



Believing Prayer
Following Jesus in Prayer (Part-4)
Sunday July 02, 2023

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*
- 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*

We understand that there are different kinds of prayer – or different ways to pray depending on what we are praying for, or who we are praying for, and how we engage with God in prayer. We observe these in the life, ministry, practice and teachings of Jesus.

Today we focus on “Believing Prayer” or the aspect of prayer where you are praying primarily for a specific need in your life to receive something from God. We could also call this the “Prayer of Asking and Receiving”.

ASK, SEEK, KNOCK

In the two Gospels, Matthew and Luke where the familiar statements of Jesus on “Ask, Seek, Knock” are recorded, we see in both instances that His statements were ones of absolute certainty and assurance.

Ask, it will be given to you.

Seek, you will find.

Knock, it will be opened to you.

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!

Luke 11:9-13

9 "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

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

11 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish?

12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

The context is prayer because, the Lord Jesus ends this by referring to the heavenly father giving to His children.

TRUSTING IN THE FATHER'S CARE

When we pray for material things – what we eat, drink, wear, things about everyday life, job, career, home, education, etc. etc. – we must understand that the Father knows and cares about these needs.

Matthew 6:31-34

31 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

There are two things the Lord Jesus taught us to do:



Seek first the Kingdom – that is my highest desire should be for God to rule in me and through me. The Kingdom is God's rule and reign. So in all matters of everyday life, our first position is that Lord let your rule and reign be extended in me and through me. Second, we must pursue "His righteousness" or doing what is right in God's eyes. We know positionally we have been made righteous in His eyes and are clothed with His righteousness. Now we are to practically walk in His righteousness, doing what is right before Him.

So, when we posture ourselves in this manner – desiring His Kingdom and desiring to do what is right before Him – we are positioning ourselves to receive "all these things" to be added to our lives or given to us.

Balancing Trusting and Working

Now one area we all struggle with is balancing trusting and working. We have our part in this. We must trust in God, but also do our daily work and carry our responsibilities.

Lets look at this in the life, ministry and practice of Jesus:

WHEN PEOPLE PETITIONED JESUS

In His ministry, whenever people came to Jesus for their personal needs or needs of their loved ones, He always encouraged and responded to their faith. Here as just a few examples:

The Leper (Matthew 8:1-3) "I am willing".

When the leper questioned "If you are willing....", Jesus responded with "I am willing..".

Jairus (Mark 5:36) "Do not be afraid; only believe."

When Jairus was informed that his daughter was dead, immediately Jesus encourage his faith by saying "fear not, only believe".

Two blind men (Matthew 20:29-34) "What do you want Me to do for you?"

When the blind me cried out for mercy, Jesus asked them to express what they desired from Him and He gave them what they asked – their sight.

GIVING THANKS BEFORE DISTRIBUTING THE LOAVES AND FISH

"...He blessed and broke the loaves..(Matthew 14:19; Mark 6:41; Luke 9:16)

"...when He had given thanks He distributed them..." (John 6:11)



We are familiar with the incident when the Lord Jesus multiplied food to feed the people. Notice how He prayed in this situation. There is no indication of Him praying "Lord, if it be thy will to feed these people, multiply the food...". Instead He boldly blessed, gave thanks and distributed the food. We can imagine Him praying something like this: *"Father thank you for these five loaves and two fish. In your hands these are more than sufficient to feed everyone here. Bless these to feed, nourish and strengthen every person here today. Thank you Father."*

JESUS BEFORE LAZARUS TOMB

The Lord Jesus arrived four days after Lazarus had been buried in the tomb. It all seemed very late, and uncaring.

We don't know when, but perhaps during the previous 3 days, the Lord Jesus had already engaged in prayer for this situation.

So when He stood before the open tomb of Lazarus, the Lord Jesus simply thanked the Father for having heard His prayer already!

John 11:41-43

41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me."

42 And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me."

43 Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!"

Jesus simply prayed: *"Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me,..."* This was believing prayer. In prayer, the Lord Jesus was affirming that the matter was already done.

The Lord Jesus desired for us to learn how to pray like this. So let's look specifically at His teaching on how to pray believing prayer. This is what He practiced, and this is what He taught us to do.

WHAT JESUS TAUGHT US ABOUT BELIEVING PRAYER

Both Matthew and Mark record the lesson on faith and prayer that Jesus taught under the fig tree. Many of us are familiar with the incident where Jesus cursed the fig tree



and it withered away. He used this as an example to teach the disciples and us, about faith, and the two ways to exercise faith (A)by speaking and (B)by praying.

He said we could speak to the mountain in faith and command it to move and the mountain will obey our words of faith. He said we can have similar outcomes through believing prayer.

Matthew 21:22

And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

The condition to receiving from the Father, what you have asked Him for, is believing.

Mark 11:24

Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

When we pray, we believe.

We believe in the goodness of our Heavenly Father that He will add all these things into our lives.

We believe that the Father has heard us and given us what we desired. Therefore we believe that we have received what we have asked.

The key to asking and receiving is to pray believing.

The *time* to believe is "when we pray".

The *what* to believe is "you have received".

The *outcome* of believing is "you will have".

Side Note: Notice the context had to do with moving a "mountain". The mountain is an inanimate thing – a situation, a condition, or a work of the devil we are against in this world. However, we must understand that we cannot use faith to dictate another person's will. This is where intercession comes in and we will discuss that in another sermon.

The Lord Jesus reaffirmed this guarantee in prayer in other situations as well. Example:

John 15:7

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

John 16:23-24



23 "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.

24 Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

PRAY LIKE JESUS

Follow Jesus in prayer.

Pray believing prayers.

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads



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Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide



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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 7:7-11; Matthew 6:31-34; Matthew 21:22; Mark 11:24*

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.

Q1, What are the two postures we are to maintain, as stated in Matthew 6:33, for us to see God add "all these things" to our lives? Discuss how this is practiced in everyday life situations.



Q2, Examine the two instances (A)of the feeding of the five thousand and (B)at the tomb of Lazarus, where Jesus demonstrated believing prayer. What can we learn from Jesus on how He practiced believing prayer.

Q3, The key to asking and receiving is to pray believing. The time to believe is "when we pray". The what to believe is "you have received". The outcome of believing is "you will have". Examine Mark 11:24 to understand how we have to pray believing prayer.

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.

In Part-4 of this sermon series, in "Believing Prayer" we examine what the Lord Jesus practiced and taught on having faith in prayer. The Lord Jesus never experienced unanswered prayer in asking and receiving from the Father. He taught us how we should pray believing prayer. The key to asking and receiving is to pray believing. The *time* to believe is "when we pray". The *what* to believe is "you have received". The *outcome* of believing is "you will have". Let's follow Jesus in prayer. Pray believing prayers.



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KEYWORDS

prayer, believing prayer, prayer in faith, pray like Jesus, the prayer life of Jesus, the Lord's prayer, sermon, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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Thayer's Greek Definitions. Published in 1886, 1889; public domain.

Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance by James Strong, S.T.D., LL.D. Published in 1890; public domain.

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Mounce Concise Greek-English Dictionary. Edited by William D. Mounce with Rick D. Bennett, Jr. (1993)

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