

MAY THE FATHER BE GLORIFIED

John 14:7-15

I. WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED ABOUT PRAYER

- ❖ Draw close to God—we have special access to “Our Father.”
- ❖ Intercede urgently for and with everyone we know.
- ❖ Pray for God’s peace upon our community and our neighbors.
- ❖ Pray we will be instruments of God’s peace amid turmoil.
- ❖ Pray our witness will be godly and dignified.
- ❖ Pray we will faithfully proclaim Christ as the Truth.
- ❖ Pray we will become more effective in reclaiming the lost.
- ❖ Pray the Father will reveal Himself around us in a mighty way.
- ❖ Pray humbly that we will glorify Him above all (“Not to us, O Lord be the glory”).
- ❖ Pray we will stand boldly for God’s supernatural nature above all.
- ❖ Pray we will testify clearly of his holiness—and become holy like Him.
- ❖ Pray God will use us to close the gap between the ‘holy’ and ‘humanity’ around us.
- ❖ Call upon the name of the Lord—for provision, protection, and salvation.
- ❖ Pray for urgency about Christ’ return—be ready and working when He comes.
- ❖ Pray we will help build His universal kingdom—not petty fiefdoms.
- ❖ Pray we will become who God created us to be—and do what pleases Him.
- ❖ Pray for awareness that His heavenly will is foundational, eternal, and supreme.
- ❖ Ask God to keep us in His perfect will every step of the way.
- ❖ Ask God to reveal His specific purpose for each of us here and now.
- ❖ Pray we help God to accomplish His heavenly will on earth.
- ❖ Pray we don’t worry needlessly but rely on God for all provision.
- ❖ Pray the Father will show us what our real needs are.
- ❖ Pray we trust that the Father truly cares and wants what is best for us.
- ❖ Pray we experience a salvation begun and secured by God alone.
- ❖ Pray we humbly seek God’s forgiveness to cancel our debts.
- ❖ Pray that we deeply desire God’s presence to close the ‘ gap’ and restore our joy.
- ❖ Remember that no sin is too great—no debt is too big—that it cannot be forgiven.
- ❖ Pray we become forgiving people—because we care for our neighbors.
- ❖ Intercede with the Father for *others’* forgiveness.
- ❖ Pray for the Lord to lead us always, but especially through our trials.
- ❖ Pray for courage to go wherever God calls us, no matter the risk or danger.
- ❖ Pray God will help us grow through adversity and suffering.
- ❖ Pray we will not falter in the face of temptation.
- ❖ Ask God to use us to lead others to Jesus, even when we are under attack.

- ❖ Pray God will sustain us daily, even when we are unaware of impending danger.
- ❖ Pray God will deliver us *from* danger and *to* His side.
- ❖ Pray God will use us to deliver others into His care.
- ❖ Pray God will deliver us safely home to Him.
- ❖ Pray with real expectation that God will establish His kingdom.
- ❖ Pray God will bring this nation under His providential care.
- ❖ Pray God will use us as humble agents of His power.
- ❖ Pray the Father will make us one with Christ and so share His glory with others.
- ❖ Pray God will bring us into line with His perfect will.
- ❖ Pray God will unify all His ‘kingdom people’ to accomplish His will.
- ❖ Remember the ultimate purpose of prayer is to glorify God the Father.

II. BACKGROUND—JESUS, THE SON, WAS ONE WITH THE FATHER—John 5

Jesus’ was one with the Father

Jesus’ total dependence on the Father

Jesus doing the Father’s will completely

III. FIRST INCIDENT—JAMES AND JOHN’S REQUEST—Mark 10:35-45

A. BIBLICAL CONTEXT

1. DISCIPLES HAD SEEN JESUS DO MANY MIGHT MIRACLES

- a. His power was attached to prayer
- b. Many **examples**—explicitly cited

• At baptism	Heaven tore open!	Lk 3
• Capernaum morning hours	Launched Galilee ministry	Mk 1
• All night on mountain	Chose and sent 12	Lk 6
• Blessed 5 loaves and 2 fish	Fed 5000	Lk 9
• Prayed all night	Walked on water	Mk 6
• Sighed and looked to heave	Healed deaf-mute in Decapolis	Mk 7
• Blessed 7 loaves and few fish	Fed 4000	Mk 8
• Prayed alone (Caesarea)	Peter confessed Him as Christ	Lk 9
• At Transfiguration	God spoke to them!	Lk 9

2. DISCIPLES EXERCISED SIMILAR POWER THEMSELVES

- a. Jesus chose 12—to have authority to cast out demons
- b. The 12—cast out many demons—got Herod’s attention—**Mk 6:12-14**
- c. The 70—were surprised at what could be done in Jesus’ name

Lk 10:17—*Lord, the demons are subject to us in Your name!*

3. DISCIPLES’ WEAK POWER—DUE TO LACK OF PRAYER

- a. Disciples could not exorcise demon-possessed boy—[Lk 9/Mk9](#)
- b. Jesus gave reason—*this kind can come out only by prayer*—[Mk 9:29](#)

