

**BELIEVE**  
*Act Like Jesus*  
**"Prayer"**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. Prayer is relational communication with God.
2. In order for prayer to be relational there has to be dialogue.
3. **Matthew 6:5-7**
4. Superficial prayer is a sign of a lack of spiritual growth in a believer.
5. **1 Thessalonians 5:17**

**I. PRAYER GIVES US DIRECT ACCESS TO HEAVEN**

- **Ephesians 1:3`**
  - a) "**Blessed**" - gk: "eulogeo" = to speak well of - it means to celebrate with praises.
  - b) Many Christians make the mistake of asking God for what they already have!!!
    - 1) They pray for God to love them.
      - a. **Romans 5:5**
    - 2) They pray for peace.
      - a. **John 14:27**
    - 3) They pray for joy and happiness.
      - a. **John 15:11**
    - 4) They pray for strength.
      - a. **Philippians 4:13**
  - c) **2 Peter 1:3**
  - d) **Colossians 2:9-10**
  - e) **Ephesians 2:4-7**

## A. PRAYER TAKES US TO A DIFFERENT REALM

1. *Philippians 3:20-21*

2. **Prayer is access to heaven:** Heaven is the source of our power, victory, peace, joy and everything else we need to grow.

3. *Romans 8:26*

4. We need to pray without ceasing to link the physical and spiritual worlds.

5. *1 Corinthians 2:12-13*

## B. PRAYER CHANGES OUR PERCEPTION

1. When you and I as believers pray, we are transported to another world that is completely different from our everyday world.

2. Prayer translates us from earth to Heaven and positions us to hear from God.

3. When we hear from God he applies His Word to our specific needs and circumstances.

4. Prayer helps us to turn from self-focus to God focus so we can do His will.

## C. HOW TO PRAY

1. *Matthew 6:5-7*

2. Intimate communication with God is illustrated by going into a closet and closing the door behind us to pray.

3. *Matthew 6:8*

## D. KINDS OF PRAYER

1. Formal Prayer

a) *1 Kings 8:22ff*

2. Informal Prayer

a) *Matthew 14:30*

3. Wordless Prayer

a) *Romans 8:26*

## II. PRAYING EFFECTIVELY THROUGH CHRIST

- *Hebrews 4:1-13; 14-16*

### A. WE HAVE AN INTERCESSOR

1. *Hebrews 4:14*

2. Jesus passed through three heavens:

- a) *1<sup>st</sup> heaven* - where the birds fly
- b) *2<sup>nd</sup> heaven* - where the stars reside
- c) *3<sup>rd</sup> heaven* - God's abode

3. Once a year on the Day of Atonement the high priest of Israel would enter the Holy of Holies to make atonement for the sins of the people.

### B. WE HAVE ACCESS TO GOD

1. *Hebrews 4:14*

2. There were many priests, but only the High Priest could pass through the 2 outer areas of the temple and go behind the curtain into the Holy of Holies.

3. *Hebrews 9:24-26*

4. If you are living on earth, and you want to access heaven you can do so through prayer.

5. It is when we come into the presence of God that we can have our needs and concerns addressed.

### C. WE HAVE ACCESS THROUGH THE SYMPATHY OF CHRIST

1. *Hebrews 4:15*

- a) "**sympathize**" - means to suffer together with; to have compassion

2. **QUESTION:** Why do we need a High Priest who knows:

- a) What it's like to be tempted?
- b) What it's like to be tired?
- c) What it's like to be hungry?

- d) What it's like to be sad?
- e) Or whatever feelings or emotions we feel?

3. **ANSWER:** So He can represent and interpret these feelings to God the Father.

#### **D. WE CAN DRAW NEAR WITH CONFIDENCE**

1. *Hebrews 4:16*

2. When the High Priest in the Old Testament would offer the sacrifice to atone for the sins of Israel for another year, the people would draw back and see if God would accept the sacrifice.

3. God has all the grace we will ever need to help us, but we have to go before the throne to ask for it.

4. It was @ the throne of God that Christ made atonement for sins, and it is there that grace is dispensed to believers for all issues of life:

- a) *2 Corinthians 4:15*
- b) *2 Corinthians 9:8*
- c) *2 Corinthians 12:9*
- d) *Ephesians 1:7; 2:7*