



Is er meer tussen hemel en tentamen?

Cursus aantekeningen

Week 4

// **Bidden: waarom en hoe?**

Introduction

- Prayer is as important for Christians as communication is to any relationship; it helps us develop a relationship with God. Prayer is a two-way conversation with him - he hears our prayers and we can learn to listen to what he may have to say in response
- Praying can give Christians peace and help them to experience God's love - these are just some of the rewards of prayer
- Prayer allows Christians to have access to God through Jesus, his son

What is Christian prayer?

(Matthew 6:5-13)

- No real recipe
- Utterly unique to the individual
- Deeply satisfying
- Life-changing
- The most important activity of our lives (Ephesians 2:18)
- The whole Trinity involved

We pray:

1. To the Father (Matthew 6)
2. Through the Son (Ephesians 2:18)
3. By the Spirit (Romans 8:26)

Why pray?

(Matthew 6:6)

1. Model of Jesus (Mark 1:35)
 - (Luke 6:12, 9:18, 28, 11:1) '*When you pray*'
2. Developing a relationship with God, for which we are created
3. Rewards of prayer (Matthew 6:6)
 - Joy (John 16:24)
 - Peace (Philippians 4:6, 7)
4. Results of prayer (Matthew 7:7-11)

Does God always answer prayer?

(Matthew 7:7-11)

Our prayers may not be answered if there is:

- Unconfessed sin (Isaiah 59:2)
- Unforgiveness (Matthew 6:14, 15)
- Disobedience (1 John 3:21, 22)
- Wrong motives (James 4:2, 3)
- Misapprehension of the will of God

- '*good gifts*' (Matthew 7:11)

- Yes/no/wait

How do we pray?

Model of the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9–13)

- '*Our Father in heaven*' (v.9)
- '*Hallowed be your name*' (v.9)
- '*Your kingdom come*' (v.10)
 - God's rule and reign in people's lives
 - return of Jesus
 - presence of God's kingdom now
- '*Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven*' (v.10)
- '*Give us today our daily bread*' (v.11)
- '*Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors*' (v.12)
- '*Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one*' (v.13)

When should we pray?

1. Always
 - (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
 - (Ephesians 6:18)
2. Alone (Matthew 6:6)
 - Regular pattern
 - Best part of the day (Mark 1:35)
3. With others
 - (Matthew 18:19)

Conclusion

- Prayer is part of a relationship with God
 - pray to develop this relationship
 - be honest in prayer
- Pray always:
 - ACTS

- Pray alone and with others

Recommended reading

Too Busy Not to Pray

Bill Hybels

IVP

ISBN 9780851113296

The Power of Simple Prayer

Joyce Meyer

Hodder & Stoughton

ISBN 9780340943885

Prayer

Philip Yancey

Hodder & Stoughton

ISBN 9780340909089