

ESSENTIALS TO EFFECTIVE PRAYER – Part One

Reference: Miscellaneous Scripture

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In this two part lesson we're going to ask and then answer six strategic questions: **who, what, when, where, why** and **how?**

This first message is going to address just the first question - **Who?**

Question: _____ should pray? Should just anyone pray?

Answer: _____ should pray.

There is a common sense in which all of us should pray and that is to pray to receive salvation. But, other than that one exception, prayer is designed primarily for the Christian.

Two distinct spiritual families in the universe:

- _____ the Father has spiritual children.
Reference: **John 1:11-12** (see screen)
- _____ has spiritual children.
Reference: **John 8:44a** (see screen)

In a creational sense, God is our mutual Father and in that creational sense, we are all inter-related; but, in a spiritual familial sense, we are not all related to one another and God is not everyone's spiritual Father.

Reference: **Malachi 2:10a** (see screen)

God has obligated himself to hear and then answer someone that is asking to receive salvation.

Reference: **Romans 10:13** (see screen)

Some non-Christians do pray for things other than salvation and some of them seem to receive answers to those prayers. How do we account for that, knowing that God is not obligated to listen to them and answer them? There are two possibilities:

One - _____ answered the prayer.

Reference: **Romans 2:4** (see screen)

Two - _____ counterfeited an answer to prayer.

Reference: **II Corinthians 11:14** (see screen)

Question: Who should we pray _____?

Answer: We should pray to _____ the _____.

Two of those instances where Jesus prayed to the Father are:

- The _____ prayer
Reference: **Matthew 6:9-13** (see screen)
- The _____ prayer
Reference: **John 17:1-26** (see screen)

Question: Who should we pray _____?

Answer: Christians should pray for both _____ and _____.

Praying for ourselves:

Reference: **Matthew 6:11-13; James 4:3; Psalm 81:10** (see screen)

Praying for others: In biblical language this asking God for someone else is referred to as _____.

Under this general classification of interceding for others there are some specific categories of people that we are instructed to pray for:

- _____
Reference: **I Timothy 2:1-2** (see screen)
- _____ in general
Reference: **Ephesians 6:18** (see screen)
- Christian _____
Reference: **Ephesians 6:19** (see screen)
Paul said we are to ask God for three things for those people that communicate:
 - ✓ to show them _____ to say
“... that **utterance** may be given to me”
 - ✓ to give them _____ in what they are to say
“to make known the mystery of the gospel”
 - ✓ to give them _____
“... that I may open my mouth **boldly**”
- Christian _____
Reference: **Matthew 9:36-38** (see screen)
- the _____
Reference: **Romans 10:1** (see screen)
- Our _____
Reference: **Matthew 5:43-44** (see screen)