



The Prayer Life of Jesus
Following Jesus in Prayer (Part-1)
Sunday June 04, 2023

THE PRAYER LIFE OF JESUS

This is an overview of some to the key observations we can make as we look at the prayer life of our Lord Jesus Christ. This serves as an introduction to the entire sermon series (book).

If we had to vote on anyone who did not really need to pray much, perhaps no need to pray at all, we would have pointed to Jesus, God incarnate, the Eternal Word who became a Man, God lived and walked as a Man. Eternally He was One with the Father and the Spirit. He was in the bosom of the Father (John 1:18), and while He was on earth, He was also in heaven (John 3:13).

Yet as we observe His life as given to us in the Gospels, we see a Man, who prayed a lot.

While we do not have much recorded about His early growing up years, if we go by what the prophet Isaiah had written we can say that He was nurtured in God's presence listening to and learning from the Father by the Spirit. *"He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to hear as the learned. The Lord GOD has opened My ear; and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away."* (Isaiah 50:4-5). *"For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant"* (Isaiah 53:2). *"His delight is in the fear of the LORD"* (Isaiah 11:1-3).

At the right time, when Jesus went to be baptized by John the Baptist in the river Jordan, as Jesus came up above the water the Bible records, *"while He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."* (Luke 3:21-22). Even before He preached His first sermon, His personal prayer life was so powerful that *"while He prayed, the heaven was opened"*. As believers we know positionally we are in Christ, seated at the right hand of God. The veil has been torn, and we have free and open access to the presence of the Father. Prayer enables us to walk in the reality of this, experientially, with heaven always open to us.

PRAYING IN SECRET



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The Lord Jesus regularly practiced praying in secret, in quietness, in solitude, before the Father.

Just before He began His earthly ministry, the Lord Jesus spent forty days in the Wilderness praying and being alone with the Father.

The Gospels record numerous occasions when Jesus went away to be alone with the Father in prayer.

He would rise early in the mornings to go and pray (Mark 1:35).

When ministry was expanding and great multitudes kept coming to hear Him, be healed, delivered, and receive miracles, Jesus would often send the crowds away and withdraw to be by Himself to pray (Matthew 14:23; Mark 6:46; Luke 5:14-15).

When people wanted to forcibly make Him king, He withdrew to be alone with the Father (John 6:15).

He spent the entire night in prayer, before appointing His Twelve apostles (Luke 6:12).

There were occasions when He went with three of His closest disciples, Peter, John, and James to the mountain to pray (Luke 9:28).

His personal prayer life was so strong, it prompted His closest disciples to come to Him requesting “Lord, teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1).

As we progress in this study, we will take a close look at how the Lord Jesus practiced praying alone in the secret place, so that each of us can develop this in our own lives as well.

A PATTERN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER

All of us are familiar with what is often referred to as ‘the Lord’s prayer’, referring to the pattern of prayer that the Lord Jesus taught us:

Matthew 6:9-13

9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.



13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Of course, the Lord Jesus never intended for us to simply recite this prayer verbatim repeatedly. He gave it to us as a pattern, so that we could pray in that manner. We will look at this closely and develop a pattern for personal prayer that we can all use.

BELIEVING PRAYER

The Lord Jesus pointed to our Heavenly Father as being a gracious, benevolent, caring, and generous Heavenly Father. He taught: *"For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."* (Matthew 6:32-33)

Concerning us praying and receiving from the Father, He made strong affirming statements such as what we are all familiar with:

Matthew 7:7-11

7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

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!

There were no doubts, chances, or probabilities in His assurance of asking and receiving from the Father. He never faced failure in prayer, and He did not indicate that we had to face failure in prayer.

However, He made it clear that we must pray believing prayer if we are to receive, when we ask. He said *"And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."* (Matthew 21:22). He taught us how to pray believing prayer. He said: *"Have faith in God....Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."* (Mark 11:22,24).

And then Jesus positioned believing prayer in an altogether new level. He instructed us to ask the Father in His name! To ask in His name, using His name, means we now act as people with the power of attorney, as those authorized and delegated to fully represent



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Him, standing in His place, to do what He would do if He were there, carrying as much weight as if He were personally making that prayer! (John 14:12-14; John 15:16; John 16:23-24).

