

September 27, 2015 – Sermon Notes, Pastor Alan Smith

“Prayer”

- A story that I heard years ago about a little boy that went to a prayer meeting. The little boy heard all these prayers full of big words that he couldn't understand. All these prayers were beautiful. So, the little boy decided to stand up and pray. He shouted a pray dear Jesus abcdefghijklmnop... Then one of the deacons came over and asked “Young man why did you pray the alphabet to God?” This little boy said “I didn't know what to say so I gave God all the letters and I would let Him put it together.”
- Prayer is sometimes misunderstood.
- Sometimes we are afraid to pray in public because we don't know what to say. We feel that our words aren't elegant and we are afraid we will stumble and not make sense.
- What is prayer? According to Merriam- Webster the definition of prayer is:
- **entreat, implore —often used as a function word in introducing a question, request, or plea : to get or bring by praying : to make a request in a humble manner**
- **The Greek word means to speak to or to make requests of God—‘to pray, to speak to God, to ask God for, prayer.’**
- Video
- Prayer is the way we communicate with God. To deepen our relationship with Him.
- Is there a right way or wrong way to speak to God?
- I'm sure we all have been taught to clasp our hands together, close our eyes and bow our heads when we pray.
- There are many postures of prayer.
- Standing- Genesis 24:12–14 (NLT)
- **12 “O LORD, God of my master, Abraham,” he prayed. “Please give me success today, and show unfailing love to my master, Abraham. 13 See, I**

am standing here beside this spring, and the young women of the town are coming out to draw water.

- **Lifting the hands- 1 Timothy 2:8 (NLT)**
- **8 In every place of worship, I want men to pray with holy hands lifted up to God, free from anger and controversy.**
- **Sitting-Judges 20:26 (NIV)**
- **26 Then all the Israelites, the whole army, went up to Bethel, and there they sat weeping before the LORD. They fasted that day until evening and presented burnt offerings and fellowship offerings to the LORD.**
- **Kneeling-Mark 1:40 (NIV)**
- **40 A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.”**
- **Looking upward- John 17:1 (NIV)**
- **17 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:**
- **“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.**
- **Bowing down- Exodus 34:8 (NIV)**
- **8 Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped.**
- **Placing head between knees- 1 Kings 18:42 (NIV84)**
- **42 So Ahab went off to eat and drink, but Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel, bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees.**
- **Pounding on the breast-Luke 18:13 (NIV84)**
- **13 “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’**
- We see that there are many different ways to pray. There is no wrong way to pray. Well I wouldn't suggest closing your eyes while you are driving.
- We now know some of the different postures of prayer but how do we pray?
- Jesus answered that question in Matthew.
- **Matthew 6:9–13 (NIV84)**
- **9 “This, then, is how you should pray:**

- “ ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
- **10 your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**
- **11 Give us today our daily bread.**
- **12 Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.**
- **13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’**
- I know that we pray this prayer but it is an example or outline on how we should pattern our prayers.
- The first thing we see is that our prayers need to address God
- We speak to Him about His character. We praise Him for what He is to us. His love, grace, mercy ETC. (Hallowed be your name)
- The next thing we pray about are the things that God is concerned about. (Your Kingdom come, your will be done)
- After praying for God’s will to be done on Earth and heaven we bring our concerns to Him.
- First we pray for the physical needs. (Give us this day our daily bread)
- Then we pray for our relationships (Forgive our debts as we forgive our debtors)
- After praying for our relationships we pray for our emotional and spiritual needs. (Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil)
- Now this is where the scripture ends. The prayer that we pray doesn’t end there.
- At the end of the Lord’s Prayer there is a doxology.
- This doxology is threefold just like the Godhead is threefold.
- We end our prayers with praise to God the father, son and Holy Spirit.
- Now we just learned about how we should pray. How often should we pray?
- Morning, bedtime and before each meal?
- **Mark 1:35 Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray.**
- **Ephesians 6:18 Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.***
- **1 Thessalonians 5:17 Never stop praying.**
- In the world we live in it is important to pray!

- Prayer is that privilege we have to talk with God and deepen our relationship with Him.
- **Hebrews 4:16 So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.**