

Keeping

CHRISTIAN

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"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

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Prayer 1 Timothy 2:1-7

What is prayer?

The most basic definition of prayer is "talking to God." Prayer is not meditation or passive reflection; it is a direct address to God. It is the communication of the human soul with the Lord who created the soul. Prayer is the primary way for the believer in Jesus Christ to communicate his emotions and desires with God and to fellowship with God.

Who should we pray for?

The church is or should be on a life-saving mission for those who don't know the salvation of Jesus Christ. "Matthew 28:19, Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit". These people are destined for eternal hell if we don't reach them. Some of them are members of our own family. So as a follower of Christ what can we do? We Pray! If we want to have an influence on the lost people, leaders and rulers around us and the world, then pray. Do you want to be a part of seeing people die and go to heaven instead of hell? Then Pray! 1 Timothy, 2:1, Paul says we ought to pray for all men.

We should pray for our spouses, parents, children, siblings, family, friends, co-workers, and yes our enemies. We should pray for our pastors, ministers, church leaders and those in high positions. Pray for the government because their decisions impact the world. We should pray for our bosses, the homeless, the hungry and each other. This list can go on and on because there is no category of person we should not pray for.

What should we pray for?

- First and foremost, we should pray for salvation, that the unbeliever would be saved. Jesus prayed in John 17:3 "Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."
- Health, decisions, direction, forgiveness, relationships, protection...any and everything.

Why should we pray?

- We pray because God desires the salvation of all people. Verse 4 says "who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." When you begin to pray for all kinds of people in the world to be saved, your heart is coming in line with the heart of God Himself, for He desires their salvation. However, we need to be clear about what this does and does not mean.
 - **This does not mean all will be saved.** Ezek. 33:11, Scripture is clear that we are only saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, (Eph. 2:8), and only those who trust in His salvation will experience eternal life.
 - **This does mean God loves all people.** God loves all people, and he desires their salvation. We see in *2 Peter 3:9b, "Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."* (NIV)
 - We know:
 - 1. Jesus is a healer Luke 5:17
 - 2. He has power Acts 10:13
 - 3. We are not to worry for He cares for us Matt 6
 - 4. Ask, Seek and Knock, it will be given Matt 7
 - 5. He forgives Matt 9
 - 6. He has compassion Matt 9
 - 7. He blesses children Matt 19
 - 8. With God all things are possible Matt 19:26
 - 9. Most of all Jesus saves John 3:16

- We pray because God deserves the honor of all people.
 - Verse 5 "For there is one God", Deut. 6:4, Isa 45: 21-22
 - If God deserves the honor of all people, worship is the fuel and goal for world praying. We are praying night and day, week after week, for all kinds of people in the world to come to a saving knowledge of God so they might bow down and worship Him.
 - Verse 5 continues on to say not only is there one God but one Mediator between God and mankind who gave Himself as ransom for all. The word ransom here literally refers to the price that would be paid for the rescue, or release of a prisoner. We desperately need a mediator to pay our ransom and God gave us Jesus.
 - Jesus is unique in who He is.....He is the perfect mediator because He is able to identify with God because He is fully God, Col 2:9 and at the same time He can identify with man because He is fully human, yet without sin, Heb. 4:15.
 - Jesus is unique in what He did....He died for us when He did not deserve death for He had no sin, 1 John 3:5....mankind alone owed the price, but because He loved us, John 3:16-17.
 - Jesus is unique in what He does....He lives as our mediator right now at the Father's right hand...Romans 8:34. At this moment Jesus is interceding for us, standing before God on our behalf. He is the constant continual means by which we approach the throne of God in worship.
 - Jesus is unique in that He leads us on missions.....Matt 28:19-20 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
 - So finally, as we pray to God for all people, we preach the gospel to all people, our mission will prevail, and our mediator will be praised.