

So this week we are looking at Joel Beke's book. How can I cultivate Private prayer? And I kind of turned around how I wanted to go into this, a couple of times, I guess. The first question was A question as opposed to you?

Why should we pray? You need to call the mic closer to you any better. Sir, Very good. So why should we pray, Mr? Whitaker.

Yes, sir. What's the precisely? That's what I was hoping you would start with. So That of course, is should be good enough. Jesus said to do it, we do it. That ought to be the end of the conversation, but we do have those out there who look around. So okay.

Well that's all well and good. But what's the benefit to it? Why bother because if God's going to take care of us, We know he will. Why bothered actually engage with the act of praying, regardless fortunate Christ, and then breakable length between the human needs as people, and his infinite resources.

And in our unbelief, we're tempted to respond by saying that God would, or were should just give us whatever we need or want without any action on our part, but it's not God's will. Those should flow to us without our hearts being engaged. Notice a lot of the Psalms we We see a lot of things where there are human emotions being pulled out.

Sometimes human emotions that we might even shrink from things we don't want to admit. We feel, but at the end of the day, these are things we have to engage with because God has given us an example to engage with them. Could someone pull Romans 8:15 for me, whatever gets there first?

But If you receive adoption by whom we try out our problem. Thank you. So, God sends the Spirit of the hearts of his children, so that we cry out and prayer, to God, we're to cry out to God, or to cry out for God. And He is to be the greatest desire of his children.

The western shorter. Catechism, 98 says that prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God for things agreeable to His will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of His mercies in. John Bunyan said the prayers sincere sensible affection pouring out of the heart or soul to God through Christ and the strength and assistance of the Holy Spirit for such things as God has promised.

Or according to his word for the good of the church with submission and faith to the will of God. So, since this is the high priority, we're going to be looking at taking inventory of our prayer lives, taking hold of ourselves, and taking hold of God. So as far as taking inventory of our prayer life Greg Nichols points out the following here that a prayerless person is ungrateful because he does not thank

God self-righteous because he does not confess his sins to God self-centered because he does not ask God to bless other people presumptuous because he does not pray even for his daily needs irreverent because he does not praise God, nor pray for His kingdom to come, and finally unfriendly to God because his prayerlessness evidences that he is not enjoy being with God.

So, I don't think I'm in presumptuous and saying that I've been a room full of centers. So we all have some work to do on this one. So with that in place we're going to start with taking hold of God, I'm sorry. Taking hold of ourselves. The first thing there is, we need to remember the value of prayer, The prayers, essential for the well-being of our own souls.

It's essential for fulfilling or calling, and the family church, and the nation. And it's one of the most price-like activities, you can engage in. We see repeatedly in the Gospels. That Jesus said, what? We would consider a inordinate time to pray. We say that. And I say, in that fashion because I think most of this realize that praying for multiple hours on end, is exceptionally taxing for us and our weakness.

And yet if price was doing it, something that we should be striving toward. So also his appointed means of distributing the blessings of kingdom and the gifts of Christ to His people. We don't have the right to invent other means. So if this is the way in which God is going to provide for us, we can't say, well that's all well and good.

I'm gonna go about and do things my way without bothering to engage with God. And could someone give me James chapter 4, verses 2 and 3?

What's up? Like sports. Yes, desire. Do not have second murders, You cover it, it's not retained. So you fight before, not have because it's not asked, ask do not receive because you pass wrong, Spend it on Excellent. So On top of it, it goes on to say that and I think you've covered this.

That we asked me. Don't see, it's not an answered prayer. That's our greatest problem, which we often think it is. It's usually unoffered prayer, and usually, it's prayer. That's offered in poor manner. So William Carey made a comment here that and this is referring to how under answered prayer can actually strengthen our faith.

And I unanswered, really ought to have scare quotes because God I'm never leaves us hanged. But William Carey was working as a missionary in India for eight years before, getting the first convert to bapt, the baptized from Hinduism to Christ. So with those eight years, he then went on to say that a praying man can never be very miserable whatever.

His condition be for. He has the ear of God. It is a mercy to pray, even though I never received the mercy prayed for. So then looking at Matthew 7:7, who can give me that one past and shall be given you seeking ye shall find knock and shall be at the community.

