

# Pray Like Jesus

## Today's Message: "An Introduction to Prayer"

### Message Study Guide

#### Introduction

As Christians, we are to be imitators of Jesus Christ. The goal and desire of every Christian must be to be like Christ. One of the best ways to do this is to begin to imitate Him in your prayer life. Simply put, we must learn to pray like Jesus if we want to become like Jesus. It is obvious from reading the gospels that Jesus believed in prayer; He taught others to pray, He practiced prayer, He depended upon prayer, He prayed often, He prayed short prayers, He prayed long prayers, He prayed for His friends, He prayed for His enemies, and He prayed for children. If we truly desired to be like Him, we should read, study, and imitate His prayers.

To really start to understand prayer, we must first understand how God answers prayer. God always answers prayer in one of three ways:

1. Sometimes He says "Yes" to our prayers.
2. Sometimes He says "No" to our prayers.
3. Sometimes He says "Wait" to our prayers.

It is easy to have a strong prayer life and to be encouraged by prayer when God says "Yes" to our prayers, but what about when He says "No" to our prayers? How hard is it to respond to God by saying, "God, I truly believe you know what is best for my life. I am willing to rest completely in Your sovereignty and supremacy knowing that You are too good to do wrong, and too wise to make a mistake in my life".

In actuality, it may be more difficult for us when God says "Wait". No one likes to wait for anything. Even in prayer, most of the time, we demand an answer from God almost within minutes of the conclusion of our request.

#### Discussion Points

Jesus lived and prayed in a way that demonstrated that prayer involved both "communion" and "communication" with His Father on a daily basis. These two words imply that prayer includes talking to God and also listening to God.

#### Discussion Questions

1. How do you normally respond to God when you are certain that He has said "No" to your request?
2. What do you believe God is saying to you when He says "Wait" to your request?
3. What are the benefits of using Scripture when you pray?
4. What is the hardest thing for you to imitate in the prayer life of Christ?

#### Think About It

Since prayer includes "communion" and "communication", which one do you find more difficult; talking to God or Listening to God?

#### Do Something About It!

The greatest benefit of prayer is that it actually changes the hearts of men and women and brings our hearts into alignment with the heart of God. Prayer doesn't change God's will; it accomplishes God's will.

#### Be Willing To Change

"And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any: that your heavenly Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses" (Mark 11:25)