

**Christian Beliefs Week 6: Teaching
Ch 5: What is Prayer?**

Any updates on steps of faith?

What is the doctrine of prayer?

Why should we pray?

What does “pray without ceasing mean in 1 Thessalonians 5:17?

- *Do you ever wonder if God really wants to hear from you? If so, why do you believe that? What can you do to push past that lie?*
- *Are there things you’re hesitant to pray about? Why?*
- *How can we see the term “pray without ceasing” as communication with a constant companion and not just a task to check off each day?*

How are we to understand Matthew 21:22, that “Whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive if you have faith?”

What if God says “no”?

Effectiveness of prayer:

- Jesus is the reason our prayers are effective.

Let’s look at verses that can easily be misinterpreted.

- How can someone misunderstand Luke 11:9-10 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be one to you. For everyone who asks received, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened”? *When can we trust this verse to be true?*

- James 4:2 says, “You do not have because you do not ask.” *What might we not have because we haven’t asked? Is there something you are afraid to ask God for? Is there something you need to take the time and ask?*

What is the Word of Faith movement?

Who should we pray to in the Trinity?

What is the proper attitude in prayer?

- Praying with faith is important.
- We are asking God to work ONLY if it’s in accordance with His will.
- *How do we know God’s will? What should we do if we don’t know God’s will?*
- Anything in our lives that displeases God will hinder our prayers.
- Pray with humility.
- Pray earnestly.
- Waiting on the Lord.
- Praise and thanksgiving. *Why do you think “thanksgiving” is so important when we pray?*
- Fasting. *Have any of you experienced fasting from food before and would like to share your experience?*
- Praying in Private.

Is prayer more powerful if there are two or more?

- Praying with others (Matthew 18:19-20) “If two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them.”

What does “Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another so that we may be healed” mean In James 5:16?

Discuss:

- Why does God want us to pray? What can motivate us to pray more?
- How can you increase the depth, power, and wisdom of your prayers?
- What is the proper attitude we should have when we pray?
- What does it mean to pray “in Jesus’ name”?
- How has your love for and understanding of God deepened through prayer?
- Have you said any prayers that God has not answered yet? How have you struggled with unanswered prayer? How has your faith grown as a result of unanswered prayer?
- How does it help and encourage you when you pray together with other Christians?
- How can you overcome some distractions to make time for prayer?
- How can we pray for one another and healing today?