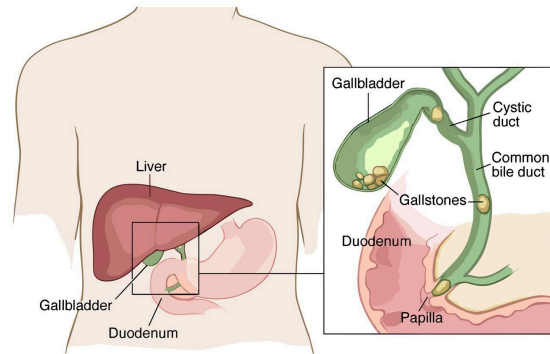


Sermon Notes | **Multiply**- April 2025

Prayer

The Big Idea: Prayer aligns us to God's loving heart and perfect will.

1. The Lord's Prayer
2. Look at what facilitates prayer
3. Look at what Hinders prayer
4. Conclude with a challenge



Matthew 7: 9-11

"Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"

I. **The Lord's Prayer: Aligning Our Hearts with God**

Matthew 6:9-13

Relationship ("Our Father"), moves into

"Our Father" – Relationship in Prayer

- We begin by recognizing that God is our Father through Christ.
- Romans 8:15 – "You have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'"
- Prayer is not just about asking—it's about knowing Him.

Reverence/Worship ("Hallowed be Your name"), and then

"Hallowed be Your Name" – Reverence in Prayer

- Before requests, we worship.
- Psalm 111:9 – "Holy and awesome is His name."
- Prayer starts with adoration, not demands.

Submission ("Your kingdom come, Your will be done").

"Your Kingdom Come" – Surrender in Prayer

- Before we ask for anything for ourselves, we submit to God's will.
- Jesus prayed this way in Gethsemane (Luke 22:42) – "Not my will, but Yours be done."
- Matthew 6:33 – "Seek first the kingdom of God."

Our dependence/needs ("Give us this day our daily bread"),

Only after we surrender do we recognize and bring our needs before our Father

"Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread" – Dependence in Prayer

- We acknowledge our daily need for Him.
- Matthew 6:8 – "Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him."

Forgiveness/Confession ("Forgive us our debts")

"Forgive Us" – Confession in Prayer

- Prayer is not just about asking—it's about cleansing.
- 1 John 1:9 – "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us."

Protection ("Lead us not into temptation")

"Lead Us Not Into Temptation" – Protection in Prayer

- We acknowledge our weakness and need God's strength.
- Ephesians 6:18 – "Pray at all times in the Spirit."

Personal Story: Trusting God Through the Fire

"When my son Luke was diagnosed with cancer at 12, I gathered with the elders and pastor, crying out for an instant miracle. But as we prayed, I heard the unmistakable voice of God: 'I am with you. You will go through the fire.' At that moment, my prayer changed. Instead of demanding healing on my terms, I sought God like never before. A friend joined me, and together we fasted and prayed every Thursday—the day of my son's chemo—for two years. And God was faithful. We went through the fire, but He was with us. My son was healed. More than that, our entire family was transformed. Now, 26 years later, all three of my children and their spouses know the Lord, and my nine grandchildren place their hope in Him.

God answered our prayers, but in His way, not mine. And it was far better."

1. God's Answer is Not Always Immediate, But It is Good

- Sometimes, instead of taking us around the fire, God walks through it with us.
- This aligns with Matthew 7:9-11—a good father gives what is best, not just what is asked.

2. Prayer is About Seeking God, Not Just Solutions

- My prayer shifted from seeking healing to seeking God Himself.
- James 4:3—prayers must align with God's will, not just our desires.

3. Faith Grows When We Trust, Even Without Immediate Answers

- This trial deepened our family's faith for generations.
- Matthew 6:33—"Seek first the kingdom of God"—blessings followed surrender.

4. Persistent Prayer & Fasting Strengthen Us Spiritually

- Two years of prayer and fasting transformed our faith, our family our life.
- Luke 18:1-8—the parable of the persistent widow reminds us that God honors perseverance in prayer.

II. Conditions for Answered Prayer

1. Pray According to God's Will

- 1 John 5:14 – "If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."

2. Pray in Faith

- Mark 11:24 – “Whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it.”

3. Pray with Persistence

- Luke 18:1 – “They ought always to pray and not lose heart.”

4. Pray in Jesus' Name

- John 14:13 – “Whatever you ask in My name, I will do.”

5. Abide in Jesus

John 15:7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

III. Hindrances to Prayer?

1. Unconfessed Sin

- Psalm 66:18 – “If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.”

2. Unforgiveness

- Mark 11:25 – “When you stand praying, forgive.”

3. Selfish Motives

- James 4:3 – “You ask and do not receive because you ask wrongly.”

4. Lack of Faith

- James 1:6-7 – “Let him ask in faith, with no doubting.”

Application

1. Follow Jesus' Model of Prayer

- ♦ *Relationship* → *Worship* → *Surrender* → *Dependence* → *Confession* → *Protection*
- ♦ Remember God's holiness and your daily need for Him.

2. Pray According to God's Will

- ♦ Pray in faith, persistently, in Jesus' name, while abiding in Him.
- ♦ Align your prayers with His kingdom and purposes.

3. Remove the Hindrances

- ♦ Confess sin.
- ♦ Forgive others.
- ♦ Check your motives.
- ♦ **Pray, “Lord, I believe—help my unbelief!”**

4. Commit to Intentional Prayer This Week

- ♦ Align your prayers with Jesus' model.
- ♦ Identify anything hindering your prayer life.
- ♦ Pray intentionally, biblically, and expectantly.

Study Guide | **Multiply**- April 2025

Big Idea: Prayer aligns us to God's loving heart and His perfect will.

1. Read Matthew 6:9-13

- How do you process the idea of addressing God as a father?
- Share any struggles you've encountered with aligning your will to God's. How do you personally work through that?

2. Review these Characteristics of Answered Prayer

- Pray According to God's Will (1 John 5:14)
- Pray In Faith (Mark 11:24)
- Pray With Persistence (Luke 18:1)
- Pray In Jesus' Name (John 14:13)

- Describe a time when you have prayed in any of these ways and seen prayer answered.
- If you are willing, share a time when you prayed and felt like the prayer was not answered. How did that influence your prayer life?

3. Review these Hindrances to Prayer

- Unconfessed Sin
- Unforgiveness
- Selfish Motives
- Lack of Faith

- Which of these hindrances resonate with you? What might you need to do (or ask God to do) this week to remove them?

4. Revisit MULTIPLY

- Close in prayer asking the Lord to "teach us to pray" as a church.