4. ONE REASON DISCIPLES ASKED JESUS TO TEACH THEM TO PRAY?—[Lk 11:1](#)

B. SITUATION

1. ON THE WAY UP TO JERUSALEM

- Crowds growing—excited anticipation
- Disciples were ‘astonished’
- Those who followed were afraid

2. MISUNDERSTOOD AFTER JESUS’ FOUR PREDICTIONS OF DEATH/RESURRECTION

- a. 1st prediction—after Caesarea Philippi—Peter ‘rebuked’ Jesus!
- b. 2nd prediction—after Transfiguration—they discussed “what rising from the dead meant”
- c. 3rd prediction—after exorcism of boy—they did not understand and were afraid to ask
- d. 4th prediction—immediately precedes following incident ↓

3. CONFUSION ABOUT MESSIAHSHIP AND KINGDOM

- Leads James and John to make misguided request
- Leads to contention among disciples because of their jealousy

C. TEXT

³⁵ Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. “Teacher,” they said, “we want you to do for us whatever we ask.” ³⁶ “What do you want me to do for you?” he asked. ³⁷ They replied, “Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory.” ³⁸ “You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said. “Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?” ³⁹ “We can,” they answered. Jesus said to them, “You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared.” ⁴¹ When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. ⁴² Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ⁴³ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

D. KEY POINTS OF TEXT

- 1. MAIN POINT—CHRIST-FOLLOWERS MUST BE SERVANTS
- 2. SECOND POINT—ASKING ‘WHATEVER’ WE WANT
 - a. Jesus *did* consider their ‘whatever’ request—and its legitimacy
 - b. Jesus *did* confirm there are no places of honor in His glory!

- c. James/John’s request was misguided—motivated by self-promotion
 - d. Other disciples were just as culpable—indignant because they seemed excluded
 - e. Jesus finally did grant their request
 - o They would share His glory—by drinking His cup and being baptized like Him!
3. RAISES QUESTION—FOR WHAT AND HOW SHOULD WE ASK?

IV. SECOND INCIDENT—FIG TREE—Mark 11:20-26

A. BIBLICAL CONTEXT

- After Triumphal Entry
- After Jesus cursed fig tree—and cleansed temple
- Leaders—looking for a way to arrest and kill Jesus

B. TEXT—Mk 11:20-25

²⁰In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. ²¹Peter remembered and said to Jesus, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!” ²²“Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. ²³“I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. ²⁴Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. ²⁵And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”

C. KEY POINTS OF TEXT

- 1. MAIN POINT—THE POWER OF FAITH IN GOD
- 2. TWO OTHER ISSUES
 - a. The certainty of praying in faith—linked to the ‘so-ever’ promises
 - b. Forgiveness in prayer

D. THE ‘SO-EVER’ PROMISES OF JESUS

- 1. Echoes James and John’s request!—*we want you to do for us whatever we ask*
- 2. Two promises
 - o ‘**Who**—soever’ gives a command—without doubt but believing—it will be done
 - o ‘**What**—soever’ you ask for in prayer—believe you *have* received it—it will be yours
- 3. Begs three questions
 - o Can we really ask for *anything*—and get it?
 - o Does success in prayer depend mainly on the power of our faith?
 - o How does Jesus Himself figure into the prayer equation?

V. THIRD INCIDENT—FAREWELL DISCOURSE—John 14:7-15

A. BIBLICAL CONTEXT

1. THREE DISCIPLES RAISED QUESTIONS/ISSUES ABOUT FUTURE
 - Peter—**Jn 13:36-38**
 - Thomas—**Jn 14:5**
 - Philip—**Jn 14:7**
2. PETER'S QUESTION—AND DETERMINATION
 - a. Question—**Why can't I follow you right now?—Jn 13:37**
 - b. Determination—**I will lay down my life for you—Jn 13:37**
 - c. Jesus' response
 1. Predicted Peter's denials!
 2. Told where and why He is going away—**Jn 14:1-4**
3. THOMAS'S QUESTION—AND CONFUSION
 - a. **We don't know where you are going—how can we know the way—Jn 14:5**
 - b. Jesus answers—tells the way—**Jn 14:6-7**
 - o **I am the Way**, the truth and the life
 - o No one comes to the Father but through me
 - o [Implied]—so we are on the way to the Father!
 - o To know the Father—[and the way to the Father]—we must know Christ!
4. PHILIP'S REQUEST—SHOWS BLINDNESS—OF ALL THE DISCIPLES

B. TEXT—John 14:7-15

7 If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.” 8 Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” 9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. 11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves. 12 Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. 13 Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. 15 “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

C. MAIN POINTS OF PASSAGE

❖ ONENESS WITH THE FATHER

❖ POWERFUL PRAYER

1. ONENESS WITH THE FATHER

a. Returns to theme of John 5—Jesus’ dependence on the Father

b. Nature of **Christ’s oneness** with the Father

- o The Father abides in Him
- o I do what I do because He is in me
- o What I say comes from the Father
- o My works give evidence of this relationship

c. Points to Jesus’ intention for us—oneness with the Father

1. First—we **become with Him**—as a branch of the vine

Jn 15:5—I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

2. Then—He makes **us one with the Father** through Him

Jn 17:20-23—20 I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; 21 that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 The glory which You have given Me I have given them, that they may be one, just as We are one; 23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

3. When we are one with the Father—in Christ—our prayers become powerful!

2. POWERFUL PRAYER

a. **Belief—as a source of power**

1. Just as Jesus said in **Mark 10**—belief is a key to powerful prayer

2. Promise

- o If we truly believe Jesus is one with the Father
- o We will do the same works as Jesus—even greater ones!

