

## “What is God’s Purpose for Prayer?”

Review: Did you **memorize** Ezekiel 36.26-27 – can you say it?

What is prayer? It is a unique communication between you and God – very personal, private, and transformational

Simple steps for developing a life of prayer

1. **Choose to believe** God’s truth claims – don’t rely on your senses for truth.
2. By God’s grace **choose to commit** to:
  - a. A certain time of day for prayer
  - b. A certain amount of time for prayer
  - c. Praying for a hunger for God (Matt 5.6; Ps 42.1-2)
3. **Journal** to God (hand out tablets)
  - a. Be honest about your soul struggles
  - b. Keep track of Scriptures that help you
  - c. Try to discover what helps you most
  - d. Look for God’s footprints throughout your day
4. **Support** one another through prayer (Eph 6.18)

**How did it work for you? What helped? What hindered? Make adjustments as needed!**

- A. God’s promise to memorize: **Jeremiah 29.11-13...**
- B. How is your prayer journey going?  
How is your journaling going? Is it helping at all?  
Don’t get discouraged, or allow feelings of shame to take over!
- C. What is God’s purpose for personal prayer?  
Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Elijah, etc. – all experienced God’s purpose for prayer  
Jesus modeled – Early church discovered – Apostle Paul applied
- D. John 17.20-26...
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_Becoming one with God can be painful to our old nature (Is 6.1-8)
- E. Colossians 1.9-12
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

- F. Ellen G. White quotes that may help...
  1. “The prayer that Christ offered for His disciples just before His crucifixion **reveals God’s purpose** concerning us. The heart of the Savior is set upon His followers **fulfilling God’s purpose**, in all its height and depth. They are to be **one in Him**, even though they are scattered the world over. But God can not make them **one with Christ and with one another** unless they are willing to **give up their way for His way.**” (Pacific Union Recorder, March 26, 1903, paragraph 5, Article Title: Unity of Action Essential).
  2. Workers are needed who understand that the warnings given in the Word of God are appropriate for this time. Shall we not pray and watch unto prayer, and see that we need to be re-converted? **God’s purpose** for us is that we shall be constantly **“increasing in the knowledge of God;** strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness.” (The Review and Herald, November 5, 1903, paragraph 6, Article Title: The Workers Needed Now).
- G. God’s Purpose for Personal Prayer
  1. Reveal Himself (character) and His will (use of Scripture)
  2. Reveal what/who to pray for
  3. You will know you have what you pray for - confidence
- H. Four Ingredients for Developing Intimacy with God
  - # 1. **Prayer** – without it, you will never connect with His heart
  - # 2. **Scripture** – here God reveals Himself most clearly – you must know what He says about Himself – His truth-claims – or you will be deceived (2 Thess 2.10-11)
  - # 3. **Ministry** to others – a genuine burden for people is one of the great proofs that God is transforming your heart to be like His heart (John 3.16-17).
  - #4. **Worship** – helps us focus on Who God is.
- H. How to begin:  
Begin – but don’t overdo it (like exercise: start small and build up)  
Start with 10 minutes a day and add one minute a week – but don’t be a clock-watcher.  
Set the place and time – then discipline yourself over a period of months.  
Remember, intimacy is about your journey with God, not a destination. It is the life we live with the Life-Giver!  
Believe it or not, you will soon be looking forward to your time with God.

At first, your prayers will change you, and then you can start working on  
changing your world.  
Remember, it takes time!