



## **Standing on the Rock - The Word and Prayer**

***“Whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.***

***“But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”*** (Matthew 7:24-27)

### **Prayer is for Fellowship With God and to Change Things**

1. Prayer is speaking to God (Acts 9:11).
2. “Pray without ceasing” (Romans 1:9). Be open always to God’s leading.
3. Jesus called prayers of the unrighteous “...vain repetitions...much speaking” (Matthew 6:7). Jesus said to not be like them (Matthew 6:8).
4. We want our prayers to count.
5. “Be doers of the word and not hearers only...” James 1:22
  - a. Prayer is a major way of being a doer of the word of God.
  - b. The word is our directory for prayer, “...out of the abundance of the heart...”

### **How Does the Word Profit Prayer?**

1. The word teaches us the importance of prayer.
  - a. Most Christians pray little. They offer many excuses for not.
  - b. Many say they do not have time to pray. They are too busy.
  - c. Jesus was the busiest of men, yet he found time to pray.
    1. The synagogue was a place for teaching of the word.
    2. The temple was called the “house of prayer.”
    3. In our personal lives, we need a synagogue and a temple.
  - d. “Watch (be alert, expectant) and pray, so you won’t enter temptation” (Mark 14:38).

- e. "In every situation by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6).
  - f. "...Shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him..." (Luke 18:7).
2. The word teaches us we do not always know how to pray.
- a. "We do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession [g]for us with groanings (Romans 8:26).
  - b. This passage was written by Paul, the smartest man in the New Testament.
  - c. We need the Holy Spirit's help by praying in tongues.
  - d. The most powerful prayer is not tongues but praying the Word.
  - e. The limitations of the human mind and even the written word are overcome by praying in the Spirit.
  - f. We need to ask the Lord, as the disciples did, "Lord teach us to pray..." (Luke 11:1).
3. The word teaches us the surety of answered prayer, faith.
- a. "Ask and it shall be given you" (Matthew 7:7).
  - b. "If two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven" (Matthew 18:19).
  - c. "Whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them" (Mark 11:24).
  - d. "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us" (1 John 5:14).
4. The word teaches us the goal of prayer.
- a. "You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures" (James 4:3).
  - b. We need the help of the Holy Spirit to reveal our hidden sins.
    - 1. "Cleanse me from my secret faults" (Psalm 19:12).
    - 2. "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting (Psalm 139:23-24).
    - 3. "Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom (Psalm 51:6).

- c. The greatest use of prayer is to be a blessing to others. "...Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).
  1. Our forgiveness should lead us to forgiving others.
  2. Healing should lead us to praying for others to be healed.
  3. Prosperity should lead us to give into the lives of others.
5. The word teaches us to recognize different types of prayer.
  - a. "Supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks" (1 Timothy 2:1).
  - b. "I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding" (1 Corinthians 14:15).
  - c. Some of God's promises are general rather than specific. Some are conditional. Others are unconditional. Some are fulfilled in this life, others in the world to come.
6. The word teaches us our position in prayer.
  - a. God is powerful. In ourselves we are powerless.
  - b. Arrogance has no place in prayer. We come before God in full and complete submission.
  - c. Even Jesus prayer "Nevertheless, not as I will but as You will."
  - d. "Come boldly before the throne of grace..." (Hebrews 4:6).
  - e. "Let us draw nearer with a true heart... (Hebrews 10:22).
  - f. "Seek the Lord all you meek of the earth..." (Zephaniah 2:3).