

# Rooted - Jan 31st - Best Prayer Ever - Troy Knight

## Key Scriptures:

Colossians 1:9-14  
Matthew 7:13-14  
Romans 1:21-22  
Psalms 145:2-3  
1 Timothy 2:3-4  
Matthew 11:27  
Job 26:14  
Jeremiah 9:23-24  
Psalm 73:25-26

## Start reading

### Colossians 1:9-14

**9** So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. **10** Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. **11** We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, **12** always thanking the Father.

He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. **13** For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, **14** who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

### 1 Timothy 2:3-4

**3** This is good and pleases God our Savior, **4** who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.

### Psalms 145:2-3

**2** I will praise you every day; yes, I will praise you forever. **3** Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise! No one can measure his greatness.

### Matthew 7:13-14

**13** "You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. **14** But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.

### Romans 1:21-22

**21** Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. **22** Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools.

## TALK IT OVER

### Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Look over the prayer requests from your small group for the last couple of weeks. What is the subject or the request in most of them? Do you ever pray that others would grow in their knowledge of God? Be strengthened in trials? Have joy and gratitude for God's blessings?

### Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- **Read Colossians 1:9-10.** How do we please the Lord and bear fruit? Paul closes verse 10 with an "all the while" statement. What should we be doing all the while? What does it mean to grow in our knowledge of God?
- Pastor Troy mentioned 2 mistakes people make in trying to know God. What are they? Have you ever been guilty of either? How?
- **Read 1 Timothy 2:3.** God wants you to find him and know him. How does that make you feel?
- **Read Psalms 145:2-3.** What does the Bible mean when it says God can't be measured? Does that threaten you or excite you? What eternal implications does that have?

### Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Can someone know about God and not know God? What's the difference between the two? Do you know God personally? How do you explain to someone that you've never met God face to face yet you know him personally?
- **1 Timothy 2:3** tells us that God wants us to find Him and know Him. What does that mean to you? How long will it take to know God? What is your plan for making it happen?
- Close your small group this week by asking God for 1 of these 3 things for each small group member: to know God and His will, to have strength for hardships, to have joy and gratitude for His blessings.

### Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- If you have a relationship with Jesus, consider how your prayer requests may have changed over time. Commit to spending some time with the Lord in the bible and in prayer. Ask Him to show you how best to honor Him, His power, and His truth in your prayers and then do it!

### Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- Lord, help me to know You and Your will for my life. Give me Your strength for the hardships that my way. Help me not to rely on my own strength and change my heart into a heart of joy and gratitude for the blessings you have given me. - Amen

### Start digging. For further study.

- Read the 2nd page and discuss it.

## Question: "What is the purpose of prayer?"

**Answer:** Prayer is an important part of the Christian life. It is the way we communicate with the Lord and praise Him. To understand the purpose of prayer, it is important to first understand what prayer is not. There are many wrong views in the world and culture about prayer, even among Christians, and these should be addressed first. Prayer is not

- bargaining with God.
- making demands of God.
- only asking God for things.
- a therapeutic, meditation-type exercise.
- bothering God and taking up His time.
- a way to control the Lord.
- a way to show off one's spirituality before others.

Many people believe that prayer is only about asking God for things. Although supplication is a part of prayer (Philippians 4:6), it is not the sole purpose of prayer. Praying for the needs of ourselves and others is needed and beneficial, but there is so much more to prayer. A. W. Tozer warned, "Prayer among evangelical Christians is always in danger of degenerating into a glorified 'gold rush'" (Mornings with Tozer: Daily Devotional Readings, compiled by Gerald Smith, Moody Publishers, 2008, entry for Feb. 26). But God is not a magical genie who answers our every wish, nor is He a weak God who can be controlled by our prayers.

The best way to learn about the purpose of prayer is studying the example of Jesus during His earthly ministry. Jesus prayed for Himself and for others, and He prayed to commune with the Father. John 17 is a great place to see Jesus' use of prayer. He not only prays that the Father be glorified but also prays for His disciples and "for those who will believe in me through their message" (John 17:20). Submitting to the Father's will was another aspect to Jesus' prayer life, highlighted in His prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane: "Yet not as I will, but as you will" (Matthew 26:39). With any request we have, we must submit to God's will.

In addition to interceding for others, prayer is also a way to strengthen our relationship with God. Jesus set the example, as He prayed to the Father throughout His earthly ministry (Luke 6:12; Matthew 14:23). Those in relationships will naturally seek to communicate with each other, and prayer is our communication with God. Other good examples in the Bible of those who spent time in prayer are David, Hezekiah, and Paul.

Ultimately, the main purpose of prayer is worship. When we pray to the Lord, recognizing Him for who He is and what He has done, it is an act of worship. There are many examples of prayer being an act of worship in the Bible, including 2 Kings 19:15, 1 Chronicles 17:20, Psalm 86:12–13, John 12:28, and Romans 11:33–36. How we pray should reflect this purpose; our focus should be on who God is, not on ourselves.

Interestingly, the model of prayer that Jesus gave the disciples in Matthew 6:9–13, known as the Lord's Prayer, has all these elements. The first part includes praise and worship of God (Matthew 6:9), and then the second part moves on to praying for God's will to be done (Matthew 6:10). After this, there is supplication for ourselves and others (Matthew 6:11–12), as well as asking for strength to deal with temptation (Matthew 6:13). Jesus modeled this prayer for His disciples, and it shows all the reasons for prayer with the central focus of worship.

Prayer is an important part of the Christian life, and one's prayer life should be developed. Not only does prayer affect our lives and the lives of others, but it is also a way to communicate with the Lord and grow in our relationship with Him. At the heart of prayer is an act of worship to the Lord. God's Word places an emphasis on the power and purpose of prayer, and, therefore, it should not be neglected.

Author Warren Wiersbe sums up the purpose of prayer well: "The immediate purpose of prayer is the accomplishing of God's will on earth; the ultimate purpose of prayer is the eternal glory of God" (from *On Earth as It Is in Heaven: How the Lord's Prayer Teaches Us to Pray More Effectively*, Baker Books, 2010, p. 78).