

**Let's Be Clear  
The Praying Church  
Dr. Larry Lamb  
March 17, 2024**

"The meaning of prayer is that we get hold of God, not the answer."

— Oswald Chambers

- **CVC Value #2** – The Power of Prayer
- **1 Thessalonians 5.17** *Never stop praying.*

**Some see prayer as:** **1.** Another thing to add. **2.** A ritual. **3.** A good backup should I need help. **4.** The start of a timer for God to answer. **5.** Communion with the Lord; when they pray, they listen, wait on God, and leave the answer in His hands. **6.** Joyful communion with their Savior.

**PRAYER:**

**1. CAN BE LEARNED.**

**Luke 11.1** *Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As he finished, one of his disciples came to him and said, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.*

*"If you want a life of prayer, the way to get it is by praying. You start where you are, and you deepen what you already have."*

— Thomas Merton

**2. IS MORE THAN A MONOLOGUE CONVERSATION WITH GOD. IT'S ALSO LISTENING.** While we speak to God in prayer, it's also wise to listen to God in prayer.

What about the person who aggravates you?

**Luke 23.34** *Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing."*

**Colossians 3.13** *Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.*

**3. IS ASKING GOD SOME QUESTIONS TO DISCOVER WHAT HE WANTS, BUT IT IS ALSO RELINQUISHMENT.**

**Luke 22.42** *Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.*

#### **4. IS A WEAPON TO OVERCOME EVIL.**

**1 Peter 5.8** *Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.*

**Ephesians 6.10-12** *A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. 12 For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.*

**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.*

**Luke 5.16** *But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.*

**Jeremiah 33.3** (The Message) *Call to me and I will answer you. I'll tell you marvelous and wondrous things that you could never figure out on your own.*

"Do you know what I often ask Christians? What's the biggest thing you've asked God for this week? I remind them that they are going to God, the Father, the Master of the Universe. The one who holds the world in His hands. What did you ask for? Did you ask for peanuts, toys and trinkets, or did you ask for continents? Sure, nothing is too small, but also nothing is too big." – Dawson Trotman, Founder of The Navigators

"God shapes the world by prayer. Prayers are deathless. The lips that uttered them may be closed in death, the heart that felt them may have ceased to beat, but the prayers live before God, and God's heart is set on them, and prayers outlive the lives of those who uttered them; outlive the generation, outlive an age, outlive a world." – E.M. Bounds

#### **PRAYER OF SALVATION**

Jesus, I thank You that You came and died on the cross for my sins so that I can be forgiven. I am a sinner and need Your grace, mercy, and forgiveness. I turn from my sins and say "No" to a life of living for myself. I turn to You and say "Yes" to Your will for my life. I ask You now to save me from my sins. I open my heart to You and receive You as my Lord and Savior. Thank You for saving me and forgiving me. Amen.