

## *“Prayer in the New Testament (excluding Paul’s Letters)”*

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Although our current study is not exhaustive, it does give us a picture of what prayer looks like from Matthew through Revelation. There are eight sweeping generalizations concerning prayer that can guide us in our communion with God. It is important to see these eight thoughts as stimulants and not binding directives. The Christian life is to be a blessing and NOT A BURDEN.

Let us celebrate our union with Christ and not regret it.

1. As believers, we should pray for those who persecute us (Matt. 5:44; Luke 6:28).

This is perhaps one of our most powerful tools to witness of the new birth. Instead of lashing out toward our persecutors or seeking vengeance, we pray for them.

2. As believers, we should pray in private (although this does not exclude group prayer [Matt. 6:5-6]). But private prayer is to be the norm (Matt. 14:23; 26:36; Luke 5:16; 9:28).

One’s prayer life is a private matter. How long and how often is between them and God. People of prayer are often known by others, but it should not be because of them showcasing their prayer life, but rather because of their passion in and for prayer.

3. As believers, our prayer life should not be done with vain repetition even though there are patterns that can be used as guidelines (Matt. 6:9ff).

Often it is because of a great burden being carried that prayer becomes repetitive, but this is neither vain nor redundant. Such praying is birthed in the cauldron of adversity. Through the New Testament there are many prayers prayed and the content of those prayers can function as guidelines for our own prayer requests before God.

4. As believers, our prayers can be short outbursts (Matt. 14:30) or protracted periods (Luke 6:12; Acts 10:9).

We should not make prayer so standardized that it loses its relational side. Prayer wherever and whenever you desire to. Do not limit your prayer time by location or occasion.

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5. As believers, we are to pray with expectancy (Mark 11:24; Luke 18:1).

We pray because we believe God controls all things and is working out His will through the prayers of His people. If we did not believe this, then we would pray only because we have to and not because we want to.

6. As believers, our prayers are to be marked by transparency and honesty (Luke 18:10ff).

Let us lose our air of deserving and come desperate. We are not worthy to even come and make the request, but God invites us to come and because of Christ and the cross we can come.

7. As believers, we are to stay attentive in our praying (Luke 22:46).

When we pray we are often bombarded by a host of distractions. We must pray with intent and focus. We must persevere in prayer.

8. As believers, we are to pray for those who are struggling and for the well-being of the brotherhood (Heb. 13:18; James 5:13ff).

Prayer is one of God's grace gifts to His people. It is a work of the Holy Spirit that He does in us and through us for those around us. This is one of the greatest blessings we can extend to the body of Christ.

In light of these eight short thoughts, where do we go from here?

First, prayer is one of the great blessings as believers given to us by God. Use it.

Second, pray believing that God delights in your prayers and works through your prayers His eternal purpose.

Third, pray whenever and wherever you feel so inclined. Make prayer as natural as breathing and just as necessary.

May it delight God to give us a spirit of prayer and may we see the blessing it is, in Jesus name – Amen.