

# LIVE FOR CHRIST

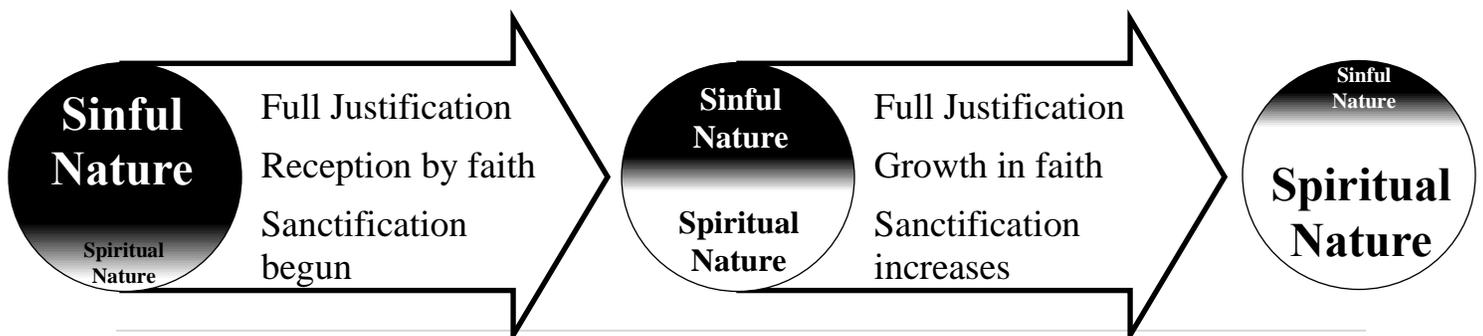
## Prayer

July 28, 2021 .....	Christian Living
August 4 2021 .....	Prayer
August 11, 2021 .....	Worship
August 18, 2021 .....	The Church
August 25, 2021 .....	Stewardship
September 1, 2021 .....	Family
September 8, 2021 .....	The World
September 15, 2021 .....	Evangelism

## Christian Living Summary

OUR JUSTIFICATION	OUR SANCTIFICATION
<p><b>Is a declaration of God</b></p>	<p><b>Is a process where God works in us</b></p>
<p><b>Is made on the basis of faith</b></p> <p>For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from observing the law. <i>(Romans 3:28)</i></p>	<p><b>Flows from our faith</b></p> <p>The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself up for me. <i>(Galatians 2:20)</i></p>
<p><b>Is complete / perfect</b></p> <p>We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. <i>(Hebrews 10:10)</i></p>	<p><b>Is incomplete / imperfect</b></p> <p>For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not know what you want. <i>(Galatians 5:17)</i></p>

### The Relationship of Justification and Sanctification



**Goal: to see that the ability to pray is a gift of the Holy Spirit**

Read John 14:6,7.

1. According to Jesus' testimony, is it possible for someone to reject Jesus and still approach God? What, therefore, would we have to say about the prayer of a Muslim? What would we say about one who practices Judaism? How about an agnostic who is trying to "play it safe"?
2. It is common to close prayers by saying, "In Jesus' name. Amen." Why is that a great way to close a prayer?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:3.

1. What is the *only* way someone can believe in Jesus?
2. Put two and two together. We saw that the only way to approach God (including in prayer) is through Jesus. And we saw that the Holy Spirit is the one who gives us the ability to believe in Jesus. Therefore, what can we call prayer?
3. Imagine this situation. You are trying to encourage Jim to come to church more often. You tell him, "It is important that we be in church regularly because we need our faith to be strengthened." Jim snaps back at you, "I don't need church for that! I pray all the time!" How would you respond to Jim?

**Goal: to look at Jesus' model prayer**

Read Matthew 6:9-13.

1. "Hallowed" means "to keep holy." A person's name is more than the word used to refer to them (John, Carol, Sam, etc.). We often use the word "name" to refer to one's reputation. With that in mind, what are we asking when we pray "hallowed be your name"?
2. We understand God's "kingdom" to be wherever he reigns. Look up Luke 17:20,21. Where are we asking God to establish his reign when we pray "your kingdom come"?
3. List some things that are God's will. (For suggestions, look up 1 Timothy 2:3,4; Matthew 22:37,38; 2 Peter 3:18.)
4. Why do you think Jesus tells us to pray for "daily" bread? Why not pray for a month's worth of bread and be done with it?
5. In light of the rest of Scripture, what is the proper way to understand Matthew 6:12?
  - a. God will forgive our sins only after we forgive the sins of others.
  - b. God forgives our sins because we forgive the sins of others.
  - c. If someone understands God has forgiven them, they will naturally want to forgive others.
6. Look up 1 Corinthians 10:13. What does God promise us about temptations we may face?
7. "Deliver us from evil" and "Deliver us from the evil one" are both grammatically acceptable translations of the last half of verse 13. Evil is Satan's work. Look up Hebrews 2:14. Why do we need not fear the devil?
8. We sometimes refer to the seven requests made in the Lord's Prayer as "the seven petitions." Look at those petitions again. In how many of those petitions do we ask God for spiritual blessings? In how many of those petitions do we ask God for physical blessings? Why do you think this is the case?

Bible notes

In your Bible, in Matthew 6:10, underline the word "kingdom" and write in the margin of your Bible "see Luke 17:20,21."

Bible notes

In Matthew 6:13, underline the word "temptation" and write in the margin "see 1 Corinthians 10:13."

## Goal: to understand why God wants us to be persistent in prayer

Read Luke 11:5-10.

