

Prayer

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(modified greatly from Richard L. Pratt, Jr., *Pray With Your Eyes Open*, 1987, Pres. & Ref.)

I. The Problem With Prayer

A. Our use of 'prayer'

1. Defined—A believer's communication toward God
 - a. Requires—God
 - b. Requires—believer
 - c. Requires—believer talking to God
2. If we use 'with,' it includes the areas of Bible Study

B. Areas of Prayer—four nouns (we could also list the uses of the related verbs, etc.)

1Ti 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; (KJV)

1. Supplications

a. Meaning

- i. Greek 1162. deesis, deh'-ay-sis; from Grk 1189; a petition:-prayer, request, supplication.
- ii. Emphasizes personal needs or desires

b. Uses—(17 verses)—LUK 1:13; 2:37; 5:33; At 1:14 (supplication); Rom 10:1; 2Co 1:11; 9:14; Eph 6:18; Phi 1:4, 19; 4:6; 1Ti 2:1; 5:5; 2Ti 1:3; Heb 5:7; Ja 5:16; 1Pt 3:12

2. Prayers

a. Meaning

- i. Greek 4335. proseuche, pros-yoo-khay'; from Grk 4336; prayer (worship); by impl. an oratory (chapel):-X pray earnestly, prayer.
- ii. Emphasizes worship

b. Uses (37 verses-never in John, even the verb is not used of Jesus in John)—Mat 17:21; 21:13; 22; Mk 9:29; 11:17; Lk 6:12; 19:46; 22:45; ACT 1:14; 2:42; 3:1; 6:4; 10:4, 31; 12:5; 16:13, 16; ROM 1:9; 12:12; 15:30; 1CO 7:5; EPH 1:16; 6:18; PHI 4:6; COL 4:2, 12; 1TH 1:2; 1TI 2:1; 5:5; PHM 1:4, 22; JAM 5:17; 1PE 3:7; 4:7; REV 5:8; 8:3-4

3. Intercessions

a. Meaning

- i. Greek 1783. enteuxis, ent'-yook-sis; from Grk 1793; an interview, i.e. (spec.) supplication:-intercession, prayer.
- ii. Praying for others

b. Noun only occurs twice—1Tim 2:1; 4:5

4. Giving of Thanks

a. Greek 2169. eucharistia, yoo-khar-is-tee'-ah; from Grk 2170; gratitude; act. grateful language (to God, as an act of worship):-thankfulness, (giving of) thanks (-giving).

b. Uses—15 times

i. Toward men—ACT 24:3

ii. Toward God —1CO 14:16; 2Co 4:15; 9:11-12; Eph 5:4; Phi 4:6; Col 2:7; 4:2; 1Th 3:9; 1Ti 2:11; 4:3-4; Rev 4:9; 7:12

C. God—the recipient of prayer

PSA 54:2 *Hear my prayer, O God; listen to the words of my mouth.*, NIV, italics added

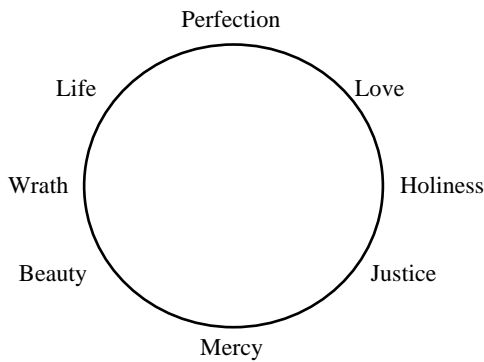
1. We must understand the nature and role of God in prayer—Ps 28:1; 18:1

2. God

- a. sustains us
- b. forgives our sin
- c. receives our prayer
- d. instructs us through the Word

3. God is the sovereign Lord of the universe

4. God's character is presented often in scripture and is important in prayer—Ps 28:1; 18:1



a. It is many faceted as to his character. Mr. Pratt pictures these attributes as an octagon. We have pictured it as an 'infinitely sided' circle.

i. Solitariness—Col 1:10

1. None like God—Ex 15:11
2. God needs nothing—Eph 1:11
 - a. Creation added nothing to God—Mal 3:6
 - b. Creation used for manifestive glory
 - i. None add to God—Rom 11:33-36
 - ii. Why elect?—Eph 1:5
 - iii. Obedience does not profit God—Lk 17:10
 - iv. Christ's goodness profitted man not God—Ps 16:2, 3
 - c. Nothing can even compare to God—Isa 40:15-18, 22, 23, 1Tim 6:16
 - d. God can't be found by searching—Job 26:14
 - i. Hence, we can't find Him—He must find us!
 - ii. We understand some about him from creation—Job 42:1-6
 - e. Only known spiritually—Jn 4:24; 1Cor 2:14
 - f. The Word—2Tim 3:16-17

ii. Some of many attributes that need study

Perfection	Justice
Love	Life
Holiness	Faithfulness
Beauty	Immutability
Absolute supremacy	Sovereignty
Omnipotence	Omnipresence
Ominiscience	Foreknowledge of certain ones—election
Wrath—Dt 32:39-41; Ps 7:11; Rom 1:18	Mercy—Ps 136:1; 103:17

iii. Calvary required because of this many faceted character

1. God's Love
 2. God's Holiness
 3. If God were love but was not holy, he could forgive without any sacrifice being made. Allah is fashioned this way. He forgives whom he will but requires no atonement for sin.
 4. If God were holy but not love, there would be no calvary for we would all be consigned to hell
- b. His character and, particularly His wisdom, is many faceted as to his dispensational workings—Eph 3:9-10. We will 'gallop' through the Greek using Strong's concordance and very few other references.

