

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834

Phone – (662) 808-7777

Visit Our Website at:
MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

November 10, 2024

“What We Express In Prayer” Pt. 3 (Final)

By Brian Meade



In our final article on the expressions of prayer, I want to deal with some of the finer points of prayer that express our love and concern for others, the value of persistent prayer, thankfulness to God for what all He has done for us, and coming to God to seek His forgiveness.

There are a lot we express to God in our everyday prayers! It should never be that prayer is so commonplace in our lives that we fail to see the meaning to all we do. And these expressions are what make prayer such an important part of the life of a Christian. May we truly see the need to pray everyday!

V. Prayer Expresses That We Care About Others.

All of us have people we care about in our lives. Whether it's our family, friends, co-worker, or our brethren at church— we all have people we should pray for different reasons.

When the apostle Paul would ask His brethren to pray for him, he was asking the brethren that knew him and loved him to remember him in his suffering. Paul would simply say in *“Brethren, pray for us.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:25).

Right after that request, he would say in verses 26-28, as he would conclude his epistle to them, *“Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss. I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.”* Why? Because he truly had love for his brethren!

Paul also let brethren know he was praying for them. Notice to the Colossians, *“We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you.”* (Colossians 1:3). He wanted to let them know he was thankful they were his brethren, and in verse 9-11, he goes through a good list of things beneficial to their growth and establishment in the Lord. Paul wanted what was best for his brothers and sisters in Christ— their salvation!

James speaks to the time we pray for one another as well. In James 5:16, James expresses the need to pray for one another, *“Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”*

These are crucial times that we need to be there for one another and to help strengthen those who are weak because of sin. That's why loving our brethren is so important! (2 Corinthians 13:11; 2 Thessalonians 1:3; 1 Peter 1:22). Because we all have the goal of reaching heaven!

VI. Prayer Expresses That We Really Want What We Pray For.

When Jesus gave the parable concerning prayer in Luke 18:1-8, he spoke of the need of persistent prayer to God for the things we may desire from Him. He starts out by saying, *“Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,”* (18:1).

He goes on to introduce the widow who kept going before the judge to petition her case before him. This constant pleas for justice was settled by the judge— because she kept pursuing it! (Verse 4).

Jesus makes the application for us to be persistent in prayer for the petitions we ask of God. Even though God knows what we need before we ask (Matthew 6:8), He may test us to see if we really want it, and as Jesus said, “...will He really find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8).

It seems from all that is said in this short parable, that God wants us to be sure of what we want, and have true faith in Him to help us when we cannot do it without Him! This is the power of persistent prayer!

He doesn't want us to have the attitude of: “Well, I tried praying about it once, and it didn't work, so I'm giving up on it! Persistent prayer means we are dedicated to asking as long as it takes to get it. Otherwise, we may have not been as dedicated to the petition as we should have been to receive it from the Lord.

VII. Prayer Expresses Thankfulness To God.

Prayer is a great way to speak to God in thankfulness, adoration, and appreciation for our heavenly Father! Prayer is way to express the honor deserving the God we serve! Truly, His name is awesome! (Psalm 111:9).

In the book of Psalms especially, we see David extolling the praises to the God of heaven for all He has done (Psalm 65:1-13; 66:1-20; Psalm 68:1-35). These are more than just flattering lip-service from men, but the heart-felt songs of expressing why all should be thankful to God!

In 1 Samuel 2:1-10, we find one of the purest expressions of thankfulness given by Hannah, as she received her son Samuel from the Lord. She is genuinely overwhelmed with thankfulness to God for the answer to her prayers.

In 2 Kings 19:15, Hezekiah begins his urgent plea for God's help in their time of crisis, by praying, “*O Lord God of Israel, the One who dwells between the cherubim, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.*”

It is only after addressing God in such a fashion that Hezekiah seeks God's deliverance from the threats of Sennacherib.

As we come to the New Testament, we see Jesus giving the model prayer to His disciples, by saying, “*When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.*” God's name is to be held in the highest regard and with reverence in our prayers. It should always be an expression of how we feel in our heart concerning God.

Prayers should always flow from thankfulness (Ezra 3:11; Ephesians 5:20; Colossians 1:12). If we have received goodness from God, let us be ever thankful! Let us do as Hebrews 13:15, “*Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.*”

VIII. Prayer Expresses Our Need Of Forgiveness.

The need for the forgiveness doesn't end when we obey the gospel by faith (Acts 16:31), repentance (Acts 17:30), confession (Romans 10:10), and baptism (Acts 2:38). But rather it is for a lifetime that the Christian seeks God's forgiveness by repentance and prayer.

It was very early in the life of Simon the sorcerer, as a new convert in Christ, that he sinned by trying to purchase the power of the Holy Spirit for himself (Acts 8:18-21). Peter says to him, “*Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity.*” (Acts 8:22-23). Simon asks Peter to pray for him (8:24).

In 1 John 1:9, there is also an element of confession, as he says, “*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*”

We must be willing to confess to God and others (James 5:16), that we have sinned for us to receive forgiveness. This is precisely what David did in Psalm 51:1-4, “*Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight— That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.*”

Let us express this to God when we need this great blessing of forgiveness!

