



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## The Purpose of Prayer (Phillipians 4:6-7)

APRIL 3, 2013

Dave DePue / PO Box 1775, Topeka, KS 66603 / dave.depue@capitolcom.org

*Please note that our study summaries may be intermittent during the legislative break. Intermittent is not a description for Jehovah God, who desires a personal relationship with you and is available to listen, giving you direction and comfort.*

### INTRODUCTION

Prayer is a common topic for preachers, teachers, and publishers. Simply put, prayer is our way of talking with God. We may begin by asking, as a child, for simple favors. With maturation, these requests are for assistance with life's challenges and for more time together. *I asked the Lord for help, and he answered me. He saved me from all that I feared* (Psalm 34:4).

### PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

*Psalm 62:1-2 I am at rest in God alone; my salvation comes from Him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I will never be shaken.*<sup>1</sup>

Jesus taught His followers how to start a model prayer *"Our Father in heaven, Your name be honored as holy"* (Matthew 6:9). Remember that Scripture is written for an audience of many. You are praying to an audience of One. Jesus used the intimate Aramaic term "Abba" or Daddy in English, when praying to His Father (Mark 14:36). *You have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"* (Romans 8:15).

### CONFESS SIN AND UNWORTHINESS

*Psalm 51:1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.*<sup>2</sup>

None of us have kept God's Law well enough to earn His blessings. We only have His grace (Luke 18:13)! Cleanse your heart by admitting your sin as you address God in prayer (Psalm 51:10). Are you at odds with a brother or sister? It would be preferable to be wronged than to let a personal dispute interfere with your request for favor from God (Matthew 5:23-24).

### REMIND GOD OF HIS PROMISES

*1 John 5:14-15 Now this is the confidence we have before Him: Whenever we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked Him for.*<sup>3</sup>

Pray God's Word back to Him. Stand on His promises! *If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you* (John 15:7). Jesus promised His followers that God's Spirit would intercede for them. *Until now you have asked for nothing in My name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete* (John 16:24). Are you trusting God or your own abilities and performance?

### BE SPECIFIC IN PRAYER

*Philippians 4:6-7 Do not worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks.*<sup>4</sup>

Do not make vague requests. Some ask for better health, more opportunity, even greater patience! **Specific results encourage you. Your time in prayer pleases God.** Jacob admitted that he was afraid and asked God to save him from an adversary (Genesis 32:11). King David prayed that a conspirator would give foolish advice to cohorts (2Samuel 15:31). Please be reminded that God, like a loving parent, will not give you what weakens or corrupts you. *Or when you ask, you do not receive because the reason you ask is wrong. You want things so you can use them for your own pleasures* (James 4:3).

### A PRAYER

Abba Father, I come with no requests today, only to thank You for the grace, wisdom, and favor that You continue to give me. I anticipate Your purposes for me being fulfilled according to Your Word (Psalm 57:2). I come in the Name of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.

<sup>1</sup> Holman Christian Standard Bible. (Holman Bible Publishers). 2003

<sup>2</sup> The Holy Bible, New International Version. (Biblica, Inc.) 1984.

<sup>3</sup> Holman Christian Standard Bible. (Holman Bible Publishers). 2003

<sup>4</sup> Ibid