EPH 3:9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

EPH 3:10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

i. Fellowship

1. Received text—Greek 2842. koinonia, koy-nohn-ee'-ah; from Grk 2844; partnership, i.e. (lit.) participation, or (social) intercourse, or (pecuniary) benefaction:-(to) communicate (-ation), communion, (contri-) distribution, fellowship.
2. Better manuscripts—Greek 3622. oikonomia, oy-kon-om-ee'-ah; from Grk 3623; administration (of a household or estate); spec. a (religious) "economy":-dispensation, stewardship.
- ii. Mystery—Greek 3466. musterion, moos-tay'-ree-on; from a der. of muo (to shut the mouth); a secret or "mystery" (through the idea of silence imposed by initiation into religious rites):-mystery.
- iii. from the AGES—Greek 165. aion, ahee-ohn'; from the same as Grk 104; prop. an age; by extens. perpetuity (also past); by impl. the world; spec. (Jewish) a Messianic period (present or future):-age, course, eternal, (for) ever (-more), [n-]ever, (beginning of the, while the) world (began, without end). Comp. Grk 5550.
- iv. Hid—Greek 613. apokrupto, ap-ok-roop'-to; from Grk 575 and Grk 2928; to conceal away (i.e. fully); fig. to keep secret:-hide.
- v. God—Greek 2316. theos, theh'-os; of uncert. affin.; a deity, espec. (with Grk 3588) the supreme Divinity; fig. a magistrate; by Heb. very:-X exceeding, God, god [-ly, -ward].
- vi. Creator—Greek 2936. ktizo, ktid'-zo; prob. akin to Grk 2932 (through the idea of the proprietorship of the manufacturer); to fabricate, i.e. found (form originally):-create, Creator, make.
- vii. Intent—Greek 2443. hina, hin'-ah; prob. from the same as the former part of Grk 1438 (through the demonstrative idea; comp. Grk 3588); in order that (denoting the purpose or the result):-albeit, because, to the intent (that), lest, so as, (so) that, (for) to. Comp. Grk 3363.
- viii. Now—Greek 3568. nun, noon; a prim. particle of present time; "now" (as adv. of date, a transition or emphasis); also as noun or adj. present or immediate:-henceforth, + hereafter, of late, soon, present, this (time). See also Grk 3569, Grk 3570.
- ix. Make known—Greek 1107. gnorizo, gno-rid'-zo; from a der. of Grk 1097; to make known; subj. to know:-certify, declare, make known, give to understand, do to wit, wot.
- x. Principalities—Greek 746. arche, ar-khay'; from Grk 756; (prop. abstr.) a commencement, or (concr.) chief (in various applications of order, time, place or rank):-beginning, corner, (at the, the) first (estate), magistrate, power, principality, principle, rule.
- xi. Powers—Greek 1849. exousia, ex-oo-see'-ah; from Grk 1832 (in the sense of ability); privilege, i.e. (subj.) force, capacity, competency, freedom, or (obj.) mastery (concr. magistrate, superhuman, potentate, token of control), delegated influence:-authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength.
- xii. Through—Greek 1223. dia, dee-ah'; a prim. prep. denoting the channel of an act; through (in very wide applications, local, causal or occasional):-after, always, among, at, to avoid, because of (that), briefly, by, for (cause)...fore, from, in, by occasion of, of, by reason of, for sake, that, thereby, therefore, X though, through (-out), to, wherefore, with (-in). In composition it retains the same general import.
- xiii. Church—Greek 1577. ekklesia, ek-klay-see'-ah; from a comp. of Grk 1537 and a der. of Grk 2564; a calling out, i.e. (concr.) a popular meeting, espec. a religious congregation (Jewish synagogue, or Chr. community of members on earth or saints in heaven or both):-assembly, church.
- xiv. Manifold—Greek 4182. polupoikilos, pol-oo-poy'-kil-os; from Grk 4183 and Grk 4164; much variegated, i.e. multifarious:-manifold.
- xv. Wisdom—Greek 4678. sophia, sof-ee'-ah; from Grk 4680; wisdom (higher or lower, worldly or spiritual):-wisdom.

D. The believer—the immediate source of prayer

PSA 54:2 Hear *my* prayer, O God; listen to the words of *my mouth.*, NIV, italics added

1. The Holy Spirit has a very important and usually under-estimated part in our prayer
 - a. His intercession—Rom 8:26
 - b. Prayer with the Spirit and understanding—1Cor 14:15
2. Nevertheless, **we pray**—we are expressing ourselves to the Lord
 - a. Praise—Ps 146:1
 - b. Our desires (provided they are consistent with the scriptures)—Ps 38:9-10
 - c. Such requires sincerity and not mere repetition

E. Communication—the means of prayer

PSA 54:2 Hear *my prayer*, O God; listen to *the words* of *my mouth.*, NIV, italics added

1. Again, recall when words are inadequate or our desires inappropriate, we have Rom 8:26-27

2. We should not pray by formula or repetition. The Psalms give many examples of prayers—Ps 136:1; 90:7; 43:4; 77:7
3. We need a variety in our speech to the Lord as we have variety in our conversations with close friends. We don't shut our friends out of our lives and we don't shut God out of our lives.

F. Review Questions

1. What is Prayer?
 - a. What are some areas of prayer?
 - b. What are essentials in prayer?
2. Why do we say that God is the recipient of prayer?
 - a. How does our understanding of God's interest in our prayer influence our prayer?
 - b. How does our theology (understanding of God) influence prayer?
 - i. As to His nature—
 - ii. As to His work and dealings—
3. What is our (the believer's) role in prayer? What should be our focus on ourselves?
4. What thoughts do you have about the words used to communicate prayer?

