

“WHAT IS PRAYER AND WHY IS IT NEEDED?”

I. INTRODUCTION

A. WHAT IS PRAYER?

1. Prayer's most basic definition would simply be, _____ to God directly and _____.
2. Prayer is _____, _____ the Lord for something, whether spiritual or physical. (1 Sam. 1:27; Dan. 6:13)
3. Prayer is _____ with God as you foster a genuine relationship with Him; every good relationship must have _____. (Isa. 65:24)
4. Prayer results in _____ from God. (Jer. 33:3; James 5:16b)
5. Prayer expresses dependence and _____ in the Lord, and often times a genuine _____. (Psalm 5:11-12; 7:1; 9:9-10; 16:1-2, etc.)
6. Ideally prayer should include _____, thanksgiving, and _____. (Eph. 1:6; 5:20; Philip. 4:6; Col. 1:9; 3:17; 4:2; 1 Thess. 5:17-18, 25; 1 Tim. 2:1)

B. WHAT ARE SOME BIBLICAL CONDITIONS FOR PRAYER?

1. You need to be _____ in order to be on _____ terms with God. (Gal. 4:4-6)
2. You need to make sure that you are _____ harboring _____ sin in your heart, or your prayers will not go past the ceiling. (Isa. 59:1-3; 1 John 1:6-10; James 5:16a)

3. You need to pray to the _____ (Matt. 6:6; Eph. 1:15-17) in the name of the _____ (John 14:13; 16:23-24), through the power of the _____. (Eph. 6:18; Jude 1:20)
4. You need to pray in _____, otherwise why bother at all? (Matt. 21:22; James 1:5-6; 5:15)
5. You need to pray according to God's _____ and _____. (1 John 5:14-15)

C. WHY IS PRAYER NEEDED?

1. Prayer was practiced by _____ in His earthly ministry. (Matt. 14:23; Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16; Heb. 5:7)
2. Prayer was _____ by our Lord. (Matt. 5:44; 9:35-38; Luke 18:1)
3. Prayer was an important feature of the early _____ when they gathered together (Acts 2:41-42), and still needs to be highly valued today. (1 Tim. 2:1-8)
4. Prayer is to be an integral part of the Christian Life as the believer _____ in Christ and _____ for God. (John 15:1-7)
5. Prayer reflects a dependency upon the Lord which _____ and _____ Him. (Heb. 11:6; Matt. 21:22; John 14:13; Eph. 3:20-21; James 1:5-6)

* What value do you place on prayer in your own life?