Thank you, sir. Who usually God has a way of answering our prayer or giving us something even better. That is what we should have been asking for in the first place. See in Romans 8 that this wrestling question just think unanswered, very rich good. I was thinking about that too and I'm not convinced it is at the end of the day, the spirit intercedes for us.

So whatever we're praying for he is changing to what it want to be and all those prayers go answer. So I think realistically the issue is with our own hearts and perceptions rather than because unanswered you decide that well God didn't want to do that or he didn't want to help me or whatever.

And I think that God is with all our prayers. Yes, sir. Absolutely, I completely agree mr. Yes, sir. Yeah, a couple of things. First, The reason the price is lost Reason to pray, not just because God says so. But because it's an act of worship because it glorifies him, as the one who hears and the one who responds.

So the second place on the, the question about using the phrase on engine prayer, just maybe use the phrase unanswered requests because God himself is the answer of prayer. See that repeatedly in the Psalms where the psalmist is crying out to God and he is still in the middle of the situation of these crying out about.

And yet, he moves through faith to praise by the end of the Psalm. Because let him hold of God himself. At the point of prayer, not necessarily the specifics of how the request and that we worked out. So maybe unanswered requests if we really want to the ultra careful, careful with language because himself is the answer to prayer.

And there's not such steak is on into prayer because God what is and he hears the respond and he glorified by that. And that's the primary reason for pregnant. It's also why you really have to come down hard on your tapest relationship without this idea of praying the same.

It is an act of worship. It is not to be done to anyone but God because the primary purpose of prayer is worthless not obtained. Yes, sir. Thank you, sir. Could someone give me first Thessalonians 5:17 and while you're turning there. So we want to maintain the priority of prayer.

Part of that means we remember that prayer is always in season. We see an ecclesiastes chapter 3 that you know, variety of different seasons that can come up in life Mr. Oscar did I say a hand from you? You

haven't long as 57? Yes sir. Great without ceasing. So at that point, is there a season?

We ought not be praying in. Yes, sir. All right, the other thing and kind of get four down, volunteers to go to the gospel, me to see hands. I got two. Three Mr. Jordan. All right, Peter, if you'll go to Luke 5:16 Emily, if you go to mark 136 Luke, if you'll go to, Luke 6:12 and Mr.

Jordan, would you go to John 15:5 just have those cued up for me?

All right, so we're looking at the example of Jesus. We're seeing how he devoted himself to prayer Peter whenever you're ready. Five 16. Yes, sir. But Jesus himself would often slip away into wilderness and pray. Excellent. He also rose early to pray in solitude Emily. Whenever you're ready driving very early in the morning, while it was so dark.

Part of it went out of her. Best foot place and pray. Thank you. And he also prayed through the night. Luke Now, I came to pass in those days. They went out to the mountain to pray and continued all night in 30 minutes. Thanks sir. And finally, we can do nothing without him Mr.

Jordan. All right, combined more of the branches. The one who remains in me. And I and him this one bears much fruit For apart from me. You are not able to do. Excellent. Thank you. John Bunyan said we should pray often for prayers of shield to the soul as sacrifice to God, and a scourge to Satan.

So at that point, we have to ask the uncomfortable. Question? What's hindering us from praying, So, it might be distractions in our lives that are hindering prioritizing. Special times of prayer. There could also be, that praying is a high priority. We get into it, we sit down, we got our knees going to the prayer closet, whatever it may be, and then your mind starts to drift.

We're in the act of praying and then we start going off the left field about whatever's coming up.

So with that in play, I think the common temptation there is, we look at the difficulties when we look at all the different things. We, okay, This isn't going well. We don't like it. It's easy for us to get discouraged, we're not good at things. Got my own personal experiences restart doing something.

You think this should be much easier than it is. I'm not good at this. I don't like the feeling of not being good at this, so let me just stop and go away. The problem is, if you do that, you will never get better at anything. We have to push through those points and fight the If you'll forget the term, but the moralization issue.

So, the dullness may seem hard but refusing to pray at all is the fruit of presumption. Self-sufficiency and slowness between to be honest, in prayer, in order to speak with sincerity in prayer, need to pour out our heart to God and someone give me Isaiah 29:13. If you would,

Kind of please sir 29:13. Oh, wherefore. The Lord said before, as much as these people's role near me with his mouth, and with her lips to honor me again to move their heart far from me, their peer toward me as tall by the peace. Yes sir. So at that point he's criticizing that so the inverse ought to be true.