G. Homework

1. Carefully read Psalm 56:1-13
 1. List the ways the psalmist thinks about God.
 2. Note the ways the psalmist shows awareness of himself.
 3. List the ways this prayer differs from our 'usual' prayers.
2. Many believers over the years have developed their attitudes toward prayer and the way they prayed by writing down prayers. Using the following form (if possible), write a prayer in which you promise to focusing attention on God and other aspects of prayer. Is it appropriate to read this to the Lord? If so, do it!

O Lord, as we begin this study of prayer, we seek Your grace. Help us to focus our hearts on You because _____ (reason for this request) Help us to look carefully at ourselves because _____ (reason for this request) Also, help us to give attention to what we say because _____ (reason for this request) As you bless this endeavor, we will _____ (promise)

3. Other assignments:
 - a. Write down short prayers you might use to thank the Lord for a meal.
 - b. In prayer as well as in Bible study, as yourself, "How am I deepening my awareness of God?"

II. Looking at God

A. The Servant's Gaze

1. Introduction
 - a. We can look at God in a variety of ways
 - i. Love
 - ii. Awe and reverence
 - iii. Praise
 - iv. Thanksgiving
 - b. Fundamental to all is the awareness that we are His servants
2. Our complete dependence on God
 - a. He is the ONLY ONE who is independent.
 - i. The whole world is in rebellion on this point
 - ii. This is the foundation of the creation-evolution controversy
 - b. Psalmist talks of God as creator in Psalm 104
 - i. The construction of the universe—Ps 104:2-5
 - ii. All creatures are dependent on God—Ps 104:27-29
 - iii. It is only by God's active involvement in the universe that it continues to exist—Col 1:17
 - c. The attitude of a slave should be ours—Ps 123:2
 - i. The servant owed his sustenance to the master
 - ii. We must, "see ourselves as needy servants."
 - d. The need to take time to pray—1Th 5:17
 - i. God can take our best efforts and turn them to dust
 - ii. Satan wants to ruin us
 - iii. Only God can bring any blessing at all into our lives
 - e. We must view prayer as a necessity, an essential and not just a duty.
 - i. Forgiveness of sin
 - ii. Intercession

- iii. Expressing our utter dependence on God
- 3. The intensity of this Gaze
 - a. The primary focus in prayer must be on God—comp. Ps 123:1-4
 - b. Often, the primary focus is on ourselves, not the Lord
 - c. We must focus on the Lord, since He is the only one who can ‘straighten’ out our lives
- 4. How we address the Lord
 - a. Often common ways of addressing another (e.g. family members) lose their meaning over time.
 - b. The Bible addresses God in a variety of ways. This is the list in an appendix of Pratt’s book. (further studies might show that some of these titles belong to a different member of the trinity)
 - i. God the Father (some might refer to the trinity)
 - 1) Abba Father—Mk 14:36; Rom 8:15; Gal 4:6
 - 2) Ancient of Days—Dan 7:9, 13, 22
 - 3) Creator—Isa 27:11; 40:28
 - 4) Creator of Israel—Isa 43:15
 - 5) Father—Lk 11:2
 - 6) Father-Creator—Mal 2:10
 - 7) Father of Compassion—2Co 1:3
 - 8) Father of Glory (NASB)—Eph 1:17
 - 9) Father of Lights (NASB)—Ja 1:17
 - 10) Father of Our spirits—Heb 12:9
 - 11) God—Gen 1-2:3 (“Elohim”)
 - 12) God Almighty—Gen 17:1-2; 48:3-4; 49:25; Ps 91:1
 - 13) God Most High—Gen 14:18-22; Ps 78:56; Dan 4:25; Num 24:16; At 7:48
 - 14) God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—Ex 3:6, 16
 - 15) God of Heaven and Earth—Ezra 1:2; 5:11; Neh 1:4; Rev 11:13
 - 16) God of Hope—Rom 15:13
 - 17) God of Israel—Gen 33:20
 - 18) God of Justice—Mal 2:17
 - 19) God of Peace—Heb 13:20
 - 20) God Our Father—Eph 1:2
 - 21) God the Father—2Tim 1:2; 2Pt 1:17
 - 22) Holy Father—Jn 17:11
 - 23) Holy One—Isa 43:15; Hab 3:3
 - 24) Jealous—Ex 20:5; 34:14; Dt 4:24
 - 25) Judge of Earth—Gen 18:25; Ps 94:2
 - 26) King—Ps 10:16; 74:12; 84:3; Isa 43:15
 - 27) King of Glory—Ps 24:7-10
 - 28) King of Heaven—Dan 4:37
 - 29) King of the Ages—Rev 15:3
 - 30) King of the Nations—Jer 10:6-7
 - 31) Living God—Dan 6:20, 26; Mt 16:16; Ro 9:26
 - 32) Lord of All the Earth—Josh 3:11, 13; Mic 4:13; Zech 6:5
 - 33) Lord of Lords—Dt 10:17
 - 34) Lord Our Righteousness—Jer 23:5-6; 33:16
 - 35) Lord, the God of the Hebrews—Ex 7:16
 - 36) Our Father—Matt 6:9
 - 37) Redeemer—Job 19:25; Isa 47:4
 - 38) Righteous Father—Jn 17:25
 - 39) Rock—Dt 32:4, 15; Ps 18:2
 - 40) Rock of Israel—Gen 49:24
 - 41) Savior—Hos 13:4
 - 42) The Faithful God—Dt 7:9; 32:4
 - 43) The Father—1Jn 1:2; 3:1; 4:14
 - 44) The First and the Last—Isa 48:12
 - 45) The God of All COMfort—2Co 1:3
 - 46) The God of Daniel—Dan 6:26
 - 47) The God of Gods—Dt 10:17
 - 48) The God of the Armies of Israel—1 Sam 17:45
 - 49) The God Who Sees—Gen 16:13