1. We often call stories that Jesus tells to teach a point “parables.” When interpreting parables it is important to look for one main point. What is the main point of the parable that we read about in these verses?
2. In verse 8, Jesus tells the reason the man got up and gave some food. What is the word that is used in your translation for that reason? What are some other words that mean the same thing?
3. In Matthew 6:7 it reads, “When you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.” What do you think is the difference between being persistent/bold in prayer and “babbling”?

Read Luke 11:11-13.

1. List at least five ways that our Heavenly Father is better than an earthly father.
2. What do these verses tell us God intends to do for us when we pray to him?
3. In Matthew 6:33, Jesus says, “Seek first [God’s] kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” How are Matthew 6:33 and Luke 11:13 related?
4. Imagine this situation. You have a twelve-year-old son whom you find pouting in his bedroom. When you ask him what’s wrong, he says, “I prayed that God would make me a better baseball player. But today at recess I struck out twice! I guess God didn’t listen to my prayer.” On the basis of our lesson, what are some things you might say to your son?

### Bible notes

In your Bible, in Luke 11:13, underline the phrase: “give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.” In the margin, write: “See Matthew 6:33.”

**Goal: to see why we pray**

Read Psalm 50:15.

1. Chose the best answer: The phrase “call upon me” is:
  - a. a request.
  - b. a suggestion.
  - c. a command.
  - d. a question.
  
2. In the phrase “I will deliver you,” what does the word “will” communicate to us? How would the meaning of this verse change if instead of the word “will,” it said “might”?

Bible notes  
 In your Bible, in Psalm 50:15, underline the words “will deliver” and “will honor.” In the margin write, “These go together in Christian prayer.”

3. What are some ways we can honor God with our prayers?
  
4. True or False? If someone takes their problems to God, God will always deliver them. *(Follow up question: How long might that person have to wait for the deliverance?)*
  
5. Let’s imagine some “days of trouble.” In these following situations, where would the unbeliever look for comfort, strength, and hope? Where would the believer look?

SITUATION	UNBELIEVER’S SOURCE OF HOPE AND COMFORT	BELIEVER’S SOURCE OF HOPE AND COMFORT
You lose all your savings on a bad investment.		
You are seeing someone you really like and care for, and they dump you.		
Your spouse of 48 years dies of a stroke.		

**Goal: to see why we can be confident in our prayer**

Read Romans 8:26,27.

1. What does Paul tell us is the reason that we don't always pray well?
  
2. What are some of the weaknesses that get in the way of our prayer life?
  
3. Why can we be certain that our weaknesses don't get in the way of God hearing about all our concerns and troubles?

Bible notes

In your Bible, in Romans 8:26,27, underline all the places you find the word "Spirit" and in the margin write: "Prayer is a fruit of the Holy Spirit."

Read Romans 8:28-32.

1. Paul lists a string of things that God did for us:
  - a. Our predestination – Before time began, God chose to save us.
  - b. Our calling – Through the Word and Sacraments, God called us to be members of his family.
  - c. Our justification – God declared us to be not guilty of our sin.
  - d. Our glorification – The Holy Spirit has begun sanctifying us, enabling us to live lives that give God glory, and will bring this to perfection when we reach heaven.

Of what does the fact that God did all this assure us when we bring all our cares and concerns to him in prayer? (verses 28,31,32)

2. Imagine you have two friends who admit to you they don't like to pray. Your friend Mark tells you that the reason he doesn't pray is because he doesn't know what to say. He says, "When I pray, I stammer over words or get stuck half-way through." Your friend Lisa tells you she doesn't like to pray because when she was a young girl, her father, who was Christian, became sick with cancer. Both Lisa and her father asked God to take the cancer away, but her father died anyway. So Lisa doesn't believe God places that much weight on prayer. "It's just not worth the time." she says.

What might you say to Mark?

What might you say to Lisa?

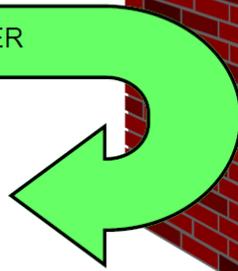
THE PROBLEM OF PRAYER  
WITHOUT CHRIST

# Prayer Addendum 1

Unbeliever



PRAYER

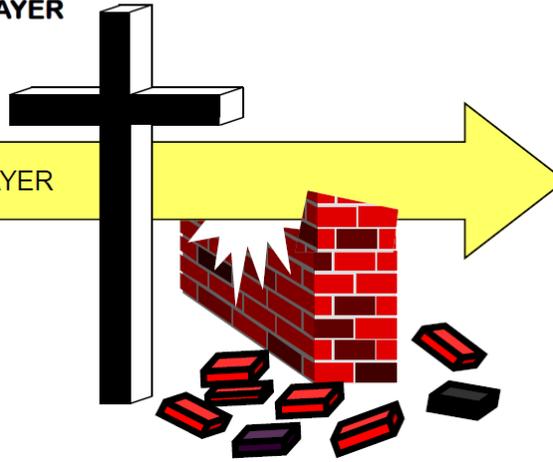


THE PRIVILEGE OF PRAYER  
WITH CHRIST

Believer



PRAYER



# Prayer Addendum 2

## CHRISTIANS STRIVE FOR “BALANCED PRAYER”

A

doration — we praise and worship Him in joy

C

onfession — we admit and forsake sin in repentance

T

hanksgiving — we thank God for forgiveness and new life

S

upplication — we offer both petitions and intercessions

# Prayer Addendum 3

*Where do you look for a Christian?*