We should be drawing here to God with our hearts. Not just our lips, but actually be committing to them. So, looking at what sincere prayers are, we've got many forms of this, We've got long songs, like, Psalm 119. We've got things, a short as women. Jesus is parables for a los.

A tax collector says God. Be merciful to me a sinner and let's see. The other thing we want to be careful with when we're We're talking in. This is more, I think accurate, not accurate more relevant in corporate prayer, want to make sure that we are maintaining a net integrity in our relationships.

So, for example, if you're praying with your wife, she'll be able to say, amen at the end and not be tempted to call you a hypocrite. So something to keep in mind there and Thomas Brooks said that God looks not at the elegance of your prayers to see how many they are, Nora at the geometry of your prayers, to see how long they are, noria at the arithmetic of your prayers, to see how many they are, Noria at the music of your prayers, Norga, at the sweetness of your voice.

Nor you got it, the logic of your prayers. But at the sincerity of your prayers, how hearty they are. There is no prayer acknowledged. Approved accepted recorded or rewarded by God but that were in the heart is sincerely and holy the true mother would not have the child divided as God loves a broken, a country heart.

So he loathes a divided heart, right? So we've got a few things here as far as cultivating it. So we've got the kind of the problem established We want to make sure that we maintain a continual habit, so because Mr. Oscar read for us. We want to pray with that ceasing.

We want to continue steadfastly in prayer and continue earnestly in prayer. Something else to consider is to set a regular time to pray. So, rather than just kind of vowel. I'll do what I think about it. The intentional about it. More than the evening worship for really a solid place to start before.

Meals is good. The realistically, the most important things to pick a point your objective and they could have a priority for that time. Could someone give me Ephesians 6:18? I'm just whenever you have.

Sure.

All preservations for Here. Thank you. Suffocate all saints. Thank you, sir. So we want to be alert and ready to pray at a moment's notice. We also want to be organized. So I'm sure enough, the only person of the room who was promised to pray for someone and several days later has felt the conviction that that may not have happened to either at all or as frequently as it ought to have with everything going on.

So one of the things that you can do to combat that is to actually keep a list not so much that you can check the boxes but so that you can actually know what you have and haven't done being organized. I know the Strafil is a big proponent of keeping a notebooks around, Will I be correcting?

Assuming that part of that is to maintain prayer.

Mr. Phil, I'm sorry. That's okay, but that's okay. That's okay. Would I be correct in? Assuming that your booklet, partially helps you to track what you need to be praying about. I think making a note. Yes, sir. And you need to block not wounds to know Everyone noted a central place.

Even if you for stone map or on a paper thing that is pretty much always with. So But you know, we have an excellent list just that's comes in every worship publicly and comes every Wednesday night as well as part of that and it's constantly added to and updated.

So We actually have a list of pretty personal to. This congregation it's kept up with forests sir. That's an excellent resource, mr. Wrestler, The other thing I would suggest gets a little bit ahead in the book, but it says we're always be in a spirit of prayer. Yes, sir.

And so like if you talk to someone at work or whatever and they have something going on in their life where you say, I'll pray for you. I always try and say just pray right within and there, you know, or just trapped throughout the day if something the birds in your life, but that helps too to be in a continual season.

Very good. Thank you. All right, so next and I'm very grateful, this is not the first time, this top is coming up with this congregation, but we want to be using the Bible as our guide for prayer. So there's a line from the list of Westminster larger catechism 186.

This says the whole Word of God is of used to direct us in the duty of

prayer. So one thing we don't want to do and I hope this is temptation here but we don't want to listen to God by emptying our minds and then chasing whatever thoughts pop into our heart.

It's called mysticism. It's not something that we ought to be pursuing. We've been given a whole books. We want to spend time reading it and then praying God's thoughts back to him. Could someone give me John 15:7.

Sir. If you invited me and my word body, you ask, whatever you wish, and it will be done with you. Thank you. The scripture-led prayers will reflect the heart. Of God will be encouraged to pray for our physical needs and affliction to place emphasis upon God's spiritual kingdoms. Just in Lord's Prayer.

We see Paul's prayers for the church, reflect a heart captivated by love for holiness and the mindset on the glory of Christ. And he consistently prayed for the church to grow in wisdom. Love and hope and good works. Any other strong desire for the gospel to save. Sinners. So with that, we'll see biblical variety.