- 50) The Great and Awesome God—Neh 1:5
 - 51) The Lord is My Banner—Ex 17:15
 - 52) The Lord is Peace—Judges 6:24
 - 53) The Lord is There—Ezek 48:35
 - 54) The Lord my God—Josh 14:8; Ezra 7:28; Ps 7:1; 18:28; 30:2; Zech 14:5
 - 55) The Lord my Shepherd—Gen 48:15; 49:24; Ps 23
 - 56) The Lord of Hosts (NASB)—1Sam 1:3; 4:4; 17:45; Isa 6:3; 47:4; Hag 2:4, 6
 - 57) The Lord our God—Dt 1:6, 19, 20; 2:29, 33; 3:3; 4:7; 6:4
 - 58) The Lord our Maker—Ps 95:6
 - 59) The Lord Who Heals—Ex 15:26
 - 60) The Lord Who Sanctifies (NASB)—Ex 31:13; Lv 20:7-8; 21:8, 15, 23
 - 61) The Lord Will Provide—Gen 22:14
 - 62) The Mighty One of Jacob—Gen 49:24
 - 63) Yahweh (Jehovah, LORD)—Gen 4:26; Ex 6:2-3; Num 14:18; Ps 106:25
 - 64) Your Father—Matt 5:16; Jn 20:17
- ii. God the Son
- 1) Advocate (NASB, KJV)—1Jn 2:1-2
 - 2) Alpha and Omega—Rev 1:8; 22:13
 - 3) Apostle and High Priest—Heb 3:1
 - 4) Author and Perfector—Heb 12:2
 - 5) Author of Salvation—Heb 2:10
 - 6) Blessed and Only Ruler—1Tim 6:15
 - 7) Branch from Jesse—Isa 11:1
 - 8) Bread of God—Jn 6:33
 - 9) Bread of Life—Jn 6:35
 - 10) Bridegroom—Matt 25:1-10; Mk 2:19-20; Jn 3:29
 - 11) Chosen of God—Lk 23:35; 1Pt 2:4
 - 12) Chosen One—Isa 42:1; Lk 23:35
 - 13) Christ Jesus our Lord—2Ti 1:2
 - 14) Christ of God—Lk 9:20; 23:35
 - 15) Christ the Lord—Lk 2:11
 - 16) Christ, the Power of God and the Wisdom of God—1Co 1:24
 - 17) Consolation of Israel—Lk 2:25
 - 18) Cornerstone—Isa 28:16; 1Pt 2:6
 - 19) Deliverer—Rom 11:26
 - 20) Desired of all the nations—Hag 2:7
 - 21) Everlasting Father—Isa 9:6
 - 22) Faithful and True—Rev 19:11;
 - 23) Faithful and True Witness—Rev 3:14
 - 24) First Born—Heb 1:6
 - 25) First Born from the Dead—Col 1:18; Rev 1:5
 - 26) Firstborn among many brothers—Rom 8:29
 - 27) Firstborn over all creation—Col 1:15
 - 28) Forerunner (NASB)—Heb 6:20
 - 29) Foundation—1Co 3:11
 - 30) Fountain—Zech 13:1
 - 31) Friend—Mt 11:19
 - 32) Gate—Jn 10:7-9
 - 33) Gift of God—Jn 4:10
 - 34) Glory of Israel—Lk 2:32
 - 35) Good Shepherd—Jn 10:11, 14
 - 36) Head of the Church—Eph 5:23; Col 1:18-20
 - 37) Heir of all things—Heb 1:2
 - 38) High Priest—Heb 3:1; 4:14; 7:26-27
 - 39) Holy One—At 2:27
 - 40) Holy One of God—Mk 1:24; Lk 4:34; Jn 6:69
 - 41) Hope of Glory—Col 1:27
 - 42) Horn of Salvation—Lk 1:69
 - 43) The I Am—Jn 8:58