He made believing prayer an expression of our life in Him. He told us to simply abide in Him, and His Word abide in us, and we could ask anything we desire, and it will be done (John 15:7).

As we progress in this book, we will study the practice of praying believing prayer to ask, seek, and knock and receive answers from God.

PERSISTENT PRAYER

The Lord Jesus also taught *"that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,"* (Luke 18:1). Not only should we always pray, but we should continue in prayer till we see desired outcomes. He used two illustrations, the friend at midnight (Luke 11:5-13) and the story of the widow and the unjust judge (Luke 18:1-8) to teach us about persistent, continuing, never-giving-up, tenacious prayer.

This is an important part of a strong prayer life that we must develop. Learning both abiding (resting) and striving (pressing in) in prayer. Learning to be childlike (in simplicity and faith) and warrior-like (in militancy and tenacity) in prayer.

We will explore keys to persistent prayer in greater depth as we journey forward.

PRAYER OF SUBMISSION AND SURRENDER

The Lord Jesus knew that He had come for the very purpose of going to the Cross (John 12:23-27). In fact He was the Lamb of God slain from before the foundation of the world (1 Peter 1:19-20; Revelation 13:8) which meant that He had already agreed to the Cross before the creation of man.

Yet, when the time came for Him to go to the Cross, it was an agonizing moment. Luke records: *"And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground."* (Luke 22:44). It was in a moment like this that the Lord Jesus prayed with vehement cries and tears (Hebrews 5:7) and chose to submit and surrender to the Father with the prayer we are all familiar with: *"O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."* (Matthew 26:39-44).



Jesus even mentioned at this moment: *“Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?”* (Matthew 26:53). He knew what was available to Him, and yet He chose not to use it, placing doing the will of the Father a higher priority than exercising a privilege He knew was available.

There is a lot for us to learn from Jesus and His journey through His time of agonizing prayer leading to submission and surrender. We will examine this further later in this series.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

The Lord Jesus taught that the church has been given the keys to enforce God’s will on the earth. We are to pray *“Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”* (Matthew 6:10). To pray in this manner, we have been authorized with the keys of the Kingdom of heaven, to overthrow the powers of hell (darkness) and we can bind and loose (disallow, allow) on earth what has been bound and loosed (disallowed, allowed) in heaven (Matthew 16:18-19). One of the ways we bind and loose on earth, is by agreeing together in prayer in Jesus name. This brings the Lord on the matter as we are gathered and in agreement in prayer in His name (Matthew 18:18-20).

Part of intercession is doing for others through the exercise of spiritual authority, what they may not be able to do for themselves. Jesus demonstrated this when He ministered deliverance and taught His disciples the importance of prayer and fasting to enhance faith when casting out evil spirit (Matthew 17:20-21).

While the Lord Jesus would surely have spent many hours in intercessory prayer, we catch glimpses of what He would have engaged in, through brief comments recorded for us in the Gospels.

Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem (Luke 19:41). We could infer that He would have prayed over the city, knowing that His heart was for this city.

The Lord Jesus prayed for the Church, for you and me in what is recorded for us in John 17, often called the High Priestly prayer. He said that He had (kept) preserved His disciples by praying over their lives and through the Word He ministered to them in the Father’s name (John 17:8,9,12,15). He also prayed for us that we would know the Father’s love, walk in unity and display His glory so that the world would believe through our lives (John 17:20-26).



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By revelation the Lord Jesus knew what Satan's schemes were against Peter, and He took care of this in prayer. He told Peter: *"Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."* (Luke 22:31-32)

His work on the Cross was also a great work of intercession. Isaiah foretold: *"He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors."* (Isaiah 53:12).

There is a lot we will learn about intercessory prayer as we take a look at these insights from the prayer life of Jesus.

JESUS' TEACHING ON PRAYER

There is a lot that the Lord Jesus taught us about prayer and what we do when we pray.

He taught us to pray for those who ill-treat us, *"who spitefully use you and persecute you"* (Matthew 5:44).

He taught us the importance of forgiving people and keeping our heart free of unforgiveness as we pray (Mark 11:25).

He taught us not to use prayer as a means of drawing attention to ourselves, using vain repetitions, many words, making long prayers as a pretense of our spirituality (Matthew 6:5,7; Matthew 23:14). This would only bring greater condemnation on us. Instead, He taught us to pray in secret and God will reward us in public (Matthew 6:6).