Start to take place in another benefit of using the Bible to inform your prayers. Is that it keeps your prayers from falling into a rut created by our own personality. One thing that will tend to gravitate toward is our own kind of inclinations of what we value. What we want to pursue is going to come up more often, our prayer life, just because of who we are as people, And that's not necessarily a bad thing from the standpoint of really wanting to make sure that one gets prioritized.

But often what happens is the others fault by the wayside So we might gravitate towards intercession but neglect Thanksgiving. We're my delayed praising God. But shy away from confessing our sins for every so often you may want to examine your prayers and make sure that you're accurately reflecting what God wants us to pray in Scripture rather than just kind of billing for it.

So, that's kind of looking at our weakness here. Next, we want to take hold of God, which is the only way we can pull this off. So, you know what's impossible to overcome prayerless inspire and strength?

Yeah, we'll do that. So in order to overcome that, we need to exercise faith in Christ so that we can pursue it. Could someone give me Hebrews chapter 10? 19 through 22.

Therefore brethren having boldness to enter the holiest by the blood of Jesus by a new and living way with a chief constipated for us through the veil. That is his flesh.

And having a high priest over the house of God, let us draw near the

true part of the full assurance of. I think our hearts sprinkled from the evil conscience that our bodies to wash pure water. So in order to actually pray properly, we need to be going through Christ and faith.

Second thing we want to be focusing on is pleading his promises and prayer. So Thomas Manton wrote that one good way to get comfort is to plead the promise of God in prayer to show him his handwriting, God is tender of his word. And then, John Trapp wrote, that promises must be prayed over.

God loves to be burdened with, and to be importuned or urgently pressed with requests in his own words to be sued upon his own bond Prayer, is putting God's promises into suit and it is no arrogancy nor presumption to burden God as it were with his promise. Such prayers will be near to the Lord night and day.

He kind of as little as denivens tonight, them as he can deny himself And finally William Gernel said that prayer is nothing but the promise reversed or God's Word, formed into an argument and reported by faith upon God. Again, So much for prayerlessness and prayers, do the thoughtlessness against God, and that's largely due to again, trying to do things in our own strength or probably more, the papist angle things thinking that God doesn't care.

So we need to come up with a way to manipulate him either by getting a saint to the interseed, our behalf, or something else of that nature because we don't actually trust that God is as loving. As he says he gets Ephesians 2:18. Says that for through Christ, we have access by one spirit under the Father.

So prayer is commanded by the Father. It's made acceptable by the Sun and shaped into desires and words by the spirit, sent back up into the sun through his intercession presents. It as an acceptable and well pleasing to his heavenly Father. But finally, we need to actually trust God, that He's going to answer the prayers that we have sent to him.

And unfortunately, our surprise in answered prayer or Perhaps answered requests might be the better phrase there It shows that we didn't believe God would actually do what we ask in the first place. That's something to keep in mind. If we don't trust the answers prayer then we're calling into question his fatherly love toward us and his love forest is greater than the love for our own families.

So we really have no just reason to doubt.

So next we want to seek God's glory and prayer. Could I get two volunteers for the gospels ma'am? If you would go. Matthew 6, chapter 6 verse 9, Nathan, would you give me John chapter 12, verse 28? Whatever. You're both ready? Yes! Ma'am. Pray. Then like this Our



Father in heaven hallowed be your name as we're praying for his name to be hallowed Nathan, whatever you ready.

So, there go

Have both glor. Excellent. So what's the priority in that particular verse? What does he concerned with? Very good. So next we want to develop a right heart towards God in prayer. Thomas Brooks said, that prayer is only lovely and weighty as the heart is in it and not otherwise It is not the lifting up the voice, nor the ringing of the hands, nor the beating of the breast, nor an affected tone or studied motions.

Nor high expressions. But the stirrings of the heart that God looks at in prayer. God hears no more than the heart. Speaks Prayers must be driven by attitudes formed by in us by the spirit of Christ. We'll have to skip these but we see a hard of faith towards God.

She repentance from sin fervent, holy desire, humility before God boldness in Christ, love and forgiveness. And finally thankfulness. And finally, we want to rest in contentment with God's all, sufficiency and prayer. Could someone give me Philippians 1:21?