- 44) Immanuel—Mt 1:23; Isa 7:14
- 45) Jesus—Mt 1:21; At 9:5; Heb 2:9
- 46) Jesus Christ—Mt 1:1
- 47) Jesus of Nazareth—Mk 1:24; Jn 18:5, 7; 19:19
- 48) Judge—At 10:42
- 49) King—Lk 19:38
- 50) King of Kings—1Tim 6:15; Rev 19:16
- 51) Lamb—Rev 5:6
- 52) Lamb of God—Jn 1:36
- 53) Light of the Gentiles—Lk 2:32
- 54) Light of the World—Jn 8:12; 9:5
- 55) Lion of the tribe of Judah—Rev 5:5
- 56) Living Stone—1Pt 2:4
- 57) Lord—Mt 22:43-44; Mk 1:3; Lk 7:13; Ro 10:9; Phil 2:11
- 58) Lord and Savior Jesus Christ—2Pt 1:11; 2:20; 3:18
- 59) Lord of Glory—1Co 2:8
- 60) Lord of Lords—1Tim 6:15
- 61) Lord of the dead and living—Rom 14:9
- 62) Lord of the sabbath—Mt 12:8; Mk 2:28
- 63) Master—Mt 23:8
- 64) Mediator—1Tim 2:5; Hebb 12:24
- 65) Messiah—Jn 1:41; 4:25
- 66) Mighty God—Is 9:6
- 67) One and only—Jn 1:14, 18, 3:16
- 68) Our Holiness—1Cor 1:30
- 69) Our Passover—1Co 5:7
- 70) Our Redemption—1Cor 1:30
- 71) Our righteousness—Jer 23:6; 1Cor 1:30
- 72) Physician—Lk 4:23
- 73) Prince—At 5:31
- 74) Prince of Life—At 3:15
- 75) Prince of Peace—Isa 9:6
- 76) Rabbi—Mk 10:51; Jn 1:38, 49
- 77) Rabboni—Jn 20:16
- 78) Radiance of God's Glory—Heb 1:3
- 79) Redeemer—Isa 44:24; Gal 4:5
- 80) Righteous Branch—Jer 23:5
- 81) Righteous Judge—2Tim 4:8
- 82) Righteous One—At 7:52; 1Jn 2:1
- 83) Righteous Servant—Isa 53:11
- 84) Rising Sun—Lk 1:78
- 85) Rock—1Co 10:4
- 86) Root and Offspring of David—Rev 22:16
- 87) Root of David—Rev 5:5
- 88) Ruler—Mic 5:2; Mat 2:6
- 89) Ruler of God's Creation—Rev 3:14
- 90) Savior—Lk 2:11; At 5:31; 1Tim 2:3; Tit 3:6
- 91) Second Man—1Co 15:47
- 92) Servant—Isa 52:13-15; Phil 2:7
- 93) Shepherd and Overseer—1Pt 2:25
- 94) Son—Col 1:13; Heb 3:6
- 95) Son of Abraham—Mt 1:1
- 96) Son of God—Mt 8:29; 14:33; Jn 10:36
- 97) Son of Man—Mt 8:20; Mk 2:10; Jn 1:51; 3:13
- 98) Son of the Blessed One—Mk 14:61
- 99) Son of the Father—2Jn 3
- 100) Son of the Living God—Mt 16:16
- 101) Son of the Most High God—Mk 5:7; Lk 8:28
- 102) Stone—Mt 21:42; 1Pt 2:8

- 103) Sure Foundation—Isa 28:16
 - 104) Teacher—Jn 13:14
 - 105) The Almighty—Rev 1:8; 15:3
 - 106) The Amen—Rev 3:14
 - 107) The Beginning—Col 1:18
 - 108) The Branch of the Lord—Isa 4:2
 - 109) The Christ—Jn 7:41; At 2:36
 - 110) The Last Adam—1Cor 15:45
 - 111) The Life—Jn 11:25; 14:6
 - 112) The Morning Star—2Pt 1:19; Rev 22:16
 - 113) The Prophet—Jn 7:40
 - 114) The Resurrection—Jn 11:25
 - 115) True God—1Jn 5:20
 - 116) True Light—Jn 1:9
 - 117) True Vine—Jn 15:1
 - 118) Truth—Jn 14:6
 - 119) Way—Jn 14:6
 - 120) Wisdom—1Cor 1:30
 - 121) Wonderful Counselor—Isa 9:6; see also Isa 28:29
 - 122) Word—Jn 1:1, 14
 - 123) Word of God—Rev 19:13
- iii. God the Holy Spirit
- 1) Breath of the Almighty—Job 32:8; 33:4
 - 2) Counselor—Jn 14:16
 - 3) Deposit—Eph 1:13-14
 - 4) Eternal Spirit—Heb 9:14
 - 5) God—At 5:3-4
 - 6) God's Seed—1Jn 3:9
 - 7) Good Spirit—Neh 9:20
 - 8) Helper (NASB)—Jn 14:16, 26; 15:26; Rom 8:26
 - 9) His Holy Spirit—1TH 4:8
 - 10) His Spirit—Ps 106:33; Eph 3:16; 1Jn 4:13
 - 11) Holy Spirit—Mt 1:18; Mk 12:36; Jn 1:33; At 4:8; Rom 15:16
 - 12) Holy Spirit of God—Eph 4:30
 - 13) Living Water—Jn 7:38-39
 - 14) Lord—2Cor 3:17-18
 - 15) Power of the Most High—Lk 1:35
 - 16) Promise of the Father—At 1:4; 2:33
 - 17) Seal—Eph 4:30
 - 18) Seven Spirits—Rev 1:4-5; 4:5; 5:6
 - 19) Spirit—Num 11:17, 25, 26
 - 20) Spirit He Gave us—1Jn 3:24
 - 21) Spirit of Christ—Rom 8:9; 1Pt 1:11
 - 22) Spirit of Counsel—Isa 11:2
 - 23) Spirit of Faith—1Cor 12:9; 2Cor 4:13
 - 24) Spirit of Fire—Isa 4:4
 - 25) Spirit of Glory—1Pt 4:14
 - 26) Spirit of God—Gen 1:2; Job 33:4; Mt 3:16; 12:28
 - 27) Spirit of Grace and Supplication—Zech 12:10
 - 28) Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from the dead—Rom 8:11
 - 29) Spirit of His Son—Gal 4:6
 - 30) Spirit of Holiness—Rom 1:4
 - 31) Spirit of Jesus—At 16:7
 - 32) Spirit of Jesus Christ—Phil 1:19
 - 33) Spirit of Judgment—Isa 4:4
 - 34) Spirit of Knowledge—Isa 11:2
 - 35) Spirit of Life—Rom 8:2
 - 36) Spirit of Our God—1Co 6:11
 - 37) Spirit of Power—Isa 11:2

