



FUNDAMENTAL GRACE BIBLE STUDY

Pauline Prayer

How ought we to pray?

Framing the discussion: God can do anything. And, in time past, we have record of him creating signs, wonders and working miracles according to his purposes. This being the case, how has prayer changed through the Bible to this dispensation of God's grace? Can we pray for signs, wonders, and miracles according to a covenant? Is that the pattern that God has put forth through our Apostle Paul?

Dispensational Facts:

- God is not working through the nation Israel, fulfilling prophecy today; they sought a sign – Rom 11:25, 1 Cor 1:22
- Jesus Christ was a minister of the Circumcision and taught covenant prayers – Rom 15:8, Mat 6:9-13
- Paul is the Apostle to the Gentiles; pattern for the Church the Body of Christ – Col 1:25, Rom 15:15-19, Tim 1:16
- We are not a part of the covenants, nor under the law – Rom 9:4, Eph 2:11-12, Rom 6:14
- We walk by faith, not by sight – 2 Cor 5:7

General Truths:

- Nothing is too hard for the God – Gen 18:14
- God is able to do above and beyond our requests or thoughts – Eph 3:20

1. Early prayer in the Bible

- Abraham prays and God heals Abimelech – Gen 20:17
- Moses intercedes for Israel that God not destroy them – Exo 32:11-14, Nu 21:7
- The Levites stood in the priest's office to make intercession for the people – Exo 28
- The priests asked counsel of God for the people – Jud 18:5
- Hannah (Samuel's mother) petitioned the LORD, made a vow & he remembered – 1 Sam 1:10
- Prayers were according to the promises & covenants made with the house of Israel
 - 2 Sam 7:27-29, 1 Kgs 8 – Solomon's prayer
- Blessing & cursing came as a result of obedience or disobedience to the covenant – Lev 26
 - Blessing involved: profit of land & fruit, multiplication of people, safety from beasts & enemies, victory over enemies, covenant established; God on their side.
 - Cursing involved: unyielding land, no rain, terror and harm, cities wasted, enemy pursuit, no victory over them, scattering out of the land – strangers in other lands; God against them.
- Collective prayer & rejoicing was heard by God – 2 Chr 30:21-27
 - Men prayed for healing –
 - They must humble themselves – 2 Chr 33:13
- Answered prayer and blessing was based upon a man's righteousness – Prov 15:29; 2 Sam 22:27
 - Righteousness was gained by commandment-keeping – Deu 6:25
- God would not hear them if they were not repentant, confessing their sins – Neh 1:4-11; Jer 7:16
- Covenantal prayer mechanics were similar: 1) repent, 2) call attention to the covenant, 3) reward those that love God by keeping his commandments, 4) confess sins/iniquities against God, 5) let they anger be turned away from Israel, your servant(s), 6) forgive us for your sake
- God remembers his covenant with Israel – Jer 29:11-12
- Prayer of Jabez: prayed to God for blessing, enlarged coast, hand with him, deliverance – God gave it to him. – 1 Chr 4:10

2. Jesus Christ and Prayer

- Instructed to pray for coming kingdom, provision, forgiveness, etc. – Mat 6:9-13; Lk 11:2
- All things asked in belief should be received – Mat 21:22; Mk 11:24
- Disciples had the ability to bind & loose with 2 or 3 witnesses – Mat 18:18-20
- Prayers were accompanied with fasting – Mk 9:29; Lk 2:37



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- e. The Sinner's Prayer: consisted of humbling oneself – Lk 18:11
- f. Christ prayed for the Comforter to be given (Holy Spirit anointing – Acts 2) – Jn 14:16
- g. Prayed for the disciples' deliverance – Jn 17:15

3. Little Flock/Remnant Prayer (Early Acts Period)

- a. Praying with one accord – Acts 1:14
- b. Requesting the Lord reveal replacement of Judas – Acts 1:24
- c. Holy Ghost filled, according to the Apostle's doctrine – Acts 2:42
- d. Group prayer in one accord requesting healing, signs & wonders in Jesus' name – Acts 4:31

4. Pauline Prayer – What pattern does the Lord Jesus Christ put forth through the Apostle Paul?

- a. Begins with thankfulness – Rom 1:8; Eph 1:16
- b. Continually making mention – Rom 1:9
- c. We don't know what to pray for as we ought – Rom 8:26
- d. The Spirit makes intercession for us by God's will – Rom 8:27
- e. Continue instant in prayer – Rom 12:12
- f. Praying in the hope that others will believe the gospel – Rom 10:1
- g. Prayer for reconciliation – 2 Cor 5:20
- h. Strengthened with might by God's Spirit in the inner man – Eph 3:14-16
- i. Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith – Eph 3:17
- j. Be rooted and grounded in love to comprehend the love of Christ which passes knowledge – Eph 3:18-19
- k. Calling attention to needs of the saints – Eph 6:18
- l. Making requests for fellowship in the ministry – Phil 1:4, 4:6
- m. That love may abound in knowledge & judgment to approve things that excel – Phil 1:9
- n. Be filled with knowledge of God's will in all wisdom & spiritual understanding – Col 1:9
- o. Opportunity to speak the mystery of Christ – Col 4:3
- p. Complete standing in the will of God – Col 4:12
- q. Prayers of thanksgiving for work of faith, labor of love & hope in the Lord – 1 Thess 1:2
- r. Desiring to see one another to perfect that which is lacking in faith – 1 Thess 3:10
- s. Pray without ceasing, giving thanks in all things – 1 Thess 5:17-18
- t. Preservation of spirit, soul & body blameless until the day of Christ – 1 Thess 5:23
- u. Be worthy of calling of the gospel and work of faith – 2 Thess 1:11
- v. Prayers for all men – 1 Tim 2:1

What was the focus of prayer for Israel and gentiles going through Israel?

It was a physical orientation according to the covenants (i.e. Physical blessing, deliverance, abundance, etc.).

What is the function of prayer for the Church, the Body of Christ today?

It is spiritually oriented, setting our affections on heavenly things (Col 3:1-3), to change our mindset (Rom 12:2, Col 3:10, Eph 4:22-23, Rom 4-8) that we might walk in newness of life (Rom 6), not change what God is doing. We have no authority by which to leverage God to do anything. However, the work has already been completed (Col 2:9-10). By faith in Christ and God's grace, we stand in a complete position at peace with God (Rom 5:1-2) already having imputed righteousness (Rom 4:24-25), all spiritual blessings (Eph 1:3), justification, redemption, eternal life, etc. The unsearchable, abundant riches (Eph 3:8) we already have in Christ allow us to walk by faith and not by sight. What more do we need? As ambassadors for Christ, we are to partake in the ministry of reconciliation to see souls saved and saints edified (2 Cor 5:17-21, 1 Tim 2:4); enduring hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ (2 Tim 2:3).