

What Do You Think?

- Does God know everything?
- Does God know us well?
- Does God know us intimately?
- Does God know our circumstances?
- Does God know our needs, wants, desires?
- Then why do we pray?

WBC Vision Statement

*By the power of the Holy Spirit,
through new life in Christ and
communion with the Father,
Waxhaw Bible Church exists
to glorify God.*

WBC Core Values





Prayer demonstrates our complete dependence on God. Not a formula or form, it is constant communication with Him. Through prayer we seek His direction and strength to accomplish His will.

- “This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.” (1 John 5:14)
- Jesus “fell on His face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.” (Matt. 26:39)

*What In The World
Are We Praying For?*

Matt. 6:5-13

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- *What In The World Are We Praying For?*
 1. Orienting Our Thoughts
 2. Offering Our Requests

1. Orienting Our Thoughts

- For God, not for men (5)
 - No corporate prayer??? (6)
 - See Acts 4:23-31 (later)
- “do not use meaningless repetition” (7)
 - *Babbling* – simply repeating words, phrases, or rote prayers
 - I.e. – incantations (e.g. - 1 Kings 18:25-29)

1. Orienting Our Thoughts

- “Our Father who is in heaven”
 - Recognition/reminder of Who God is and our appropriate humility before Him
 - *Father*: personal; relational; caring; provider; authority
 - *In heaven*: spirit/non-physical; *other*; distinct; *holy*

1. Orienting Our Thoughts

- “Hallowed be Your name”
 - In the Jewish mindset, a person’s name represented all of who he is
 - *Hallowed*: recognized and treated as holy
 - *Revered and feared* (Mal. 1:6-14)
 - Honored as God (Rom. 1:18-23)
 - Cf. the first two commandments

1. Orienting Our Thoughts

- “Your kingdom come”
 - *Kingdom*: God’s rightful rule as Sovereign over all creation and mankind
 - Introduced by Jesus: “the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matt. 3:2)
 - Final consummation at the end of the age (cf. Rev. 11:15-18)

1. Orienting Our Thoughts

- “Your will be done”
 - Two aspects to God’s will:
 1. God’s moral demands on man (e.g. – 1 Thess. 4:1-3)
 2. God’s wise plan for human history (e.g. – Acts 2:23)
 - The goal! (cf. Matt. 26:39; 1 John 5:14)

1. Orienting Our Thoughts

- “Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven”
 - In our current situation, we must choose between our will and God’s will (Prov. 3:5-6; Romans 6)
 - In heaven, God’s will is not questioned or debated, but simply done

2. Offering Our Requests

- “Give us this day our daily bread”
 - Recognition of our dependence on God for daily sustenance
 - Very relevant for day laborers living ‘hand-to-mouth’
 - We must work, but it all comes from Him (cf. Deut. 8:16-18; 2 Thess. 3:6-13)

2. Offering Our Requests

- “And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors”
 - Recognition of *something owed*
 - Our *unforgiveness* of others shows we don't truly understand our own sin or God's forgiveness (Matt. 6:14-15; 18:21-35; cf. Eph. 4:32)

2. Offering Our Requests

- “And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil”
 - Recognition of our weakness and tendencies
 - God does not tempt us (James 1:13-14)
 - *Help us to stay away from those things that would tempt us to sin*

2. Offering Our Requests

- “[For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]”
 - However good it might seem, probably not original
 - However, see 1 Chron. 29:11

Summary

- *What Jesus teaches us about prayer:*
 1. Prayer should be intentional
 2. Prayer should be theological
 3. Prayer should be purposeful
 4. Prayer should be meaningful
 5. Prayer should be intelligible
 6. Prayer should be scriptural

2. Offering Our Requests

- For example: Acts 4:23-31
 - What was their main concern?
 - What did they *not* ask for?
 - Was their prayer answered?

2. Offering Our Requests

- For example: Acts 4:23-31
 - Was it intentional?
 - Was it theological?
 - Was it purposeful?
 - Was it meaningful?
 - Was it intelligible?
 - Was it scriptural?

2. Offering Our Requests

- For example: Col. 1:9-12
 - What was Paul's main request?
 - "we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding"
 - "so that..."

2. Offering Our Requests

- For example: Col. 1:9-12
 - Knowledge of His will affects:
 - Our conduct – “walk worthy”
 - Our purpose – “to please Him”
 - Our effectiveness – “bearing fruit”
 - Our means – “increasing in the knowledge of God” (cf. 2 Pet. 1:3)

2. Offering Our Requests

- For example: Luke 22:31-34
 - What was Jesus' request?
 - What did He *not* ask for?
 - What was God's will for Peter?

Summary

- Observations about prayer in the Bible:
 - Acknowledgement of God as God
 - Expressions of worship and gratitude
 - Meaningful, intelligible words
 - Submission to God's will
 - Presenting relevant requests to God

So What?

- Or, Why is this important?
 - There are many other forms of 'prayer' being promoted today
 - We need to evaluate them according to Scripture (*Bible Based*)

So What?

- If we are going to see God's power, we need to pray God's will
- God's will may not be in line with ours

We Exist to Glorify God