

Personal  
Devotion



Class #2  
Prayer

# Overview of Class #2 Prayer.

# What is Prayer?

# What is Prayer?

## **The Concise Guide of Christian Theology:**

Prayer: addressing God, whether in praise, petition, or confession

## **Charles Spurgeon:**

Prayer: True prayer is the trading of the heart with God

## **Brother Lawrence:**

Prayer is a conversation with God in which we establish ourselves in God's presence

## Matthew Henry:

Adoration

Confession

Petition

Thanksgiving

Intercession

Conclusion



# What is Prayer?

D.A. Carson:

“

*effective prayer is the  
fruit of a relationship  
with God, not a  
technique for  
acquiring blessings.*

D. A. Carson

*Praying with Paul: A Call to Spiritual Reformation*

# Why Pray?

## **Psalm 105**

“Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!

Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!

Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

O offspring of Abraham, his servant, children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth.

He remembers his covenant forever, the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,”

# Why Pray?

## **Psalm 105:4**

“Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!”



# Why Pray?

## **"The Practice of the Presence of God"**

That there needed fidelity in those dryness, or insensibilities and irksomenesses in prayer, by which GOD tries our love to him; that then was the time for us to make good and effectual acts of resignation, whereof one alone would oftentimes very much promote our spiritual advancement.

# Why Pray?

## **The Ravens Cry:**

“Ah! sinner, when you cry to God you give Him an opportunity to do that which He loves most to do, for He delights to forgive, to press His Ephraim to His bosom, to say of His prodigal son, ‘He was lost, but is found; he was dead, but is alive again.’... Since then, dear friends, you are asking for something which isn’t will honor God far more to give than the mere gift of food for ravens...”

## **Psalm 147:9**

“He gives to the beasts their food, and to the young ravens that cry.  
His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the legs of a man,  
but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.”

# How do We Pray?

Matthew Henry:

Adoration  
Confession  
Petition  
Thanksgiving  
Intercession  
Conclusion



# How do We Pray?



1) Order your Prayer

# How do We Pray?



1) Order your Prayer

2) Pray with Arguments

# How do We Pray?

“Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

¶“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

(John 14:13-15 ESV)

[https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#John\\_14:13](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#John_14:13)

# How do We Pray?



- 1) Order your Prayer
- 2) Pray with Arguments
- 3) Fill our mouths with praise

# Troubleshooting

Concerning wandering thoughts in Prayer.)

You tell me nothing new; you are not the only one that is troubled with wandering thoughts. Our mind is extremely roving; but, as the will is mistress of all our faculties, she must recall them, and carry them to GOD as their last end.

When the mind, for want of being sufficiently reduced by recollection at our first engaging in devotion, has contracted certain bad habits of wandering and dissipation, they are difficult to overcome, and commonly draw us, even against our wills, to the things of the earth.

I believe one remedy for this is to confess our faults, and to humble ourselves before GOD. I do not advise you to use multiplicity of words in prayer: many words and long discourses being often the occasions of wandering. Hold yourself in prayer before GOD, like a dumb or paralytic beggar at a rich man's gate. Let it be your business to keep your mind in the presence of the LORD. If it sometimes wander and withdraw itself from Him, do not much disquiet yourself for that: trouble and disquiet serve rather to distract the mind than to re-collect it: the will must bring it back in tranquility. If you persevere in this manner, GOD will have pity on you.

One way to re-collect the mind easily in the time of prayer, and preserve it more in tranquility, is not to let it wander too far at other times: you should keep it strictly in the presence of GOD; and being accustomed to think of Him often, you will find it easy to keep your mind calm in the time of prayer, or at least to recall it from its wanderings.

I have told you already at large, in my former letters, of the advantages we may draw from this practice of the presence of GOD: let us set about it seriously, and pray for one another.



# Troubleshooting

## Mental Drift

- 1) Confess our faults
- 2) Approach God with humility
- 3) Use as few words as possible
- 4) Hold yourself in prayer

# Troubleshooting

## Mental Drift

“

*The reason we pray so little is that we do not plan to pray. Wise planning will ensure that we devote ourselves to prayer often, even if for brief periods: it is better to pray often with brevity than rarely but at length. But the worst option is simply not to pray—and that will be the controlling pattern unless we plan to pray. If we intend to change our habits, we must start here. 1*

**D. A. Carson**

*Praying with Paul: A Call to Spiritual Reformation*

# Troubleshooting

## Mental Drift

- 1) Vocalize your prayer
- 2) Pray over the scriptures
- 3) Adopt the model of prayers in the Bible
- 4) Use prayer lists
- 5) Journal

“

*Many facets of Christian  
discipleship, not least prayer,  
are rather more effectively  
passed on by modeling than  
by formal teaching. Good  
praying is more easily caught  
than taught.*

**D. A. Carson**

*Praying with Paul: A Call to Spiritual Reformation*

