:14-15; 18:35; Col. 3:13; Js. 2:13)
  5. When we are guilty of sin we need to pray for forgiveness!

## Wisdom

1. The child of God who lacks wisdom can request it from God in prayer (Js. 1:5).
   1. Praying for wisdom is not a substitute for study! (II Tim. 2:15)
2. When one prays for wisdom, God will grant him the opportunity to gain it! *(It just won’t happen from osmosis over night!)*

## The Daily Necessities of Life

1. While instructing His disciples to pray, Jesus told them to pray for their “daily bread” (Mt. 6:11; *Lk. 11:3).*
2. God knows His children have physical needs *(Mt. 6:25-34);* but He wants them to ask for them, and to work for them (II Thess. 3:10: One who does not work, does not eat!)
3. Seek first His righteousness, and the daily necessities will be given! *(Mt. 6:32-33)*

## The Sick

1. Those who are suffering are to pray (Js. 5:13).
2. Elders are to pray for the sick (Js. 5:14).
3. The apostle Paul set an example that one can pray for his own sicknesses and infirmities (II Cor. 12:7-10), and we must also be ready to accept the answer *(Paul’s answer was “No”)!*
4. We may pray for recovery, but should still seek treatment – God may be with the hands of those who administer to the sick!

# To Avoid Temptation

1. Jesus told His disciples to pray, “And do not lead us into temptation…” (Mt. 6:13).
2. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus told His apostles to “Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Mt. 26:41; Lk. 22:40, 46).
3. God has promised a “way of escape” in time of temptation (I Cor. 10:13).
4. We must find the escape as promised, even when it isn’t the answer we would like it to be!

#### Deliverance from Evil

1. The disciples of Jesus were taught to pray to be delivered from the evil one (Mt. 6:13).
2. The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations *(II Pet. 2:9).*
3. But often times, we must strive to not put ourselves in temptation (II Tim. 2:22: “Flee”), especially in areas we know we are weak in!

##### Help with the Problems Encountered in Daily Living

1. We need to draw near to God in times of need – Heb. 4:15-16
2. The Jerusalem church prayed for Peter while he was in prison *(Acts 12:5).*
3. Those affected by the destruction of Jerusalem were told to pray that their flight might not be in winter or on the Sabbath *(Mt. 24:20)*.
4. Those who are suffering are to pray *(Js. 5:13).*
   1. Suffering brings about endurance and strengthens our characters (Js. 1:2-4).
   2. Suffering causes the godly to do the will of God, knowing that Christ suffered for us first (I Pet. 4:1-2).
5. We are to cast our cares (anxieties) on Him because He cares for us! *(I Pet. 5:7)*

#### Other People

1. All people, including civil rulers, those in authority, and for peace (I Tim. 2:1-2).
2. Our enemies: including those who spitefully use you and/or persecute you *(Mt. 5:44).*
3. Those lost in sin *(Rom. 10:1: Speaking of the Jews).*
4. The people of God including all the saints in the entire world *(Eph. 6:18).*
5. Phil. 1:9-11: Paul prayed for saints at Philippi: That their love may abound in the real knowledge of the Lord by being filled with the fruit of righteousness!
6. Col. 1:9: Paul prayed for the brethren at Colossae: That they be filled with the knowledge of God’s will for their lives!
7. Jesus set the example by praying for His disciples in the night He was betrayed *(Jn. 17:6-12),* and for those who would obey their teachings! *(Jn. 17:13-21:* Vs. 20)

##### The Effective Working of the Word of God

1. For preachers of the gospel – Col. 4:2-4: Paul asked for prayers that opportunities would arise and that when they did he would know what to say! (Eph. 6:19: That he preach with boldness!)
2. For laborers to reap the harvest (Lk. 10:2: “The harvest is plentiful”).
3. For the free course of the word into all the world (II Thess. 3:1-3; *Eph. 6:18-20).*
4. For protection against evil men and from harm *(II Thess. 3:1-3).*
5. We must still teach and take opportunities as they arise! *(Col. 4:2-4; I Pet. 3:15)*

###### Conclusion

1. Phil. 4:6: We must still have the proper attitude when praying: A thankful heart! (Amen!)
2. Let us pray often and let us make our requests before God with an attitude of thanksgiving!
3. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized!
4. If a Christian in sin, **NOW** is the time to repent and be right with God!