



TCN

FOUNDATION OF FAITH

CLASS 6 PRAYER



Class Objective

To understand the purpose, necessity and the principles of Prayer and become more effective in prayer.

Main Text: (Luke 11: 1-13)

Outline

1. What is Prayer?
2. The purpose for Prayer.
3. Types of Prayer
4. Having an effective Prayer Life.
5. The necessity of a lifestyle of Prayer.

1. What is Prayer?

Prayer is communication with God. It comes from our understanding that God is real and He is willing to listen and commune with us as our father. (Luke 11.2; Hebrews 11.6)

- In prayer we praise God, give Him thanks and tell Him how much we love Him.
- In prayer we enjoy His presence and tell Him what is going on in our lives.
- In prayer we [make requests](#), seek guidance and ask for wisdom.
- In prayer we Fellowship with God and build our relationship with Him.

Scripture emphasise the importance of prayer and the need to pray consistently. (Luke 18:1, Romans 12:12; Ephesians 6:18; Colossians 4:2; Philippians 4:6-7; 1Timothy 2:1).

2. The Purpose of Prayer

The primary purpose of prayer is for the will (purpose, intent, and counsel) of God to be established. **"...thy will be done, as it is in Heaven, so in earth" (Luke 11:2-3 NKJV).**

God requires us to pray even though he already knows our needs Matthew 6:8-9, because:

- God has already handed over the earth to man and He requires man's invitation for His intervention (*Psalms 115:16*)
- Prayer is a demonstration of our faith and dependence on God. (Hebrews 11:6)

God wants us to pray that we may receive direction and instructions on taking hold of and receiving the things that God has already given us in His word. (*Matthew 7:7; Ephesians 1:3; 2Peter 1:3-4;*

Jeremiah 33:3). We gain access to these because of what Jesus Christ had done for us. (1Cor 3:21-23)

3. Types of Prayer

There are two broad ways by which Prayer is usually categorized:

1. Based on the number of persons involved in the prayer.
2. Based on the content and purpose of the prayer.

Types of prayer with respect to number of persons involved:

▪ Individual Prayer

The kind of prayer that a person prays by himself/herself (Acts 10:9; James 5:17-18; Mark 6:46; Luke 6:12; Colossians 4:12). This is the most important kind of prayer in the life of a believer. Jesus showed us personal and real example of this (Luke 5: 15-16). The power and relevance of the CHURCH is highly dependent on the individual prayer lives of its members.

▪ Prayer of Agreement

The sort of Prayer involving two or more persons who agree on a subject (Matthew 18:18-20). The key word is "shall agree".

▪ Corporate Prayer

This involves several people praying together. Usually, it is the kind of prayer that the entire church or body of believers in a place are all involved in together (Acts 4:23, 24, 31)

Types of prayer based on the content and purpose of the prayer:

▪ Prayer of Consecration

This is a prayer of devotion to God. It is the kind of

prayer we pray to get right with God -forgiveness of sins/repentance (1John 1:9) or to seek to know God and His will (Colossians 1:9; Ephesians 1:17-23, 3:16-19; Philippians 1:9-11; 2Thessalonians 1:12).

- **Prayer of Supplication**

This is a heart-felt prayer that reflects the passion and dire need of the supplicant (Hebrews 5:7; 2 Chronicles 20:1-30; Acts 4:18-31). It is an appeal to the unfailing love and mercy of our Father.

- **Prayer of Petition**

This is a demand or request for something that is established in the scriptures as our covenant rights based on the finished work of Christ and His promises to us. It is a petition to God-the Just and Righteous Judge based on His words. (Act 4:23-33; 1John 5:14; Matthew 21:22; Mark 11:24; James1:5).

- **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Praise**

A special kind of prayer that reflects our faith in God's promises and gratitude for what He has done and will do (Colossians 1:3, 4:2). As the name implies, it involves thanksgiving, praise and worship unto the sovereign God. (Ephesians 5:20; 1Thessalonians 5:16-18; 2 Chronicles 20:21-22, 26-29; Philippians 4:6-7).

- **Prayer of Intercession**

To intercede means to intervene on behalf of another. This is the prayer we do to entreat God on behalf of someone else or situation. (1Timothy 2:1, Ephesians 6:18). Intercession is the way the Church truly blesses.

4. Having an effective Prayer life

- **Ask in faith:** God honors His word and commitment to us when we pray in faith (Mark 11: 24, Hebrews 11:6, James 1: 6).
- **Ask from your heart:** Let the requests we place

before God in prayer be the cry of our hearts, focused and persistent (2Chronicles 1:7-12, John 15:7; Mark 11:24).

- **Pay attention to God's directions:** Be watchful and sensitive to directions from God on what you need to do to lay hold on the object of your prayer (Genesis 21:17-19; 1 Corinthians 2:12; Acts 10:4-5; Habakkuk 2:1-2).
- **Pray in the Spirit:** Praying in the Spirit is praying by the leading and power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8: 26-27). It is praying in other tongues as the Spirit gives the utterances (1 Corinthians 14:2)

5. The necessity of a Lifestyle of Prayer

- A lifestyle of Prayer is a necessity for every believer (Acts 2:42; Acts 1:14).
- A lifestyle of faith is fueled by a lifestyle of prayer; (Matthew 17:14-21; Mark 9:14-29).
- Jesus exemplified the lifestyle of prayer (Matthew 14:23, 26:39-44; Mark 1:35; Luke 5: 15-16; 6:12; 9:29).
- The Apostles lived a life of prayer – Act 6:4; Ephesians 1;15-16; Col 1:9; 1Thessalonians 3:10; 2Timoty 1:3).
- Every believer must develop a routine of daily and consistent prayer time to
 - Commit our ways to God
 - Receive direction
 - Seek God's intervention on specific life issues.

Class Activity

Spend the next 15 minutes praying the prayer of consecration using Ephesians 1:17-23

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Foundation of Faith is a refresher course of The Covenant Nation (TCN), Lagos, Nigeria on the fundamentals of our Christian faith.