

# PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

November 6, 2022

## The Mission of the Church

### Lesson 7: Worship (Part 4)

#### Does the Bible Prescribe Corporate Prayer?

We continue looking at the concept of **Worship** in scripture as part of our ongoing series on the Mission of the Church. We've been considering a number of questions related to the worship, and last week began focusing on specific acts of worship by looking at singing. Today we will focus on prayer and its inclusion in corporate gatherings of the Lord's church.

#### 1: P \_\_\_\_\_ - Does the Bible Prescribe Corporate Prayer?

The majority of time prayer is mentioned in scripture, it is within the context of a personal activity between a believer and God. Jesus even said in **Matthew 6:6** to "go into your room and shut the door" when offering prayer to God. If this is the case, then what about praying within a gathering of the Lord's church? Is there a pattern in scripture to support this? While not an exhaustive list, let's consider three examples:

**Acts 1:12-14** - After the apostles had witnessed the ascension of Jesus, they came back to the upper room with the other disciples who were gathered there. In verse 14, it says that "All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer..."

**Acts 2:42** - After Peter's sermon on Pentecost where 3,000 were baptized, Luke tells us that those first Christians were dedicated to four things. The first three of these imply they were being done together: (1) "apostle's teaching" (2) "fellowship", and (3) "breaking of bread". If they were doing these three things together, it seems likely that the last one, "prayers", was also being done together.

**Acts 4:23-31** - After Peter and John were released by the Sanhedrin with instructions to never again speak in the name of Jesus, Luke says "they went to their friends", who we know were Christians. With these believers, "they lifted up their voices together to God..." and offered a prayer.

So, if there is precedent for praying within a church gathering, what should those prayers contain? How do we utilize our prayers in worship to God?



*"O Lord, be gracious to us;  
we have waited for You. Be  
their arm every morning,  
Our salvation also in the  
time of trouble."*

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OFTEN I WONDER, OFTEN I CRY  
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT FOR ME?  
WILL I KNOW BEFORE I DIE?  
SOMETIMES I THINK I'VE GOT IT  
SOMETIMES I THINK I'M THERE  
THEN I STOP AND THINK A MINUTE  
IS THIS WHO OR WHAT OR WHERE?  
ALL THE TIME, WHEN I FEEL SAD  
ALL THE TIME, WHEN I FEEL FEAR  
I TURN MY THOUGHTS TO YOU, OH GOD  
AND ASK, ARE WE DRAWING NEAR?  
NEVER DID I HAVE A DOUBT  
NEVER DID I LOSE ALL HOPES  
THAT WHAT THIS JOURNEY IS ALL ABOUT  
IS YOU'RE JUST TEACHING ME THE ROPES

## 2: P\_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 6:9-10)

In the Sermon on the Mount, just before offering up the model prayer, Jesus told the disciples to “Pray then like this...” (Matthew 6:9). If Jesus speaks directly on how to do something, we should definitely pay attention, even when praying within a church gathering. In this model prayer, he begins by offering praises to God with three phrases: (1) Hallowed be Your name (9) Your Kingdom come (10) Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven (10).

The early Christians also followed the same pattern with their prayers to God. Consider the example above in Acts 4:23-31. They began their prayer with “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them...” Why is this important?

1. He is Worthy! (Romans 11:33-36) / This is worship
2. As a Reminder to Us (Isaiah 40:27-28)

How do we cultivate a desire to praise God in prayer?

1. Study the Word of God (It is filled with reasons to praise Him)
2. Observe Creation (Ps 19:1-6; Rom 1:19-20)

## 3: P\_\_\_\_\_ - (Matthew 6:11-13)

After offering praise to God, Jesus then makes three requests: (1) Give us this day our daily bread, (2) Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors, and (3) Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

These three requests address both physical and spiritual needs. Why can we have the boldness to make petitions for our physical and spiritual needs of God in prayer? Because we have a great High Priest who is mediating on our behalf (Hebrews 4:14-16), and God’s Holy Spirit is making intercession for us with “groanings too deep for words” (Romans 8:26). Because of this, we can have confidence in making specific requests of God in prayer (1 Samuel 1:11), as long as we ask with the right motivation (James 4:2-3).

## PRAYER LIST

- **Judy Cook** is in Centennial Hospital with pneumonia and a heart condition
- We rejoice with **Kristine Garrett** as her lab results continue to look good
- **Mike Smith** is recovering from heart surgery
- Elizabeth’s grandmother **Carol Saling** has cancer
- **Bill Gillock** is still dealing with Parkinson’s and the effects of a stroke
- **Maria Hunter Harrington** has breast cancer
- **Forshia Pennington, Carolyn Pennington** and **Judy Grissom**, relatives of the Reeds, have breast cancer. **Vicki Reed** has been diagnosed with Myeloma as well
- **Donna Rawls Head** has cancer
- Continue to pray for: those in **Ukraine**; the **Brown** family, **Kim Waller, Delores Coleman**, the **Krantz** family, **John Hayes, Nick Phifer, Gaynell Walker, Rosemary Douglas, Isabel Johnson**, and **Jim Sims**

## SERVING TODAY (November 6, 2022)

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Read:** M. Reed  
**Prayer:** J. Walker

### WORSHIP

**Read:** M. Reed  
**Wait On Table:** J. Gupton  
**Serve:** C. Baker, D. Demonbreun  
**Prayer:** J. Baker (Walker, Mayo, Billingsley)