

Philippians Series

Lesson #092

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Prayer: Fundamentals

Philippians 4:6–7



Php. 4:4, “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

Php. 4:5, “Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.

Php. 4:6, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

Php. 4:7, “and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Php. 4:8, “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

Php. 4:9, “The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Php. 4:10, “But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity.”

Php. 4:6, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

Php. 4:7, “And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” [NKJV]

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Php. 4:7, “and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Psa. 18:2, “The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will seek refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”

Psa. 27:5, “For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.”

Psa. 31:1, “In You, O LORD, I put my trust; Let me never be ashamed; Deliver me in Your righteousness.

Psa. 31:2, “Bow down Your ear to me, deliver me speedily; Be my rock of refuge, a fortress of defense to save me.

Psa. 31:3, “For You are my rock and my fortress; Therefore, for Your name’s sake, lead me and guide me.

Psa. 31:4, “Pull me out of the net which they have secretly laid for me, for You are my strength.

Psa. 31:5, “Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.”

Php. 4:6, “Y’all don’t be anxious for any reason, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.” [RD]

The prohibition

μεριμνάω *merimnaō*

2 plur pres act impera

“Y’all don’t be anxious for any reason.”

The positive command

In every situation,

by prayer and supplication

along with thankfulness for the situation

let your requests be made known to God

Three enemies of the Christian—

1. The Devil, Satan.

1 Pet. 5:8, “Be sober [objectively minded], be on the alert; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

1 Pet. 5:9, “Stand firm against him, steadfast in the faith, because you know [have learned in the past so that you know now in the present] that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.”

Three enemies of the Christian—

1. The Devil, Satan.

2. The world, i.e., the world system, the philosophies, opinions, fake news, fake religions, and ideas developed by man, who are hostile to God.

Rom. 12:2, “Do not be pressed into conformity to the thought systems of the world, but instead, be transformed by renewing your thoughts that you may demonstrate with your life that the will of God is good, acceptable, and complete [sufficient].” [RD expanded paraphrase]

Three enemies of the Christian—

- 1. The Devil, Satan.**
- 2. The world, i.e., the world system, the philosophies, opinions, fake news, fake religions, and ideas developed by man, who are hostile to God.**
- 3. Our own internal sin nature.**

Rom. 6:11, “Likewise you also, think of yourselves as truly dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom. 6:12, “Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

Rom. 6:13, “And do not continue to present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.”

[RD expanded paraphrase]

1 Pet. 5:6, “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

1 Pet. 5:7, “by casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

μέριμνα *merimna* fem sing acc care, anxiety

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1 Pet. 5:9, “Stand firm against him, steadfast in the faith, because you know [have learned in the past so that you know now in the present] that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.”

μέλει *melei* 3 sing pres act indic something of interest to someone, in this case God. God is concerned and cares about the things that are bothering you in your life.

As part of living in the devil's world we will face opposition from:

- **ideas**
- **people (family, friends, colleagues)**
- **systems**
- **governments**

including suffering from: rejection, hostility, jealousy, persecution; the adversities of life: health, money, weather, people.

How do we handle this?

Php. 4:6, “Y’all don’t be anxious for any reason, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.” [RD]

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Prayer προσευχή *proseuchē*; ① petition addressed to deity, a general term for talking to God; *prayer*. (1 Tim. 2:1)

Supplication δέησις *dēēsis*; urgent request to meet a need, exclusively addressed to God, *petition, pleading*. For self or others. (1 Tim. 2:1)

Thanksgiving εὐχαριστία *eucharistía*; ① the quality of being grateful, with implication of appropriate attitude, thankfulness, gratitude ② the expression or content of gratitude, the rendering of thanks, thanksgiving to God in prayer. (1 Tim. 2:1)

Requests αἶτημα *aitēma* requests, petitions. (Php. 4:6)

1 Tim. 2:1, “Therefore I exhort first of all that petitions [pleading], prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, [RD]

1 Tim. 2:2, “for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.” [NKJV]

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Intercessions ἑντευξις *énteuxis*; ① a formal request put to a high official or official body, petition, request, ② intercessory prayer (w. προσευχή, the general word for prayer, and εὐχαριστία, a prayer of thanksgiving. (1 Tim. 2:1)

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**γινώριζω *gnōrizō* 3 sing pres mid
imperative
to make known**

**In every situation,
by prayer and supplication
along with thankfulness for the situation
let your requests be made known to God**

Result

Php. 4:7, “and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” [NKJV]

ὑπερέχω *hyperéchō*

***articular participle*, relative
participle**

**“which surpasses, exceeds”
to surpass in quality or value,
be better than, surpass, excel,
exceed**

**νοῦς *nous* masc sing
acc
mind, intellect,
understanding,
reason, thought**

φρουρέω *phroureō*

3 sing fut act indic

**to keep, to guard; to set a
garrison or fort, to defend**

Result

Php. 4:7, “and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” [NKJV]

καρδία *kardia*

fem plur acc

Literally, heart;

Figuratively, the center or innermost part of men, animals, plants.

