

A Prayer-Filled Life

by

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The fourth and fifth chapters of the book of Revelation are exciting chapters. Chapter four begins with a door being opened in Heaven for John to see, and moves on to picture for us some of the worship going on in Heaven. When we get to the middle of the fifth chapter we see four beasts and twenty-four elders praising Jesus for dying for our sins. Joining them are at least **102 MILLION** angels. Then joining in are EVERY creature in the skies, the land, underneath the land, and in the water.

Just before this amazing worship begins, the scripture presents something we do as Christians here on earth that brings joy to God in Heaven.

Rev. 5:8, *“And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.”*

Our prayers, then, are important to God. They are special to Him, and He takes pleasure in us when we pray. Psa. 147:11, *“The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.”* That is exactly what we are doing when we pray.

God wants to bless our prayers. 1 Pet. 3:12, *“For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.”*

Let us, then, fill our lives with prayer. 1 Thess. 5:16-18, *“Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”* If we turn to the parable of the unjust judge in Luke 18:1-8, we see that praying without ceasing means to keep coming back to God in prayer.

We will look in this study at some different ways we can fill our lives with prayer, then in a follow up article see some things we want to fill our prayers with.

A prayer filled life begins with a prayer filled day. Realizing that prayer is one of the most personal ways in which we can praise God, turn to Psa. 145:2, *“Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever.”* We don’t just want to pray every day but FILL each day with prayer. Psa. 113:3, *“From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the Lord’s name is to be praised.”*

Start our day with prayer. Psa. 5:3, *“My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.”*

Thank God for each meal. 1 Tim. 4:4-5, *“For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.”*

God is always there for you whenever you need Him. Psa. 46:1, *“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”* All you have to do is ask Him.

Let’s be just as quick to thank Him and praise Him. Eph. 5:20, *“Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;”*.

Ask God to bless your daily activities, such as work, school work, family activities, reading and studying His word, good works in His service, etc. Col. 3:17, *“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”* We often use this verse to show we must do all things by the authority of the Lord Jesus, and it is certainly an appropriate use of the verse. But considering we pray in His name, and the verse also talks of giving thanks to God by him, we can see that this verse also involves prayer.

Take some daily, quiet time with just you and God. In Psa. 46:10 God tells us, *“Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.”* And verse 11 reminds us, *“The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.”*

End each day with prayer. Psa. 92:1-2, *“It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High: To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night.”*

This is not to say that we do nothing but pray each day. I realize there are some very busy people out there. I’m one of them. But the more we involve God in our lives through prayer, the more productive and happy we will be each day in His service.

In addition to daily prayers, there are other ways we can fill our lives with prayer.

For one thing we have hopes and goals of things we want to accomplish. Submit these to God in prayer.

Note Psa. 37:4, *“Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.”* This verse then begs the question. What are our desires? The answer is in the first part of the verse, delighting in the Lord. Prov. 11:23, *“The desire of the righteous is only good.”*

Then in 1 John 5:14-15 we see that we need to submit our desires to God’s will in prayer, *“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that*

he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”

We follow up on our dreams and goals with decisions and actions. We need to submit these to God’s will as well. James 4:13-15, *“Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.”*

Well, there are many other ways we can fill our lives with prayer. Here are a few suggestions.

Fasting and prayer, family prayers, prayers in worship, special times with just you and God in prayer. We could go on and on. You probably have other ways of special prayers I haven’t even thought of.

The point is to fill our life with prayer. A prayer-FILLED life will help us be stronger, will help us be more useful, active Christians, and will bring us closer to God.

James 4:8, *“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.”*

Psa. 141:2, *“Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.”*

In the above, we presented some ways that we can fill our lives with prayer. Now we will consider some things that we need to fill our prayers with. We will emphasize the fact that God wants to and will answer our prayers.

First and foremost, we need to fill each prayer with humility. And we will break humility into two parts: recognizing God’s authority and humbling ourselves before Him.

We need to recognize God’s place and authority. As He reigns in Heaven, we must let him rule our lives. He is the one with over 100,000,000 angels worshipping Him, after all.

When Jesus was teaching His disciples how to pray in the sermon on the mount, this was the very first principle He taught them. Note Matt. 6:9, *“After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.”* Notice, it isn’t that we have to say the exact same words. We have to pray after this manner. Recognize that God is our Father, that He is in heaven, and that His name must have a very high place in our hearts.

The second part of humility in every prayer is to be humble before God. God is not our peer or our equal to be spoken to without respect. He is not a “buddy” to be taken for granted, nor is He our servant to be ordered around at our whim. He is our Heavenly Father, our Creator,

our God. We are approaching His throne hoping for His mercy. And we need to do so humbly. 1 Pet. 5:6, *“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.”*

Closely related to humility is to fill each prayer with thanksgiving.

Read the first chapter of Romans some time. Notice all the evil in the latter part of the chapter: homosexuality, murder, malice, implacable (unforgiving), disobedient to parents and many more evil things. Where did it all start? Notice verse 21, *“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”* I am thus convinced that a thankful heart is one of the most fundamental attitudes we need as Christians. And one of the best ways to express our thanksgiving to God is by prayer.

Psa. 100:3-5, *“Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.”*

Every prayer we pray must also be filled with faith. There are two principles of prayer taught in 1 John 5:14-15. First, that in our prayers we must submit to God’s Will. That’s part of humility. The second principle is faith. *“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”*

Make our requests. Be specific. Ask God to bless our requests, (if they are in accordance with His Will). Every prayer doesn’t necessarily have to have requests, but most will of course. Phil 4:6, *“Be careful (worried) for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”*

Follow up. Many prayers we are simply turning our requests completely over to God. But when and where we can follow up on them, we should.

For example, if we are praying for answers to questions, those answers may be in the Bible. Search the scriptures for the answers. Go ahead and pray for the answers also, but follow up on that prayer by asking God to bless our study of the scriptures. Note this type of prayer is recorded in Psa. 119:12, *“Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes.”*

Some prayers require follow up action. Turn to Matt. 7:11-12, *“If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask*

him? *Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.*” Notice that word “therefore”. Jesus connects the principle of God blessing us with good things if we ask Him to the principle of doing good things for others. Follow up on our prayers with good works.

This is important. We realize that God blesses our prayers. We must also remember that He blesses our work. James 1:25, *“But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”*

Another aspect of follow up is to keep bad things out of our prayers. Don’t pollute our prayers with arrogance, lies, or lusts. James 4:3 warns us that God won’t answer these prayers, *“Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.”* In fact, let’s keep these things out of our lives altogether. (Prayer can help.)

Fill our prayers with sincerity. Each and every prayer we pray must be sincere. Whether it is a private prayer or a public prayer such as in worship or a wedding ceremony, each prayer must be real, must be sincere.

Let’s read James 5:16, *“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”*

The word “fervent” here emphasizes sincerity. This scripture also makes the point that sometimes we pray with other Christians.

It is also important to sometimes pray alone. Go to Matt. 14:22-23, *“And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.”* Brothers and sisters, if Jesus felt He needed some quality time alone with God, it is vital for us as well.

Let’s close by remembering that God wants to, does, and will answer our prayers when they are in accordance with His will.

God blesses us every day. Psa. 68.19, *“Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah.”*

He will answer our prayers, if we are His. Jesus said in John 15:7, *“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”*

In Christian love,

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