- 38) Spirit of Promise—Eph 1:13
- 39) Spirit of Sonship—Rom 8:15
- 40) Spirit of the Fear of the Lord—Isa 11:2
- 41) Spirit of the Living God—2Co 3:3
- 42) Spirit of the Lord—Isa 11:2; Lk 4:18; At 8:39; 2Co 3:17
- 43) Spirit of the Lord God—Isa 61:1
- 44) Spirit of Truth—Jn 14:17; 15:26; 16:13
- 45) Spirit of Understanding—Isa 11:2
- 46) Spirit of Wisdom—Isa 11:2
- 47) Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation (NASB)—Eph 1:17
- 48) Spirit of your Father—Mt 10:20
- 49) Spirit Who intercedes for us—Rom 8:26-27
- 50) Spirit Who is from God—1Co 2:12
- 51) Spirit Who searches all things—1Cor 2:10
- 52) Your (God's) Holy Spirit—Ps 51:1

- c. We must keep our prayer meaningful.
 - i. Differing titles for the Lord focus on Him and, for some, make this more meaningful.
 - ii. Each title forces an awareness of some facet in God and his dealings.
 - iii. Psalms—often a title that is related directly to the intent of the prayer
 - 1) God our Savior—Ps 85:4
 - 2) Our Dwelling Place—Ps 90:1
 - 3) Judge of the Earth—Ps 94:2

5. Review Questions

- a. How much do we depend on the Lord?
- b. How is this concept basic to prayer?
- c. Why should prayer include an intense contemplation of God?
- d. How do Christians often give very little attention to God when they pray?
- e. What are some of the ways in which the Bible addresses God?

6. Exercises

- a. List four areas in your life in which you find it easy to forget your dependence on God?
- b. Match the following addresses of God with an appropriate request and give reasons

<u>Address</u>	<u>Request</u>
Light of the World	let us take refuge in You
Fountain of Wisdom	mold us into the image of Christ
Lord of Heavenly Armies	keep us hidden from harm
Master Potter	assist us in this task
Safe Hiding Place	strike down our enemies
Helper	bring an end to war
Rock and Fortress	break forth into our darkness
Bread of Life	give us the abilities we need
Prince of Peace	grant us insight
Giver of Gifts	fill our hungry souls
Almighty Sovereign	display Your power

- c. Write a six-to-eight sentence prayer in which you tell God several ways you need Him.
- d. Take the time this week to pray at least three times without asking for anything. Instead, use the time of prayer only to reflect carefully on your need for some of the qualities of God (called communicable attributes).

B. God's Character

1. Attributes of God (from an appendix in Pratt)

- a. Incommunicable Attributes—belong to God alone and cannot be given to a creature

<u>Attribute</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
Independent (Self-existent)	"...he does whatever pleases him" Ps 115:3; comp. Jn 5:26; Rom 11:35-36
Infinite	"...from everlasting to everlasting..." Ps 90:1-2; comp. Ps 33:11; 93:2; 145:13; Heb 1:8-12

Eternal	"...the LORD, the Eternal God" Gen 21:33; comp. Neh 9:5-6; Jn 8:58; Rev 1:8
Incomprehensible	"...beyond our understanding" Job 36:26; comp. Isa 40:18-26; Matt 11:27; Rom 11:33-34
Supreme (Pre-eminent)	"...all things were created by him and for him ..." Col 1:15-19; comp. Ex 15:1, 11, 18; Rev 19:11-16
Sovereign	"I will do all that I please ..." Isa 46:10; comp. Ps 135:6; Dan 4:35; Ep 1:11
Transcendent	"... beyond our reach ..." Job 37:23; comp. Ex 33:20-23; Ps 104:1-4; Isa 40:21-26; 1Tim 6:15-16
The One and Only	"... there is but one God ..." 1Cor 8:6; Deut 6:4; Isa 45:21-22; 1Tim 2:5
Majestic	"In the greatness of your majesty ..." Ex 15:7; comp. 15:6, 11; Job 37:22; Ps 8:1, 9; Jude 25
Omnipresent (Present Everywhere)	"Do not I fill heaven and earth?" Jer 23: 23-24; comp. 2Chr 2:6; Ps 139:7-16; At 17:27-28
Omniscient (All-Knowing)	"... you alone know the hearts of all men ..." 1Ki 8:39; comp. Ps 139:1-6; Prov 3:19-20; 1Co 2:10
Omnipotent (All-Powerful)	"Is anything too hard for the LORD?" Gen 18: 14; comp. 1Sam 2:6-7; Ps 18:13-15; Rev 19:6
Immutable (Unchanging)	"... you remain the same ..." Ps 102:27; comp. Mal 3:6; James 1:17; Heb 13:8

b. Communicable Attributes—qualities that belong to God but can be reflected in us through the work of the Holy Spirit

<u>Attribute</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
Holiness	"Your ways, O God, are holy" Ps 77:13; comp. Isa 6:3; 57:15; 1Pt 1:15-16; Rev 4:8
Wisdom	"... magnificent in wisdom" Isa 28:29; comp. Jer 10:12; 1Cor 1:30; Col 2:2-3
Truthfulness	"... God is truthful" Jn 3:33; comp. Num 23:19; Isa 45:19; Jn 14:6
Love	"... his unfailing love ..." Ps 35:5, 18, 22; comp. Ex 15:13; 89:2; Rom 8:38-39; Eph 3:17-19; 5:1-2
Goodness	"He is good" 2Chr 7:3; comp. Gen 1:31; Ps 119:68; 145:9; Mk 10:18
Faithfulness	"... he is the faithful God ..." Dt 7:9; comp. Ps 33:4; 100:5; 1Cor 1:9; 1Thes 5:24
Mercy	"... his mercy is great ..." 2Sam 24:14; Neh 9:31; Dan 9:9; Lk 1:50, 54
Kindness	"... he shows unfailing kindness ..." 2Sam 22:51; comp. Isa 54:8; Jer 9:24; Rom 11:22
Patience	"... his unlimited patience ..." 1Tim 1:16; comp. Neh 9:30; Rom 3:25; 2Pt 3:15
Justice	"... all his ways are just ..." Dt 32:4; comp. Job 37:23; Ps 99:4; Lk 18:7-8
Righteousness	"... my righteousness will never fail" Isa 51:6; comp. Ps 89:14; Jer 23:5-6; 1Cor 1:30
Wrath	"... expresses his wrath every day" Ps 7:11; comp. Dt 29:28; Isa 13:13; Rom 1:18; 5:9; 9:22; Rev 19:15

Jealousy	“... a jealous God” Ex 34:14; comp. Dt 4:24; Nah 1:2; Zech 8:2; 2Cor 11:2
Grace	“... God, gracious and compassionate ...” Neh 9:17; comp. Ex 34:6-7; Isa 26:10; 2Tim 1:9; Tit 3:5-7

2. Contemplating God’s Character

- a. We begin as believers with an enthusiastic appreciation for God
- b. We then are fascinated with God and wish to think about Him more
- c. Our emotions are involved
- d. Contemplation of God brings reverence and awe
- e. The psalms illustrate this (quotes are from the NAS)
 - i. The wonder of God (of course we will not be in the earthly temple)—Ps. 27:4

One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek:
That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,
To behold the beauty of the LORD,
And to meditate in His temple.

- ii. His justice—Ps. 89:14

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Thy throne;
Lovingkindness and truth go before Thee.

- iii. One church (in future or past) had lost its love of the Lord. Has our love diminished?—Rev 2:4
- iv. Our love and our thinking are tied together—Ps 18:1-3

“I LOVE Thee, O LORD, my strength.”

The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge;
My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,
And I am saved from my enemies.

- f. Do you tell the Lord of your love and your ‘admiration’ of Him

3. Contemplating Through Description.

- a. Biblical prayers frequently do this.
 - i. The person praying describes something about God.
 - ii. Often, as with titles, this focus is related to the praise or request
 - 1) Israel vs. nations—Ps 65:2; 68:35
 - 2) Dedicating the temple—1 Kgs 8:23, “O LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like Thee in heaven above or on earth beneath, who art keeping covenant and (showing) lovingkindness to Thy servants who walk before Thee with all their heart, ...”
 - 3) Prayer for return of captives—Dan 9:4, “O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments...”
 - 4) Model prayer for the kingdom—Matt 6:9, “Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.”
- b. We need to focus on the character of God
 - i. Recall that this character has many sides
 - ii. While we fear a sovereign God, we have been forgiven by a loving God (if we are saved)

4. Contemplating Through Metaphors

- a. Metaphor—(NWD)¹⁹⁸⁴ a figure of speech containing an implied comparison, in which a word or phrase ordinarily and primarily used of one thing is applied to another (Ex.: the curtain of night, “all the world’s a stage”):
 - i. Often, for emphasis—the mental images are usually more vivid. Instead of calling a man strong, to call him an ox is much more vivid.
 - ii. Figures of speech seem often to affect our emotions
- b. Caution—when discussing God or approaching God, we must guard against metaphors or other figures of speech that detract from the dignity of God
 - i. Ex. “Johnny upstairs” this was often used years ago and is really blasphemous.
 - ii. Some have argued that all comparisons of God are blasphemous.
 - iii. This is clearly false, since the scriptures use metaphors in reference to God—rock, fortress, shield.

5. Review Questions

- a. What does it mean to be fascinated with God?
- b. Can contemplation lead to fascination with God?
- c. How can descriptions of God's character help us focus more on Him as we pray?
- d. What is a metaphor and how does it affect our description(s) of God's character?

6. Exercises

- a. List at least five characteristics of God that bring admiration.
- b. Write a 6-8 sentence prayer that focuses on the character of God.

C. God's Action

1. God reveals his character through his actions—consider Ps 36:5-9

The psalmist praises God's character	Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep.
These conclusions follow from God's actions	O LORD, you preserve both man and beast. How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

- a. Every good thing is from God—James 1:17
- b. Even evil is used by God—Gen 50:20
- c. In faith we see God everywhere—Ps 40:5; Rom 8:28

2. God's activity in salvation's history

- a. Some prominent events
 - i. Noahic Flood
 - ii. crossing of Red Sea
 - iii. giving of law
 - iv. conquest of land
 - v. the monarchy
 - vi. coming of Christ
 - vii. promises for future on this earth
- b. Such events are the subject of prayer
 - i. The past (from the perspective of psalmist)—Ps 77:11-20
 - ii. The present (from the perspective of psalmist)—Ps 18:35-43, 46
 - iii. The future (from the perspective of psalmist)—Ps 46:8-10
- c. Personal salvation—Eph 1:4-14

Chosen by the Father	EPH 1:4-6 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-- to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.
Redeemed by the Son	EPH 1:7-12 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

Regenerated by the Spirit	EPH 1:13-14 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.
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3. God's acts of providence
 - a. Creation-sometimes called 'ordinary providence'—Ps 104:1, 10-18; Col 1:15-17
 - b. Individuals-sometimes called 'special providence'—Mt 5:43-48
4. Review Questions
 - a. How is God's character related to His actions?
 - b. What are the main dimensions of God's activity in salvation history?
 - c. List types of providential action on the part of God.
5. Exercises
 - a. List two great events in world history and describe them in some detail.
 - b. Choose an episode in the ministry of Jesus and describe it in some detail.
 - c. Ponder the way in which such matters might be used in prayer.
- D. Seeking the Presence of God
 1. The Nearness of God
 - a. General presence everywhere—Jer 23:23-24; At 17:28
 - b. Protection and care—Gen 28:20-21; 39:2; Ps 46:1-2
 - c. Specific experiential presence
 - i. In Eden—Gen 3:8
 - ii. In the arena of miracles—At 2:1-4
 - iii. Israel sought in the Temple—1Ki 8:29
 - iv. In our daily walk
 - 1) appears to come and go
 - 2) We sense His presence in this way in the word and in prayer
 - 3) In this, we sense his immense glory—comp. Isa 6:5, 8
 2. The desire for the sense of God's presence—Ps 73:25-28a; 51:12a
 3. Coming near to God—Ja 4:8a
 - a. Contemplating God's character—see above
 - b. Contemplating God's actions—see above
 - c. In the time of open miracles, there were prophetic glimpses of God—Isa 6:1-13; 1Ki 22:19; Dan 7:9-11
 - i. Some writers on this theme do not try to separate the prophetic vision from what can be our experience in this age
 - ii. Note the prophetic contemplation on the throne of God—Ps 104:1-4; 102:19
 - d. Can we have the same focus
 - i. Generally no
 - ii. Canon is complete (also, gift of prophecy not still here)
 - 1) We must be guided by scripture in all of these realms
 - 2) We are in a different dispensation
 - 3) Paul himself was not allowed to tell us what he experienced—2Cor 12:4
 - iii. We should never confuse our imaginations with reality
 - 1) Remember Ex 20:4
 - 2) Our imaginings can be but another image
 - iv. We may not visualize heaven but we are to have our hearts there—Col 3:1
 - e. In the witness of our spirit with His Spirit—Rom 8:15-16
 4. Review Questions
 - a. In what way does the Bible speak of the presence of God?
 - b. Should we desire special intimacy with God?
 - c. How do we draw near to God?
 - d. What dispensational cautions must be remembered when we talk of contemplating heaven?
 - e. Are we to contemplate heaven or God himself?

III. Our present experience (Pratt totally missed the points here!)

- A. We live in the dispensation of the Grace of God
 1. Sins forgiven through Christ—2Cor 5:21 (common to all dispensations)

2. The Body of Christ—Eph 2:19
3. Blessed in the heavenlies—Eph 1:3
4. The inner conflict—Gal 5:16-23

Gal 5:16-23 from the NIV	Gal 5:16-23 from the Greek
<p>Gal. 5:16-18 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.</p> <p>Gal. 5:19-21 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.</p> <p>Gal. 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.</p>	<p>Gal. 5:16-18 Lev̄gw dev, pnevmati peripatei'te kai; ejpiqumivan sarko;" ouj mh; televshte. hJ ga;r sa;rx ejpiqumei' kata; tou' pnevmato", to; de; pneu'ma kata; th'" sarkov", tau'ta ga;r ajllhvloi" ajntivkeitai, i{na mh; a} eja;n qevlhte tau'ta poi'h'te. eij de; pnevmati a[gesqe, oujk ejste; uJpo; novmon.</p> <p>Gal. 5:19-21 fanera; dev ejstin ta; e[rga th'" sarkov", a{tinav ejstin porneiva, ajkaqarsiva, ajsevlgeia, ejjdwlatriva, farmakeiva, e[cqrai, e[ri", zh'lo", qumoiv, ejriqeivai, dicostasivai, aiJrevsei", fqovnoi, mevqai, kw'moi kai; ta; o{moia touvtoi", a} prolevgw uJmi'n kaqw;" proei'pon o{ti oiJ ta; toiau'ta pravssonte" basileivan qeou' ouj klhronomhvsousin.</p> <p>Gal. 5:22-23 ÔO de; karmo;" tou' pnevmatov" ejstin ajgavph carav ejrhvnh, makroqumiva, crhstovth" ajgaqwsuvnh, pivsti" prau'th" ejgkravteia: kata; tw'n toiouvwn oujk e[stin novmo".</p>

5. We actually wait in anticipation of judgment and reward—2Thess 1:6-10
- B. Our response in faith—1Th 5:18
 1. There are both negative and positive responses to life—Rom 12:15; Ecc 3:4
 2. On occasion, Christ responded negatively—Jn 11:33, 35, 38; Mk 3:5 (comp. Eph 4:26)
 3. We naturally see the 'happy' events as blessings from God.
 4. Events which bring sadness only intensify our need to look to the time when we will be with Christ
- C. Response in prayer
 1. Thanksgiving and praise—Ps 145:1-7
 2. Negative feelings in the Psalms—Ps 69:29, 1-2, 19
 - a. Praise in vv 30-36
 - b. Most of the prayer is negative
- D. Review Questions
 1. Why is the Christian experience a time of blessing and a time of waiting?
 2. How should we respond to our mixed experiences as faithful followers of Christ?
 3. How does prayer fit into our problems and blessings? Does scripture support this?