The intellectual center of a person.

νόημα *noēma*

neut plur acc

mind, thought

NIDNTT “Heart and mind” (*noēmata*, literally, thoughts) can be used in parallel (2 Cor. 3:14 f.) or synonymously (Php. 4:7).

What the Bible Teaches About Prayer



Introduction

Prayer is the most powerful asset in the believer's spiritual life.

Prayer is an awesome privilege that brings us immediately into the throne room of God, into the presence of the Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them.

Prayer is the believer's vital communication link to his heavenly Father.

1 Thess. 5:17, “pray without ceasing,”

Col. 4:2, “Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;”

Heb. 4:16, “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

John 15:7, “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.”

John 16:24, “Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”

Matt. 7:7, “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Matt. 7:8, “For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”

A Ask

S Seek

K Knock

What is prayer?

Why should we pray?

How do we pray?

When do we pray?

1. What is prayer?

Simply:

Prayer is our ongoing conversation with God.

Prayer is the believer's vital communication link to his heavenly Father.

1 Thess. 5:16, “Rejoice always,

**1 Thess. 5:17, “pray without ceasing, [not continuously,
but constantly as we go through our day]**

**1 Thess. 5:18, “in everything give thanks; for this is the will
of God in Christ Jesus for you.”**

1. What is prayer?

Prayer is that grace provision of the royal priesthood whereby the Church Age believer has access and privilege to communicate directly with God; the purpose of this communication is to acknowledge our sin, express adoration and praise to God, give thanks, intercede for others, and convey our personal needs, petitions, and conduct intimate conversations with God.

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Heb. 4:14, “Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

Heb. 4:15, “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Heb. 4:16, “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

1. What is prayer?

Prayer is that grace provision of the royal priesthood whereby the Church Age believer has access and privilege to communicate directly with God; the purpose of this communication is to acknowledge our sin, express adoration and praise to God, give thanks, intercede for others, and convey our personal needs, petitions, and conduct intimate conversations with God.

C Confession: admitting our sins to God: “Father, I lied, I’ve been arrogant, I gossiped today, I was angry ...”

A Adoration: “Father, You are so gracious and kind to me, you have provided protection, and wisdom, and knowledge.”

T Thanksgiving: “I want to thank You for blessing me, providing me with a job, food, and the ability to work to glorify You.”

S Supplication:

Intercession: Asking for God’s grace in terms of specifics in other peoples’ lives.

Petitions: Making requests for my own situation, needs, fears, anxieties.

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2. Why should we pray if God already knows everything and is working out His plan?

a. Because God tells us to. God wants a personal relationship with us. All personal relationships are maintained by communication.

Luke 18:1, “Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,”

1 Thess. 5:17, “pray without ceasing,” [not continuously, but constantly as we go through our day]

Col. 4:2, “Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;

Col. 4:3, “meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains,”

προσκαρτερέω *proskartereō*

2 plur pres act imperative (present imperatives emphasize a standard behavior for believers)

to continue to do something with intense effort, with the possible implication of despite difficulty “to devote oneself to, to keep on, to persist in.”

Col. 4:2, “Devote yourself in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;

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masc plur
nom to be or
become alert,
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Col. 4:2, “Devote yourself in prayer, by being alert [vigilant] in it with thanksgiving;

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Rom. 12:10, “Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;

Rom. 12:11, “not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

Rom. 12:12, “rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;”

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“to devote oneself to, to keep on, to persist in.” Col. 4:2

Acts 1:14, “These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.”

Rom. 12:12, “rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;”

Acts 2:42, “And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

Four principles:

- 1. Prayer is the result of spiritual growth, not the cause.**
- 2. Prayer is not an option but a mandate.**
- 3. Prayer is to be habitual.**
- 4. The believer should pursue his prayer life with an intensity that overcomes any obstacles. Doctrine is the number one priority. Prayer the number two.**

Examples of people who are hostile to God, pagans, atheists, but ask the believers for prayer.

Num. 21:4, “Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way.

Num. 21:5, “And the people spoke against God and against Moses: ‘Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread.’

Num. 21:6, “So the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.” [NKJV]

Num. 21:7, “Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, ‘We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord that He take away the serpents from us.’ So Moses prayed for the people.”

Num 21:8, “Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.’

Num. 21:9, “So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.” [NKJV]