

Back to Basics – Understanding Prayer

A. What is “Prayer”?

1. The primary Greek word for prayer is **proseuchomai**. In the verb form (G4336), and in the noun form (G4335) it is used 124 times and is translated; prayer, pray and means to pray to God, supplicate, worship.
2. The second most common Greek word is **deomai**. In the verb form (G1189) and in the noun form (G1162) it is used 41 times and is translated; a petition, prayer, request, supplication. In the verb form it carries an urgency.
3. There are other Greek words used for prayer a few times (17) and mean intercession, or a wish expressed as a petition to God.
4. As I studied these words and their uses in the New Testament, I began to realize that “Prayer” is really the container and the term “Prayer” doesn’t tell us what goes in the container, in other words what to pray and how to pray.
5. How we fill the container called “Prayer” will make the difference on the effectiveness and efficacy of the prayer. See Matt 6:5-9.

B. Knowing to Whom You Are Praying Helps to Fill the Container.

1. Know the Character of God. Ps 89:14
2. Know the Ways of God. Ps 103:7; Ps 25:9,14
3. Know the Love of God. Eph 3:17-19; 1 Jn 4:16
4. Know the Faithfulness of God and His Word. Lam 3:22-23; Heb 6:18

C. How to Pray.

1. Pray as a Son of God. Gal 4:1-7; Rom 8:15-17
2. Jesus taught his disciples to pray (imperative mood). Matt 6:9-14
3. Paul demonstrated prayer. Eph 1:17-19; 3:16-19; Col 1:9-12
4. Jesus gave final instructions (“ask” as a demand of something due).
John 14:12-14; John 16:23-24; 1 Jn 5:14-15
5. Pray the Will of God and the Word of God. Col 2:9; 1 Jn 5:14-15
6. Stand in Faith after you pray – Believe you have received. Mark 11:24
7. Pray always and don’t faint. Luke 18:1-8

D. Costly Mistakes in Prayer.

1. Unforgiveness - forgive others so God will forgive you. Matt 6:14; Mrk 11:25
2. Fear and unbelief.
3. Begging God.
4. Negotiating with God.
5. Telling God how to answer the prayer (tying God’s hands).

Pray as a Son, to your amazing God, by Faith, willing to stand until you win.