For me, religious Christ is the day of the game, Very good. So, And could you also jump forward to chapter 4 and give us six through nine? I mean, anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with Thanksgiving with your request, you may know to God and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ.

Jesus, Finally, brethren whatever things are true. Whatever things are double, whatever things are, just whatever things are pure, whatever things are, lovely, whatever. Things are a good report if there be any virtue and if just anything crazy forces, meditate, on these things, that things which you have learned and received and heard, and saw in me these do and the God of peace will be with you.

So you'll notice the theme of peace throughout that, that really is one of the highest points of the Say a highest returns on our investment. If I can use the phrase at the end of the day, If God is giving to himself to us and we're engaging with him through prayer.

The peace is not just some emotional. Responsiveness is actually a deep intimate knowledge that God is, in fact, in charge of all sovereign overall. And that he is ours and we are His which ought to lead us to piece, just because there's nothing else that could possibly be a threat to us.

And could someone else give me Psalm 78 18 through 19

They tested God in their heart. By demanding the food, they crave, they spoke against God saying, can God spread a table in the wilderness. So we see covenants can make sinful demands of God. The contentment does not cause us to cease praying for deliverance, from evil, but rather it humbles us to remember that, God is always truly need.

So and conclusion prayer is not something that we are all just going to walk out over here and be excellent at This is a discipline that we have to work at One of the things that the gentleman who teaches me, martial arts is fond of repeating. Is that you need to slow down and focus on the technique and folks, on the discipline about the speed will come or in this case, the success.

But the efficacy like part. Thank you. The Liberty will come. Would you explaining liberty in this context, Liberty? And prayer, is that? Experience in prayer that the Spirit gives that is built up through familiarity and communion, with God, knowledge of his word. So that having his word shape, as you say, you are less and less concerned about whether you are saying, right, things, and more, and more submitting to what he has said.

But the big part of liberty is just liberty is feeling your spirit free and prayer before God who it's, it has an analog and preaching which some of you. And I ask you to pray for me in a preaching and I ask to you would pray that God would give me liberty on asking that it would be.

So controlled by the taxable, I don't really have to spend a ton of mental emotional energy worrying about saying it just right because it's these driven by the text. But really, it's and immediate act of the Holy Spirit upon the soul causing you to address God freely. That's behind that that, you know, Romans 8, employees and four, the spirit, making you to say Abba, Father is giving you liberty in your soul.

That comes from your knowledge. Thank you sir mr. Oscar.

Would that be completely submission to God's will? Would that be that submittedness to him? Definitely gives you liberty. It's one of the things it's very uses to give you better. Because now you're not wrestling against God or even so much wrestling against yourself. As you are letting hold of his goodness, his wisdom, his hearing you, and you can pour yourself out.

One of the greatest examples of liberty is one of the hardest prayers in the Bible. Jesus, in Gethsemane, right? Why is he free to pour out his soul and express his shrinking from the pup? That is in front of him. It's because of the level of submission that he has to his father and his certainty that what Paul are decides and does is best.

And so you know there's a lot of liberty in the nevertheless not my will but that can be done. But you actually see the expression of that liberties in this throwing himself on his face sweating like a great drops of blood and pouring out himself earnestly. We should all desire to be able to be so free before God that we may pour out.

Our souls unto him that way Because, you know, this times us all the way back prayer is an act of worship if it's done the stumping, stuntedly, whole thingly shrinkingly. It doesn't honor God as the hearer and answer of prayer, the way that being able to pour out yourself freely and offer yourself, holy and sincerely to him.

Does We don't just want to be to have liberty in prayer to feel good in our prayers. But because of the way it honors God in. So, the Aztec of the fact that prayer is working. Very good. Thank you. So delusion, if you don't have that, keep striving towards us, God will give it to you if you continue in faith.

Are there any questions, right? Seeing none may ask you to pray for sir gracious. Lord be Thank you that you have given us this time to scheduling perfectly study things about you and about your creation praying for about our prayers. That we would is our wartime and sharing that we would have our prayers.

That our prayers would be practice more. That we would have our prayers such that we could pray, like, our brother who is better, right? Hand learn from physics examples that we could pour ourselves into honoring, the glorifying in our prayers. And this is our desired and we pray with the work of your Holy Spirit.

That, that would be done that. Our prayers will be glorified, releasing great business.