3. Reason

- o This is not just intellectual ‘belief’—but total trust—dependence on Christ
- o We are in Christ—steadfastly believing in Him—that He is in us
- o So—we are also one with the Father—believing He will use us

- o The Father works through Christ—in us—to do mighty things

b. Actually—*doing*—powerful prayer

1. Ask ‘Whatever’

- a. This ‘whatever’—is *anything* consistent with
 - o Being ‘one with the Father’
 - o Therefore seeking His kingdom—and His righteousness
- b. Put no limits on God
 - 1. “Nothing is impossible for God”
 - Jesus told disciples—after encounter with Rich Young Ruler—**Mk 10**
 - 2. He wants—and wills—to use us to do mighty things!
- c. There is one more stipulation that defines ‘whatever’—[below]

2. Ask in ‘Jesus’ name’

- a. He is the Father’s agent—God works through Him—in us
- b. Have confidence the Father can and will deliver through Christ

3. Jesus will do it!

- a. A *certain* promise—reiterated 4 times
 - o **Jn 15:7**—if you abide in me and I in you—ask what you will, and it will be done
 - o **Jn 15:16**—whatever you ask of the Father in my name—He will do it
 - o **Jn 16:23-24**—anything you ask of the Father in my name, He will give it
 - o **Jn 16:26**—ask the Father in my name—and I will ask the Father on your behalf

4. So that the Father may be glorified

- a. This is the final qualifier—to ‘whatever’ we ask
- b. ‘Whatever’ we ask—must glorify the Father
- c. **The ultimate purpose of prayer = to glorify the Father**
- d. Two things glorifies the Father
 - 1. Bearing fruit—15:8
 - Jn 15:8**—*My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.*
 - 2. Accomplishing what He asks us to do

Jn 17:4—*I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.*

e. So—pray for ‘whatever’ enables us to bear fruit and to accomplish the Father’s work!

D. SUMMARY

- POWERFUL PRAYER IS ASKING IN JESUS’ NAME
- FOR WHATEVER WILL GLORIFY THE FATHER
- TRUSTING FIRMLY THAT HE WILL DO IT

VI. PASTORAL PRAYER

Recovering

Sarah Bentley—recovering from stroke—vertigo

Mary Cude—stroke

Roy Dowdle—wreck

Jim Dyer—surgery on malignant gland—in Harris SW

Richard Hudson—surgery

Upcoming Surgery/Tests

Jay Key’s mother—upcoming cancer surgery

Gloria Wilson—shoulder surgery on 12 August

Yolanda Matos—cancer and upcoming surgery

Vernon Thompson—upcoming tests

Ongoing health concerns

Helen Wardlaw—stroke

Jerry Vesper—cancer—in hospice care

Flora LaFaver—struggling with health/financial problems

Carl Elder—weakness in legs—declining physically

Patsy Fuchs—pain treatment not working—fell last week

Heather Mentz’s grandmother—broken wrist—does not want to go into care

Ed Frasier—declining health

Mary Cofer—limited mobility and loneliness

LaFaye—chronic pain and dementia

Jenny Sewell—dementia, loneliness, vertigo

Nellie Smith—Alzheimer’s

Nancy Kerr’s sister and uncle—with cancer

Doris Cooper—(104)—trouble walking—needs constant care

Bereavement

Bola Ogunrinde—mother’s death in Nigeria

Lost spouses

Gerald Smith

Jim Williams

H.L. Hardy

Lawrence Maynard

Ken Dowlen

Care-givers

Linda—for Sarah Bentley

Angela—for Mary Cofer

Alice—for Ed Fasier
Beverly—for LaFaye Frederick
Macie and Ken—for Helen Wardlaw
John Mark—for Nellie Smith
Wynona—for Doris Cooper
Debbie Thompson—for her mother

Nursing Homes

Jo Smith
Jonelle McGillan
James Manuel
Ruby Hunt
Margene Steele

Other

Lance Parker—for job closer to new home

VII. INVITATION

JESUS, THE VERY THOUGHT OF YOU

Jesus, the very thought of Thee, with sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter by far Thy face to see, and in Thy presence rest.

No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the memory find
A sweeter sound than Jesus' name, savior of humankind.

O hope of every contrite heart! O joy of all the meek!
To those who fall, how kind Thou art! How good to those who seek!

But what to those who find? Ah! This no tongue or pen can show
The love of Jesus what it is, none but His loved ones know.