

HOW TO PRAY

The *outlook* is sometimes dark,
but the *up look* is always bright!



Definition:

- “Prayer is the effort of man to reach God, to commune with an invisible being, the author and Creator of all things, supreme wisdom, truth, beauty, and strength, the Father and Redeemer of every man.”

HOW TO PRAY

Thesis

- **Part one:**
 - The *importance & power of prayer.*
 - Do *prayers sometimes fail?*
 - How to *avoid failure* in prayer..
- **Part two: March 13th Sun p.m.**
 - *How dear is God to you?*
 - *Four Aspects of the Perfect Prayer life.*

HOW TO PRAY

The Importance of Prayer

- Eph 6:18 “Pray at all seasons in the Spirit”
- Phil 4:6 “Do not be anxious, but in everything with prayer and supplications with thanksgiving make your requests known unto God.”

HOW TO PRAY

POWERFUL

PRAYER

Nothing can take it away!

Rom 8: 35ff

HOW TO PRAY

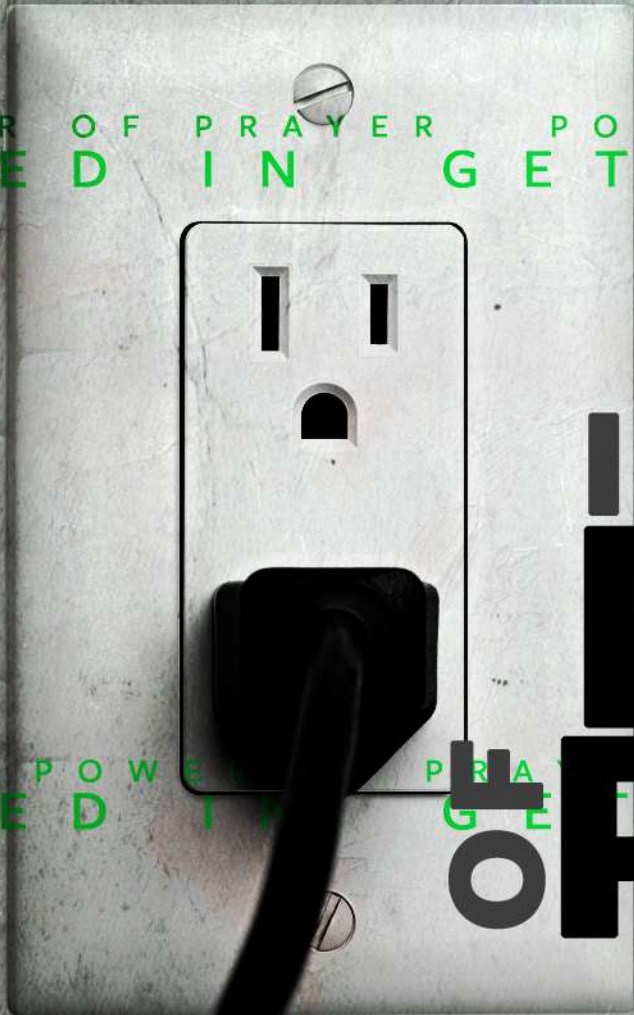
POWERFUL

PRAYER

Every door may be shut *about us*, but he never shuts the door *above us*!

HOW TO PRAY

POWER OF PRAYER GET PLUGGED IN



PLUG
INTO THE
POWER
OF **PRAYER**

POWER OF PRAYER GET PLUGGED IN



POWERFUL

PRAYER

- James 5:16 “The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man accomplishes much.”

HOW TO PRAY

Prayer is Powerful

- “It is the root, the fountain, the mother of 1000 blessings!”
- **PRAYER CHANGES THINGS!**
- Prayer over time will change *you!*

HOW TO PRAY

Survey

- Length
- Frequency
- “I know I ought to pray more.”
- “I have trouble . . . my mind wanders.”
- “I’ve always needed someone to talk to—never thought about making that someone God.”

HOW TO PRAY

We must learn to talk with God

- What will we do at judgment?
- What is God to you?
 - Close friend?
 - Beneficent Father?
 - Stranger?



Why Do Prayers Fail?

- “Prayer” doesn’t fail any more than “marriage” fails.
 - Somehow the parties are failing...
- **KEY:** We must act so that God will listen!



HOW TO PRAY

Reasons Why God Won't Listen

- If you are living in willful sin.
 - Ps 66:18 “If I *regard iniquity* in my heart the Lord will *not hear*.”
 - Isa 59:2 “Your iniquities have separated you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from thee, so he will not hear.”

HOW TO PRAY

Reasons Why God Won't Listen

- **God won't listen to *insincerity***
 - *“In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart.”*
 - I Cor 14:15 “Pray with the spirit and with the understanding.”

HOW TO PRAY

Reasons Why God Won't Listen

- **God won't listen to *insincerity***
 - Matt 6:7-8 “Use not vain repetitions.”
 - Don't just “say prayers” but truly “pray.”

HOW TO PRAY

Reasons Why God Won't Listen

- **God won't listen to *infidelity*.**
 - Jas 1:6-7 “Let him ask in faith, *nothing doubting* ... For let not (the doubter) think he shall receive anything from the Lord.”

HOW TO PRAY

THE
PRAYER

OF FAITH

Not just that He is *able* and *can*, but that *He will, is on the verge, and even now **His answer is on the way!***



The Prayer of a Righteous Man Will be Answered.

- Jn 15:7 “If you abide in Me and my words abide in you, ask whatsoever you will and it shall be done unto you.”

HOW TO PRAY

The Prayer of a Righteous Man Will be Answered.

- 3 Possibilities:
 - *Yes*
 - *No*
 - *Not now/maybe*

HOW TO PRAY

Faithless Praying

Acts 12 :12-17

- 15 They said to her, "You are out of your mind!" But she kept insisting that it was so. They kept saying, "It is his angel."
- 16 But Peter continued knocking; and when they had opened the door, they saw him and were amazed.

HOW TO PRAY

Where

PRAYER BEGINNS

James 4:10 “Humble yourselves in the *presence of the Lord.*”



How to Act so that God will Listen!

- “Be His child, then with an open sincere heart go to the lord fully expecting an answer, with all humility.”
- Jer 29:13 “**God will listen** if we search him aright with all of our hearts.”

HOW TO PRAY

After we are on
“speaking terms” . . .

Then we need to learn how to
grow in prayer (Lk 11:1)!



HOW TO PRAY

If you are a Christian then you must pray!

- “If you confess your sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive your sins...” (1 Jn 1:7-9).
- **Simon the Sorcerer** – Acts 8:22-24
 - “Pray that the thought of your heart might be forgiven thee.”

HOW TO PRAY

If you are **not a Christian** then you must *become His child!*

- Jn 3:5 “Must be *born again* of the water and of the spirit.”
- Acts 2:38 “Repent and be baptized everyone of you *for the remission of your sins.*”

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