Today, we conclude our series on prayer. Over the past few weeks, we have unpacked what prayer is, the need for on-going passionate prayer, and the fact that prayer is an expression of our faith. We have affirmed that prayer is our human response to our Heavenly Father. We have reminded ourselves that we are invited to prayer. We have examined obstacles to prayer. Now, today, we will take a look at some examples of prayer and teachings on it from some of the greatest prayer warriors ever: David & Paul.

Throughout scripture, we see the different ways, different types or forms of prayer: Prayer of confession, intercession, adoration, praise, petition, and thanksgiving—to name a few, all in the tradition of Paul’s [Ephesians 6:18](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians6%3A18&version=NKJV) admonition to pray always.

In [Psalm 51](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm51%3A1-13&version=NKJV), we see a beautiful example of prayer from David. Note the heading of this Psalm: This is a psalm of penitence, of confession. We are familiar with what David has done, his lust for Bathsheba. As [2Samuel 11:1-27](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2Samuel11%3A1-17&version=NKJV) recounts, David also sends Bathsheba’s husband Uriah to the front lines, where he is killed. So we have adultery and murder. Nathan holds David accountable and David comes face to face with his own sin. And you thought the Bible was boring?!

In [Psalm 51](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm51%3A1-13&version=NKJV), we see David getting real before God. Because David was more than simply acquainted with God, he knew his need to acknowledge his sin before Him. David’s need IS God. We know this. Remember, David also wrote [Psalm 23](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm23%3A1-6&version=NKJV). And David cries out to God and appeals to His nature. Look at [verses 1-4](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm23%3A1-4&version=NKJV). Here David acknowledges God and acknowledges his own sin, as we should. We should know that with our repentance. He is faithful and just and forgiving. He forgives us according to [1John 1:8-9](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1John1%3A8-9&version=NKJV), when we bring an honest heart bearing itself before the nature of our holy God. This is crucial, seeking God with our whole heart. David’s need was God. David prayed “according to God,” not his own merit. Praying in light of available forgiveness, remembering that God is for us, deepens the quality of our relationship with our Father.

When we remain in prayer in submission to the will of God, we are developing in our growth as believers. Listen, family, part of the good news of the gospel is that it doesn’t stop with pardon. It makes us NEW. Prayer is the means by which we express our reliance on God, not only to cleanse us from our sin but also to raise us to new life (Jude 20: But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit). Praying in humility is vital. The God who saves us empowers us to live more like Him. And church, repentance replenishes joy. [Psalm 51:12](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm51%3A12&version=NKJV) says so!

Undoubtedly, our need is God. But our sin must be confessed and repented of (and if the Bible calls it sin, our opinion doesn’t matter!!). But, Thank God! We are able to rely on grace. In the book of Romans, Paul gives us some incredible, encouraging truths ([Romans 8:26-27](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans8%3A26-27&version=NKJV)). We rely on God’s spirit in prayer—HIS power, HIS resources, and HIS presence. Remember, as David did, we rely on the Holy Spirit, on the nature of God, in prayer. With confident expectation, we can come before our Father, even in our human limitations and weaknesses because the Spirit intercedes on our behalf, according to the will of God. Family, this should bring us tremendous confidence and give boldness to our prayers. Trusting in the nature of God, the interceding of the Holy Spirit for the will of God in our lives, we can engage in humble, honest prayer.

This freedom to pray in all our weakness brings us back to the truth of [Ephesians 6:18](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians6%3A18&version=NKJV). We must put on the whole armor of God in prayer and empower our prayer because of His armor. Persevere in prayer. Family, don’t stop praying when you get what you prayed for. Remember that our need is for God; we wield the weapon of prayer in the strength of His nature and in His word. This is to pray in the Spirit. Paul used military references in conjunction with the pieces of our spiritual armor. Perhaps, he would, if he were to write this today, call prayer our “air support.” To wear the armor is a response to a call to engage. The word of God is a history of God working in answer to prayer. This fact should encourage us and make us hopeful as we pray in the Spirit ([Romans 15:4](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans15%3A4&version=NKJV) and [1 John 5:14](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1John5%3A14&version=NKJV)). We must persevere in prayer in the Spirit, trusting God’s will.

The Holy Spirit enables us to pray as God intended: Prayers of confession, joy replenished, the Spirit interceding for us, wielding prayer as a weapon, relying on the nature of God, His power, His resources, His presence, His armor. We must remain in prayer. Within this prayerful life, we are raised to newness of life, according to God and His nature. Prayer is engaging the power within, putting on the armor. In proper prayer, we enjoy intimacy with God. Church! Don’t miss the opportunity!