He taught us that prayer is a key to overcoming the adversary. We are to pray *"And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."* (Matthew 6:13). We are to *"watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."* (Matthew 26:41).

He taught us to come with humility before God in prayer (Luke 18:10-11) knowing that no man is qualified in his own self to enter the presence of such a holy God.

We are to *"pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."* (Matthew 9:38).

He laid hands and prayed over little children setting us an example to do the same (Matthew 19:13).



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One day, Jesus walked into the Temple at Jerusalem overthrew the tables of people who bought and sold at the Temple and pointed to the Old Testament: *"It is written, 'MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER,' but you have made it a 'DEN OF THIEVES.'"* (Matthew 21:13, quoted from Isaiah 56:7).

Finally, in anticipation of the Lord's return we are to watch and pray because we do not know when the time is (Mark 13:33; Luke 21:36).

We will draw insights from the teachings of Jesus on prayer.

HIS PRESENT MINISTRY – OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

How important was and is prayer to Jesus? It is quite amazing to consider that today, in His glorified state, the Lord Jesus serves as our great High Priest *"who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us."* (Romans 8:34). As our great High Priest interceding for us, He represents our redemption and justification (Romans 8:34). He aids us when we are tempted (Hebrews 2:17-18). He represents our confession of faith (Hebrews 3:1). His presence before the throne encourages us to hold on to our confession of faith and to come boldly to the Father, to obtain mercy and find grace in our time of need (Hebrews 4:14-16). As our great High Priest, He stands as the surety of the new covenant assuring us of all our covenant provisions and blessings. We experience His saving, healing, and delivering power *"to the uttermost"* because He is always there making intercession for us (Hebrews 7:22-28).

When we pray, we are really co-working with our great High Priest here on earth. When we pray in secret, there will be no recognition from men here on earth, but we are joining hands with the King of glory, we are co-working with the Almighty God to see His Kingdom come and His will be done here on earth. What great rewards await those who have labored in secret while on earth. Only heaven will tell the glories that await them there.

Join us in the exciting series of lessons on *"Following Jesus in Prayer"* as we learn to develop our prayer lives based on prayer life of Jesus Himself.

CLOSING

As we journey through this study on "Following Jesus in Prayer", we will reflect on each of these 8 aspects of prayer. We trust that there will be much learning and growth in each of our personal prayer lives:

- 1) *Praying in secret*
- 2) *A pattern for personal prayer*



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- 3) *Believing prayer*
- 4) *Persistent prayer*
- 5) *Prayer of submission and surrender*
- 6) *Intercessory prayer*
- 7) *Jesus' teaching on prayer*
- 8) *His present ministry – our great High Priest*

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads



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This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture references: *Matthew 14:23; Mark 1:35; Mark 6:46; Luke 5:14-15*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, As we prepare to journey through this study on "Following Jesus in Prayer", reflect on each of these 8 aspects of prayer that we will be examining in this series. What would you anticipate learning and how would this impact your personal prayer life:

- 1) Praying in secret*
- 2) A pattern for personal prayer*
- 3) Believing prayer*



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- 4) *Persistent prayer*
- 5) *Prayer of submission and surrender*
- 6) *Intercessory prayer*
- 7) *Jesus' teaching on prayer*
- 8) *His present ministry – our great High Priest*

If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

- 1, *families to be protected and strengthened*
- 2, *a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*
- 3, *for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.*

Close by thanking God together.



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USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>

SERMON OUTLINE

Prayer is an opportunity for us to partner with God to see His Kingdom come and His will be established here on earth. In this sermon series “Following Jesus in Prayer”, we examine the life, the practices, and teachings of Jesus in 8 important aspects of prayer: 1) Praying in secret, 2) A pattern for personal prayer, 3) Believing prayer, 4) Persistent prayer, 5) Prayer of submission and surrender, 6) Intercessory prayer, 7) Jesus’ teaching on prayer, 8) His present ministry – our great High Priest. Expect your prayer life to be enriched and strengthened as we learn to develop our prayer lives based on prayer life of Jesus Himself.

The Prayer life of Jesus (Part-1) provides an overview of the life, practices, and teachings of Jesus’ on prayer.

KEYWORDS

prayer, intercession, intercessory prayer, sermon, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS



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