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# Foundations:

## Basic Christian Teachings

### Session 9: “Christian Living, Part 4”

#### Prayer and Worship

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#### Review from Session 7

- Is the Gospel good news or good advice?
- What is the Lutheran definition of “sacrament?”
- Is baptism something God does or something we do?
- What does God give along with the bread and wine in Holy Communion?

#### Today’s Session

Today’s session focuses on nurturing our life in Christ through prayer and worship

- Prayer
- Pastoral Ministry
- Worship

# PRAYER

## What Is Prayer?

1) Prayer is mystery, not \_\_\_\_\_.

- Through magic people seek to manipulate unseen powers in order to accomplish their own will.
- Through prayer God invites us to enter into the mystery of His power and grace to participate in accomplishing His will.

2) Prayer is the gift of \_\_\_\_\_ with God and letting Him minister to us and restore us.

**Luke 5:16** *“Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.”*

**Psalms 23** *“The Lord is my shepherd... He restores my soul.”*

3) Prayer is speaking \_\_\_\_\_ God. That means we talk then we \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matthew 6:7** *“And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.”*

**1 Thessalonians 5:17** *“Pray continuously...”*

- Is prayer a way to build a relationship or deliver a to-do list?
- Prayer can be a continuous conversation with God: speaking, listening, watching.
- In prayer God will give insights.

4) Prayer is purposefully putting your \_\_\_\_\_ into His hands:  
Your family, your health, your needs, your dreams, your difficulties, your desire to be useful to Him, your decisions...

**1 Peter 5:7** *“Cast all your anxieties on Him because He cares for you.”*

5) Through prayer we \_\_\_\_\_ on the behalf of other people, and sometimes, when we are empty, we let the Spirit intercede for us.

**2 Thessalonians 1:11** *“With this in mind, we constantly pray for you...”*

**Romans 8:26** *“...the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.”*

6) Prayer is purposefully \_\_\_\_\_ your plans with His.

**Jeremiah 29:11** *“I know the plans I have for you...”*

**Psalms 139:16** *“All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”*

7) Prayer is an \_\_\_\_\_ not a wrench.

**James 5:16** *“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”*

- We do not try to force God. We plug into God and become a conduit through which He brings His own power and effectiveness to bear on the people and situations for which we pray.
- Therefore be persistent. Persistence is not pestering. Persistence is staying plugged into the power and effectiveness of God!

8) The best way to grow in your prayer life is to\_\_\_\_\_.

### **What does the Bible say about prayer?**

**James 4:3** *“When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”*

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**1 John 5:14** *“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.”*

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**Mark 11:24** *“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”*

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**Matthew 6:5-8** *“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”*

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**Matthew 7:7-8** *“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.”*

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**Philippians 4:6-7** *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

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**James 1:6-7** *“When he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord.”*

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### How Should We Pray?

- With \_\_\_\_\_ in his promises

**James 1:6-7** *“When he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord.”*

- According to his \_\_\_\_\_

**Luke 22:42** *“Father, if You are willing, take this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done.”*

- In the name of \_\_\_\_\_

**John 16:23** *“I tell you the truth, My Father will give you whatever you ask in My name.”*

- We pray only to \_\_\_\_\_

- God answers prayer in his \_\_\_\_\_ at his \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Corinthians 12:8-9** *“Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”*

- God will only give you what you would have asked for if you knew everything He knows. (Tim Keller)

## The Model: The Lord's Prayer

- Given by our Lord
- When you pray, pray this way . . .
  - A \_\_\_\_\_ prayer
  - A \_\_\_\_\_ for prayer

<i>Our Father who art in heaven,</i>	
<i>hallowed be Thy name,</i>	<b>The Father's Name (character)</b>
<i>Thy kingdom come,</i>	<b>The Father's Kingdom</b>
<i>Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.</i>	<b>The Father's Will</b>
<i>Give us this day our daily bread;</i>	<b>The Father's Provisions</b>
<i>and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;</i>	<b>The Father's Forgiveness</b>
<i>and lead us not into temptation,</i>	<b>The Father's Guidance</b>
<i>but deliver us from evil.</i>	<b>The Father's Protection</b>

*For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen*

The best way to grow in prayer is to \_\_\_\_\_!

# Pastoral Ministry

## What is the role of the pastor?

- A pastor is called by the congregation to lead, to proclaim and teach the Word and to administer the Sacraments
- The pastor does not have special spiritual power. God's power comes through the Word, not the person.
  - 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 ***"This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. <sup>2</sup> Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful."***
  - Ephesians 4: 11-13 ***"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."***

# Worship

## Two Directions

In worship, we meet God. We receive His gifts and celebrate His grace.

There are two directions in worship:

- \_\_\_\_\_
  - Word
  - Sacrament
- \_\_\_\_\_
  - Confession
  - Prayer

- Praise
- Offering
- Life

## So What is Happening During Worship?

- Our worship services are not merely programs, a series of unrelated events and activities.
- There is a \_\_\_\_\_ to Lutheran Worship, a story in which God is the main actor and we play a supporting role
- God is \_\_\_\_\_ because He has \_\_\_\_\_ to be.

## The Worship Narrative

- **Gathering**
  - Invocation
  - Confession: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Absolution: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Word**
  - Scripture: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Sermon: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Creed: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Offering: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Sacrament**
  - Words of Institution: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Distribution: \_\_\_\_\_

- **Sending**
  - Blessing: \_\_\_\_\_

## **The Value of Narrative Worship**

- Delivers the \_\_\_\_\_
- Leads us to \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ our life in Christ

## **FOR FURTHER GROWING**

From “Luther’s Small Catechism”

- Prayer pp. 231-280 (Question 219-291)

## **SHARPENING MY SWORD**

Each week you will be given a verse of the Bible to put to memory. The Bible calls God’s Word “the sword of the Spirit” (Ephesians 6:17). We want you to have a big, sharp sword!

This week:

**Philippians 4:6-7** “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”