

CORE CLASSES

# MEETING WITH GOD

MEETING WITH GOD THROUGH PRAYER

## I. Introduction

- Question: What makes a person powerful?
- *"It is implicit in our nature to want to speak to someone more powerful than we are."* -Graham Goldsworthy

**Prayer:** The Spirit-given, Word-saturated communication response to dwelling on God.

**A – Adoration**

**C – Confession**

**T – Thanksgiving**

**S – Supplication** (petitioning or asking the Lord for things to give him glory)

## II. A Trinitarian Framework

- An attribute of God is that He is relational and communicative.

**John 17:24:** *"Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world."*

**Genesis 1:26:** *"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."*

## **A. The Basis of All Prayer: The Sonship of Jesus**

**Hebrews 4:14-16:** *“Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”*

Three reasons to have confidence that we can draw near to God:

- Jesus is our high priest
- The acceptance Jesus has with the Father is the acceptance we now have in Him.
- If God hears the prayers of Jesus our high priest, He will also hear our prayers through Jesus...

## **B. The Source of All Prayer: The Fatherhood of God**

**Luke 11:11-14:** *“Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”*

*“When we slow down to pray, we are immediately confronted with how unspiritual we are...in contrast, children never get frozen by their selfishness. They come just as they are, totally self-absorbed. Jesus tells us to become like a little child when we pray... How do little children ask? They just say what is on their minds. They have no awareness of what is appropriate or inappropriate. This isn't just a random observation about how parents respond to little children. This is the gospel.” -Paul Miller*

### **C. The Enabling of All Prayer: The Power of the Holy Spirit**

- The Holy Spirit draws us to a saving faith in Christ.

**John 3:5-6** – *“Truly, truly I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”*

- The Holy Spirit assures us of our adoption in Christ.

**Romans 8:16:** *“The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God...”*

**Ephesians 1:13-14:** *“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession--to the praise of his glory.”*

- The Holy Spirit intercedes for us before the Father

**Romans 8:26-27:** *“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”*

**Question:** How do the petitions for things like daily bread and forgiveness free believers to live more committed and surrendered lives for Christ?

### III. The Word of God and Prayer

**Question:** “Why isn’t prayer alone enough to sustain our fellowship with God?”

*Both read the same Bible and pray to the same God, and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God’s assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men’s faces, but let us judge not, that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered. That of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes.*

***.-Abraham Lincoln | Second Inaugural Address***

- The Word of God is primary in prayer because, without it, we don’t know how to pray properly.

*“If prayer is not addressed to God in terms of what is real, it is a fantasy. The prior word of God is established from the outset as the ground for any human understanding of reality.”* **-Graeme Goldsworthy**

#### **A. How does God’s Word Help us Pray**

1. Being grounded in God’s word in prayer makes us God-centered
2. Being grounded in God’s word helps us to pray according to His will

“One thing is certain: Our most powerful prayers are hyperlinked to the promises of God. When you know you are praying the promises of God, you can pray with holy confidence.” **-Mark Batterson**

3. Being grounded in God’s word helps us to pray with the Holy Spirit

*“We need the sharp-edged, absolute character of the Word and the intuitive, personal leading of the Spirit. The Word provides the structure, the vocabulary. The Spirit personalizes it to our lives. If we believe Scripture only applies to people in general, then we can miss how God intimately personalizes his counsel to us as individuals. We can become deists, effectively removing God from our lives. But everywhere in Scripture we see God speaking to us with a personal touch, prompting us to obey and love.”* **-Paul Miller**

#### **IV. Prayer and Practicalities**

##### A. Five Categories of Prayer

1. For your physical needs
2. For your spiritual needs
3. For the Church
4. For your family
5. For God's work in the world

## B. Praying Scripture

*“Just as God’s Word must reform our theology, our ethics, and our practices, so also must it reform our praying.” -D.A. Carson*

**Philippians 1:9-11:** *“And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”*

**Psalms 51:1-4:** *Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight...”*

## C. Prayer is a Muscle that Grows as You Use It

1. Take a morning walk with no devices and pray out loud.
2. Set reminders on your calendar to pray for specific needs at specific times.
3. Use a prayer app like Echoprayer, Prayermate, or Evernote
4. Do prayer cards
5. Pray in the moment with people
6. Prayer walk your neighborhood or the office
7. Try 2–3 short times of prayer instead of one long one
8. Pray regularly with your kids or grandkids
9. Use a prayer companion in your daily time with God: