1Thess 53

Your Royal Priesthood enables effective prayer.

Let us open today in Ephesians chapter three.

One announcement - is that I received and email from one of our congregation members.

There seemed to be an issue with Pay-pal…currently it has been my best option for receiving donations online and I am open for others. But every time I hear about a CC platform, within a short time I find out they are not much better than Pay-pal.

So I am open for suggestions - yet I think many of these platforms have glitches or problems from time to time.

Snail mail is still a wonderful concept and I have about 4 or 5 people who use my PO Box regularly and it works fine!

Any support is always appreciated I am grace-based ministry therefore I survive on whatever God the HS motivates you folks to offer.

I have folks who give $25 a month and it is as helpful as the person who donates $150 a month…I am very grateful.

I will look into other CC platforms but anything we do online has the element for computer glitches and unfortunately criminal activity.

Which I was a victim of about 4 months back… on a good CC platform with a company I occasionally buy vitamins from. My bank alerted me and it was recovered, but we all must be vigilante with any CC activity and online banking.

What I want to accomplish today is to close out the doctrine of prayer. Either today or the next message.

It could go longer but I am highlighting the deeper principles inside that doctrine that all Bels need to fully digest.

In relation to our current study of 1Thessalonians these are very pertinent prayer principles we have been covering.

Prayer approach for the royal priesthood is our topic today. Look what the Apostle Paul taught concerning prayer;

/Eph 3:14 For this reason **I bend my knees before the Father**,

All prayer is addressed to the Father —

 (Mat 6:9, 1Pet 1:17) \

The mechanics and protocol of prayer is a serious matter for a Christian with several years of BD under their belt.

God expects us to have a doctrinal I.Q. – many pulpits do not really press their congregation to grow.

They are more concerned with keeping butts in the seats and making people feel good so that keep a full offering basket.

Academic honesty should be the expectations you have for your pastor and church leadership in general.

You can not grow in God’s grace and knowledge if you are not under a good pastor-teacher.

 REPEAT

If its not me…find the one for you!

[Eph 3:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/3/15/s_1100015) from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name,

We are all God’s creation and once we have accepted HIS precious SON as savior, we are then entered into a Royal Family. Along with many other titles or privileges and our Royal priesthood begins at salvation.

/[Eph 3:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/3/16/s_1100016) that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to **be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner self**,

We can do nothing inside the plan of God without the filling power and guidance of God the HS.\

Our fellowship, prayer life and new nature are dependent on the filling power of God the HS.

/[Eph 3:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/3/17/s_1100017) so that **Christ may dwell in your hearts** through **faith;** *and* that you, being **rooted and grounded** in love,

All of what the Apostle Paul points out has to do with what you are building in your soul. None of this is based in emotional waves and human effort.\

You do not approach the FATHER until you are filled by the Spirit, ensuring your Christ-like nature is present.

We pray to the Father in our new nature and by the name and merits of Jesus Christ we seal that prayer.

/Your priesthood is an office of intellect not emotional nonsense.

Eph 3:17 – heart (*kardia*) – the soul, the mind, the seat of knowledge. The depth of thoughts, emotions and ideologies.

Faith (*pistis*) – conviction of what you stand for, faith is not blind – it has a target. The foundation of your beliefs.\

CARD-EE-AH, points to our soul, the mind or the place where we gather thoughts and knowledge.

PISS-TUS, is not simply blind faith – real faith has a target – TLJC!

/Rooted (*rhizoō*) – to be rooted, of a strong foundation.

Grounded (*themelioō*) – foundation or a powerful structure.

Eph 3:17 – The Apostle Paul uses terms related to strength in character, stability of mind and standing firm in truth.\

RID-ZA-O, points to a firm foundation that which is not easily shaken.

THA-LEM-OT-OH, again pointing to strength in foundation. To stand erect or stand strong.

All of this speaks strength and stability which means, your mind – your soul, is filled with applicable knowledge.

We understand the protocol and we approach prayer through the spiritual channel of our union with Christ.

/Jhn 14:13 “And whatever **you ask in My name,** this I will do, so that the Father may be **glorified in the Son**. 14 “If you ask Me anything **in My name**, I will do *it.*

Eph 6:18 With every prayer and request, **pray at all times in the Spirit,** and with this in view, be alert with all perseverance and *every* request for all the saints, \

The spiritual power of the Bels approach is the filling power of the Holy Spirit. That is the formula or standard.

Human intellect and human power only interfere - it is completely incapable of spiritual power.

/3 categories of Christian prayer should be something all Bels understand;

1. Is the High priest Jesus Christ, HIS prayer life on our behalf (Heb 7:25).
2. Falls under the “*emergency prayer*.” God the Holy Spirit does the emergency praying — Rom 8:26-27\

/Rom 8:26 Now in the same way the Spirit also helps **our weakness**; for we do not know what to pray for as we should, but **the Spirit Himself intercedes for us** with groanings too deep for words; 27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because **He intercedes for the saints** **according to *the will of* God**. \

Notice everything is related to GOD’s plan from eternity past.

We know God the HS and Jesus Christ intercedes for us, but ultimately God the Father has enabled each Bel priest the power and grace to become a prayer warrior themselves.

/3) The third category is the prayer from the Believer priest, as a mature prayer warrior, who is able to stand strong inside the plan of God.

Heb 4:16 Therefore let’s **approach the throne of grace with confidence**, so that we may receive mercy and **find grace for help** at the time of *our* need. \

The Divine Decree took into account of all prayer in time and incorporated the answers before history began.

Before there was any human history all of the prayers that would ever be uttered in human history were known to God through His omniscience. As a part of the divine decrees they were incorporated into history long before history existed —

/Jer 33:3 ‘**Call to Me and I will answer** you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.’

Jer 29:11 **‘For I know the plans that I have for you**,' declares the LORD, ‘plans for prosperity and not for disaster, **to give you a future** and a hope. \

Prayer effectiveness reaches its peak at the time of maturity, especially those living the super-grace life.

The design for prayer was not to live in immaturity relying upon the emergency prayer at every turn. In fact, those type of emergency prayers should be far and few as we grow into SM.

As the Believer holds the high ground in the spiritual life they will become a prayer warrior! REPEAT

That is what the plan of God calls for.

/Private prayer becomes one of the significant and powerful callings for all Bels. Organization is one thing that is absolutely necessary in an effective prayer life. Four principles in proper order and fashion are the call for prayer.

1. Confession of sin first (1Jhn 1:9)

1Cor 11:31 But if we judge ourselves rightly, we would not be judged.\

Confession of sin is the first function of private prayer — 1 John 1:9, along with many scriptures like 1Cor 11:31 tell us to name and cite any known sins. To put on the new or take off the old sin nature.

Nothing is accomplished without the new nature in control.

/2. Thanksgiving —

Eph 5:20 **always giving thanks for all things** in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to *our* God and Father;

 (1Thess 5:18)

Thanksgiving displays grace orientation; it recognizes the source of all blessing.\

Gratitude and a spirit of thanksgiving comes naturally as we grow.

It should be reflected in prayer.

/3. Intercession (Praying for others) — Eph 6:18 With every prayer and request, **pray at all times in the Spirit**, and with this in view, be alert with **all perseverance and *every* request for all the saints**,

Praying for others above self is a sign of maturity and it falls under proper protocol for prayer.\

The more you grow in God’s grace and knowledge the more your consistent prayer will hold true to these four standards.

Which in turn means your prayers become more effective!

/4. Petition – the request for what unfolds within our own personal life.

2Cor 12:7 Because of the extraordinary *greatness* of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, **there was given to me a thorn in the flesh**, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! 8 **Concerning this** I **pleaded with the Lord three times** that it might leave me.\

There are several reasons why prayer is not answered.

Sometimes it is a simple matter of God telling us to wait or even saying, NO - in relation to what we are praying for.

/When the Bel refuses to stay in tune to God’s word and their new nature they often can not discern from God telling them to wait, or God telling them NO. God speaks to us through HIS word in the new nature. Therefore, Bible study, prayer and remaining spiritually balanced to what is going on around us is the key to our discernment.\

The old story of the Christian who heard the news of a flood coming and they said its okay…I’ll stay here in my house and GOD will save me.

The next day the sheriff shows up and says – hey, you should evacuate because of the flood!

 Then the news begins to give warnings every hour as the streets fill up with water – yet the Christian says I’ll wait for God to save me.

Then they had to climb on the roof as the house flooded and a rescue boat came - but they refused to jump in it.

Then a helicopter flew over-head, yet the Christian ignored the escape ladder they offered as well.

Finally, the Christian drowned to death. When they get to heaven they ask GOD - why didn’t you answer my prayers?…HE said I did.

I sent the news, the sheriff, a boat and a helicopter…you rejected all MY callings.

Let us close with reasons for unanswered prayer.

/Carnality or reversionism, failure to adjust to the justice of God. Failure to be controlled by the Holy Spirit — Eph 6:18.

Mental attitude sins, caught in chain sinning — Psalm 66:18.

The sin of pride, walking in a self-righteous state of mind — Job 35:12-13.\

The Christian who drowned in that rooftop story - falls in this category.

They refuse to look outside of what they think God will do, or how God will come through for them.

/A Bel trapped in lust patterns (selfishness) — James 4:2-4.

Failure of faith-rest or failure to grow in faith — Mark 11:24.

Lack of obedience to recognize God’s love and call to us — 1 John 3:1-2.

Insubordination to the will of God — 1 John 5:14-19. \

If you refuse to make yourself available to God and you keep kicking against HIS plan your prayer life will be hindered.

If you are a Bel whose prayer life still revolves around what you want. And emergency prayers are your main petition – after you have been born again and saved for a few years – I’m here to warn you, GOD will not keep indulging in that laziness. REPEAT

/Lack of obedience in the realm of marriage — 1 Peter 3:7.

Lack of grace orientation, those with hard hearts— Proverbs 21:13.\

When we refuse to grow after years of God calling us and trying to get our attention, we bring in our own self-induced misery.

Part of that is your prayers fall flat on the floor.