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, & Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Sandra Oliver, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Jamie Jones, Mary Ann Holley, LuAnne Parrish, Billy Grisham, Burt Ward, Wesley Trimble, George Hutto, Nathan Cox, Angela Warren (Lisa Busby's friend who has cancer), B.J. Graves, Danny Cottrell, Chandler McCain (Cancer), Michelle Hopper (Dan Cottrell's sister) has been diagnosed with cancer, and Anita Harris.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Tim Harris Jr.
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "How Do You Handle Failure?"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Jerry Kennemur
Author: The Books Of James
Starting Page & Question: Rick Billingsly
Page #8, Question #1

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Fred Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Blake Briggs
Scripture Reading: Proverbs 30:8-9
Song Leader: Tim Harris Sr.
Lord's Supper: Danny Sheffield
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: "How Do You Handle Success?"
Closing Prayer: Lee Busby

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

November 13, 2024

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Johnson
Workbook: The Minor Prophets #2
Author: By Marc Gibson
Starting Page & Question: Page 40, Question #1
Invitation: Dan Cottrell
Song Leader: Brian Meade
Closing Prayer: Nathan Meade

Visit our YouTube Channel:

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

And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.



“How Do You Handle Failure?”

Lesson Text: **Proverbs 30:8-9.** Is It A Sin To Fail At What We Wish To Accomplish?
But A Failure To Obey God Is!

I. Those Who Handled Failure In The Bible.

- **Moses**— The Leader Who Failed To Enter The Promised Land.
- **Deuteronomy 3:23-28; 34:1-8; Luke 9:28-31.**

- **Jonah**— The Prophet Who Failed To Go Preach. **Jonah 1:1-3; 2:1—3:4.**

- **Jesus**— Not Everyone Followed The Master Teacher, Many Rejected Him!
- **John 1:11; John 6:60-66; Isaiah 53:3-5.**

- **Scribes & Pharisees**— Jesus Showed Them Their Failures, Yet They Did Not Care!
- **John 9:39-41; Luke 16:14-15; Proverbs 28:13.**

- **Judas**— The Friend Of Jesus, Who Betrayed Him For 30 Silver Pieces. **Matt. 26:14-16.**
- When He Realized What He Had Done— **Matthew 27:3-7; 2 Cor. 7:10.**

- **Peter**— Denied The Lord Three Times. **Luke 22:54-62; But He Made It Right- 22:31-34.**

- **The Apostle Paul**- Suffered As A Criminal In Prison- **Ephesians 3:1; 4:1.**
- **2 Timothy 1:8; 2:9; Philippians 1:12-13.**

II. What’s The Main Point? Don’t Let Failure Stop You!

- Going Back Our Lesson Text— **Proverbs 30:8-9.**

- When We Fail:
 - Don’t Stay Down- **Proverbs 24:16.**

 - Keep Trusting In God’s Help- **Psalms 43:3-5.**

 - Know That All Failures Are Only Temporary- **2 Corinthians 4:17-18.**

“How Do You Handle Success?”

Lesson Text: **Proverbs 30:8-9.** It Is Not Wrong Or Sinful To Succeed
And Have Wealth, Goods, Or Honor.

I. Those Who Handled Success In The Bible.

- It Is Not Wrong Or Sinful To Succeed And Have Wealth, Goods, Or Honor.
- **David**— The King Who Stayed Humble In Success. **2 Chronicles 17:12-19.**
- **Solomon**— The King Who Had It All, But Fell Away! **1 Kings 10:14-27; 11:4-6.**
- **Daniel**— God Blessed Him/Friends- **Daniel 1:17-20;** Unparalleled Success- **2:47-49.**
- **King Nebuchadnezzar**— The King Who Built A Magnificent City, & Gloried In It!
- **Daniel 4:28-30;** God Humbles Him- **4:31-33;** He Learned Who To Praise! **4:34-36.**
- **Jonah**— Converted The Whole City To Repentance, But Wanted To See Their Doom.
- **Jonah 3:5-9; 4:1-5.**
- **The Rich Farmer**— The Man Who Had Everything He Needed, But God!
- **Luke 12:15-21;** Like The Israelites After They Inherited The Land- **Deut. 8:11-18.**
- **Scribes & Pharisees**— Those Who Liked To Be Praised For Their Devotion To God!
- **Matthew 6:1-4; 5-6; 16-18.**
- **Jesus**— His Disciples Began To Baptize More, Yet No Glorifying In It! **John 4:1-2.**
- There Were Times Jesus Had Great Crowds Following Him- **Luke 14:25-27.**

II. What's The Main Point? Don't Let Success Change You!

- Going Back Our Lesson Text— **Proverbs 30:8-9.**
- When We Succeed:
 - Don't Let Go To Your Head! Stay Humble. **1 Peter 5:5.**
 - Don't Be Like The Scribes & Pharisees! **Matthew 23:5-12.**
 - Give God The Praise For All That You Accomplish! **1 Corinthians 1:31.**