



INTRODUCTION

Part 6 - The P.O.W.E.R. of our Prayer Requests

As Christians, one of the most powerful and underutilized resources we have is prayer. The New Testament writer James wrote, "You have not because you ask not."

God invites us to talk with him about everything we face in life! He is a Father who loves to give good things to his children. But often, we are like the disciples of Jesus, who said to him, "Teach us to pray." We don't know how to pray or what we should pray about.

This message series is titled, Ask. Let's explore together how amazing prayer is and how we can grow more effective in prayer.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you think most people know how to pray? Explain your answer.
2. God invites us to bring our requests to him. In your experience, what are some of the things people usually pray about? What about your own life? What are some of the things you consistently pray for?
3. Read James 5:13 and 3 John 1:2. Why do you think we neglect to bring our problems to God in prayer?
4. Read Ephesians 6:18, Ephesians 1:16-19, Ephesians 3:14-19 and Colossians 1:9-11. What are some things we can include in our prayers for other people?
5. Read Matthew 5:43-48. Why did Jesus want us to pray for our enemies?
6. Matthew 26:41 and John 17:15. Why is it important that we learn to pray when we are tempted?
7. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-3. Do you think most people pray for their leaders? Why is it important that we do this?
8. Of the various types of prayer requests we have talked about, which are most lacking in your life? Explain your answer. What might help you add some of these types of requests into your prayers?

APPLICATION

One approach to prayer is to use the word A.C.T.S. as a model: adoration, confession, thanksgiving and supplication. When coming to God with our requests or supplications, what kinds of things should we be praying about and asking of Him? God invites us to bring our needs—and even our wants. It's appropriate to pray about the problems we might be facing in life, including physical, spiritual, financial, social or anything else which challenges us.

There is power in prayer—God works powerfully when we pray. Instead of praying the same things over and over while finding ourselves in a rut, we can use the acronym P.O.W.E.R. to cover our requests and to take our prayer life to the next level:

P -pray for our **problems**...spiritual, physical, emotional, relational or financial

O -pray for **other believers**...that they would know God's will, be used by Him, know Him better, be empowered and be united

W -pray for **workers**...for workers to serve a role in Christ's kingdom, both within the church and outside the church

E -pray for our **enemies**...even if we regard others as enemies; in a spiritual battle, we should pray for help or grace

R -pray for those **responsible** to lead...government and church leadership; forego grumbling against them, and pray for them

KEY VERSES

Romans 8:26

James 5:13

3 John 1:2

Ephesians 6:18

Ephesians 1:16-19

Ephesians 3:14-19

Colossians 1:9-11

John 17

John 17:22-23

Matthew 9:37-38

2 Thessalonians 3:1

Matthew 5:43-48

Matthew 26:41

John 17:15

1 Timothy 2:1-3

Hebrews 13:18