

Theme: Jesus gives us astounding promises for prayer, to encourage us to pray to God, especially with one another.

I. Intro – Focal Point 2013

- A. 2013 Focal Point - Growing As A Community of Prayer
- B. I am really excited about this - community and prayer
- C. Teaching, articles, aids, activities all year to grow
- D. First of these articles is available already on web
- E. Please work to memorize these verses
- F. Last week community - today prayer

II. Is This Really About Prayer?

- A. Some say this is not about prayer - but discipline
 - 1. Preceding context of church discipline (Mt 18:15-18)
 - 2. Link of “two or three” (vv 16, 20)
 - 3. Again I say to you - v19 - saying same thing again
- B. I think it is really about prayer - not just church discipline
 - 1. Again = moreover; related not equal (Matt 4:7,8)
 - 2. Anything they ask - not just discipline - anything
 - 3. Anything they ask - asking is the language of prayer
 - 4. VV19-20 are a principle explaining why vv15-18 are true
- C. These verses are dealing with prayer - not just discipline
 - 1. Includes but not restricted to church discipline
 - 2. These are promises related to prayer

III. Jesus’ Great Promises For Prayer

- A. Jesus is giving an amazing promise for prayer
 - 1. Two of you agree - it will be done (v19)
 - 2. Sometimes we major on the restrictions
 - 3. But Jesus wants us to know God delights to answer
 - a. Mark 11:24 - Whatever you ask; believe; receive
 - b. Jn 14:13-14 - ask Jesus; He will do it; glorifies God
 - c. Jn 16:23-24 - ask in Jesus’ name; receive; joy full
 - 4. Focus on this - God delights to answer prayer
- B. The basis - God is our Father; Jesus is with us!
 - 1. Done for you by My Father - v19 - God is Father
 - a. Mark 6:9 - Our Father in Heaven
 - b. Romans 8:15-16 - sonship/adoption, Abba, Father
 - c. We come to our loving Father in prayer!
 - 2. There am I among them - v20 - Jesus is with us!
 - a. He is in our midst as we gather
 - b. We gather, listen to Him together, cry out
 - 3. The key - prayer is relational - not formulaic
 - 4. We want to develop this aspect of prayer this year

IV. Applying the Word

- A. How do we respond to the mention of ‘prayer’?
 - 1. Prayer is usually a topic that induces guilt

2. We feel we do not pray enough - and often don't!
 3. But this is often due to false notions of prayer
 4. Do you think of prayer as ritual - or relationship?
 5. Do you think of God as prayer judge - or Father?
- B. Do we see God's great promises for prayer?
1. Jesus gives amazing promises for prayer
 2. This is especially true for praying together!
 3. Often not instant - to encourage relationship
 4. I encourage you - go to Him and believe!
 5. I encourage you - pray with others!
- C. Concluding prayer

Growing In Prayer

Matthew 18:19-20 ESV

February 10, 2013

Prayer

Psalm 20:1-5

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”” ⁷ Jesus answered him, “**It is also** written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ⁸ **Again**, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. Matthew 4:5–8 NIV

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. Mark 11:24 NIV

¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. John 14:13–14 NIV

²³ In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ²⁴ Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. John 16:23–24 NIV

This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...” Matthew 6:9 NIV

¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Romans 8:15–16 NIV