

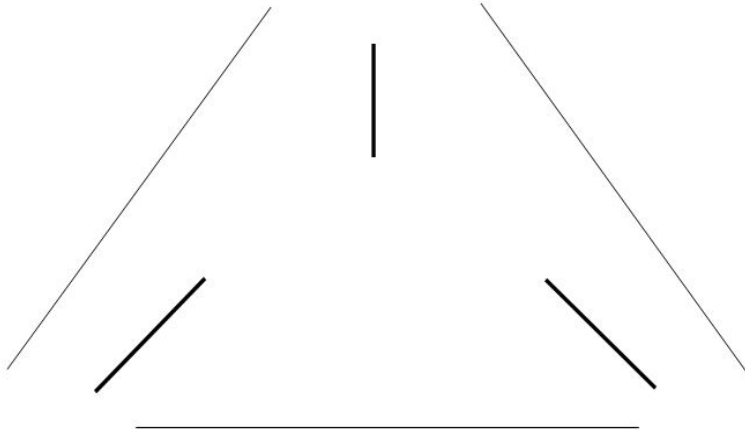


Being the Church



Part 3—“Prayer”

“O God, I have tasted Thy goodness, and it has both satisfied me and made me thirsty for more. I am painfully conscious of my need for further grace. I am ashamed of my lack of desire. O God, the Triune God, I want to want Thee; I long to be filled with longing; I thirst to be made more thirsty still. Show me Thy glory, I pray Thee, so that I may know Thee indeed. Begin in mercy a new work of love within me. Say to my soul, ' Rise up my love, my fair one, and come away.' Then give me grace to rise and follow Thee up from this misty lowland where I have wandered so long.” —A.W. Tozer



² Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. ³ At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— ⁴ that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

— Colossians 4:2-4

Prayer in Acts 2:42-47

- The early church _____ themselves to prayer. [*proskartereō*]— To give oneself continually towards. To persevere, to attend.
- The prayer described in this passage was _____ in nature.

A Theology of Prayer

- God created us in His image so that we might know Him and _____ with Him.

“And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day...” — Gen. 3:8a

“I will bless the LORD who has counseled me...” — Ps. 16:7a

“God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” — 1 Cor. 1:9

- _____ upon God is the natural response of His people who have come to know Him in His glory and to trust in His power.

“Your right hand, O LORD, is majestic in power, Your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.” — Ex. 15:6

“I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.” — Job 42:2

“God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.” — Acts 2:24

The Struggle to Pray

- **Our struggle with prayer is an aspect of our struggle with sin.**

“Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you...” — **Is. 59:1-2**

⇒ **Our sin hinders our prayer life.**

“You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.” — **1 Pet. 3:7**

For, “Let him who means to love life and see good days refrain his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking guile. And let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears attend to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.” — **1 Pet. 3:10-12**

“The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the sake of your prayers.” — **1 Pet. 4:7**

- **True prayer is a fundamentally selfless act.**

⇒ **It is directed towards God and should ultimately be about His will.**

“If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.” — **John 15:7-8**

⇒ **It should be focused on the needs of others as well as those of our own.**

“Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus...” — **Phil. 2:4-5**

The Church That Prays: Colossians 4:2-4

General Instructions:

⇒ “Continue steadfastly...” → _____ yourselves!

⇒ “...keeping alert...” → To take _____ care.

⇒ “...with an attitude of thanksgiving...” → Gratefulness to God as an act of _____.

Specific Request:

⇒ “...that God would open a door for the Word...”

The church must focus much of its prayer on the _____ to which God has called them!