

# God-The Ultimate Humanitarian

## Chapter 17: A Humanitarian by Giving Us Prayer

Prayer is a very important part of the faith life of a Christian. Even though so many people talk about prayer, very few people actually understand the gift of prayer the way that God reveals it to us in his Word.

Today we will look at the great blessing and privilege God gives to us in prayer.

.....What did you learn from chapter 17?

1. What do these passages teach us about prayer?

✦ Psalm 19:14. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

#1 \_\_\_ Words or thoughts of the heart which are directed at God \_\_\_

✦ Philippians 4:6. <sup>6</sup>Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

#2\_\_ We can pray about anything or anything --- it should make us feel better to know that God not only wants, but encourages us to come to him in prayer

✦ 1 Thessalonians 5:18. <sup>17</sup>Pray continually.

#3 \_\_\_ Should be an active part of the life of faith of a person \_\_\_

2. Comment on these statements:

a. God has given us *direct* access to him in prayer.

We don't have to go through the operator, the calling tree, or another person or thing, we have a direct line to our Lord ---- the red phone ---

b. God has given us *unlimited* access to him in prayer.

As much as we want. Not a limited plan where our prayers our put at the bottom of the list if we pray too much, all prayers all the time have that same direct access

c. God wants us to make *frequent* use of prayer.

Not only says unlimited, but reminds us that he wants us to come to him frequently.

d. God promises to *answer all* of our prayers.

All of these things don't go into the inbox to be lost, or put on hold so that we get frustrated and leave, God answers ever prayer that we ask

3. What are the qualities of true prayer?

✦ Matthew 4:10. <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

#1 \_\_\_\_\_ Based on faith in the true God and directed at that True God alone \_\_\_\_\_

✦ John 16:23. In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

#2 \_\_\_\_\_ Asking in Jesus name. We don't deserve anything on our own, we ask in the name of Jesus our substitute who graciously allows us to come and gives us that ability

✦ Matthew 6:7. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.

#3 \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughtfully and sincerely \_\_\_\_\_

✦ 1 John 5:14. <sup>14</sup> This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

#4 \_\_\_\_\_ Confidently believing we are heard and answered, not doubting, but believing

✦ Luke 22:42. “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”

#5 \_\_\_\_\_ True prayer believes that the answer will be the best answer because it is God's answer for us according to his good and gracious will. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Is there a proper form, or way to pray? Why or why not?

**Yes, true prayer is done out of faith in Jesus, according to God's will.**

**However, there is not a formula for prayer. Hit these points and it is a better prayer, or a more effective prayer.**

5. Why should we pray often?

✦ Matthew 7:7. “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

✦ Psalm 50:15. Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me.”

**God tells us to pray often and he will hear and answer that prayer**

6. How does God answer every true prayer?

✦ Mark 1:40-41. <sup>40</sup> A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean."

<sup>41</sup> Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!"

#1      **Yes, he gives us what we pray for in some way, Maybe not the way we expect**

✦ John 2:4. <sup>4</sup> "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."

#2      **Wait awhile, I have something amazing in mind for you, wait for it.....**

✦ 2 Corinthians 12:8-9. <sup>8</sup> Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. <sup>9</sup> But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

#3      **No, I have given you what you need for this life \_\_\_\_\_**

7. What else does the Bible teach us about prayer?

✦ 1 Timothy 2:1. I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone.

#1      **Prayer is not just for personal reasons or things, we can and should pray for many things and people**

✦ 1 Timothy 2:8. I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.

#2      **We can prayer anywhere and at any time. There is no place that is off limits \_\_\_\_\_**

✦ Psalm 26:12. My feet stand on level ground; in the great assembly I will praise the LORD.

#3      **Prayer should be part of our worship --- we can and should have corporate, congregational prayers**

✦ Matthew 6:6. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

#4      **Pray free of distractions, not for show or to get praise, but to humble bring requests to God.**

8. How did Jesus teach us to pray?

✦ Matthew 6:9-13. “This, then, is how you should pray: “ ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, <sup>10</sup>your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us today our daily bread. <sup>12</sup>Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. <sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’ ”

✦ Luke 11:2-4. <sup>2</sup> He said to them, “When you pray, say: “ ‘Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. <sup>3</sup> Give us each day our daily bread. <sup>4</sup>Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.’ ”

9. Agree or Disagree: Only true believers in Jesus really pray.

I would agree. Prayer is an act of faith which is acceptable only through our Savior Jesus. What an unbeliever or an idol worshipper does should be called something else.

10. How does God demonstrate himself to be the Ultimate Humanitarian by giving us prayer?

**Assignment:** Please read Chapter 18 of *God-The Ultimate Humanitarian*