



New Testament Prayers For The Church

Study 9

East Taieri Presbyterian Church

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There are many prayers in the New Testament and there is value for us in studying them. In particular, in these studies, we will not consider the need for prayer or how to pray. Our focus is: What did they pray about?

What are the prayer concerns and priorities of the apostles?

What sort of church were they wanting to see?

What might happen if we consistently prayed these prayers for our own church?

If these prayers were answered, what would the church/individuals look like?

What is their significance for our own growth?

It is strongly recommended that you go through the studies by yourself before you meet as a group. Pray and study asking God to reveal wonderful things to you.

Then, when you do meet, you will be able to share the insights God has given people rather than just start your thinking.

Each study follows the following sequence:

- Observe
 - This is just about noticing the facts. Look carefully at what the Bible actually says. We are not yet interpreting it – just noticing it.
 - This is the “What?” question.
- Understand
 - What is the meaning and significance of what you have observed?
 - This is the “So what?” question.
- Apply
 - We are to be “doers of the word” (James 1:22). How will you put this teaching into action?
 - This is the “What now?” question.

There are resources on prayer at <https://sites.google.com/view/christianspirituality/spiritual-practices/prayer>.

Study 9 – Bringing Glory To God

Who is God?

Historians have discovered that El was worshipped as a high-god in early Canaanite religion. He was father of the other gods and humankind, god of wisdom and the creator-god, although no creation type stories have been discovered in the Ugaritic texts.

Read Genesis 17:1 and Deuteronomy 6:4. In speaking with Abram, God declared that he was El Shaddai – God Almighty. The Hebrew/Jewish assertion and establishment of El, Yahweh God as supreme above any other god, comes from this foundation. Could the word “one” in Deuteronomy 6:4 also suggest an understanding that there is only one true God – with no other above him?

If El Shaddai, Yahweh is the God above all gods, is it not reasonable to assume that he alone deserves the glory?

Introductory Discussion

Read Psalms 24:7 and 29:3

1. Sometimes, the more we try to describe something of God, the harder it seems to become. How would you describe God’s glory?

2. In what ways might God’s glory be seen and understood?

Psalm 19:1-4

Psalm 97:1-6

John 1:14

Romans 1:19-20

Hebrews 1:3

Observe

Read and consider Genesis 1:3 and Revelation 21:23-26

- 3. Do you think this is a literal light – like the sun – or do we tend to limit our understanding of God to simple human interpretations? What do you think the “light” of God is?**
- 4. Now look at Habbakuk 2:14, Romans 3:23, Revelation 1:12-16. What might these things suggest or reveal about God’s glory?**

Understand

- 5. Does God call us to glorify himself? Read 1 Chronicles 16:28-29 and discuss.**
- 6. What does Matthew 5:16 say about how we can bring glory to God?**
- 7. Consider 1 Corinthians 6:20 and discuss. What obligation is the believer under?**
- 8. What do you make of Romans 8:30-31? What might it mean for us to be glorified? Look also at 2 Thessalonians 1:12 and perhaps 2 Peter 1:3-4**

God wants us to glorify him, because in doing so we subject our lives to his way and reveal his nature to the world – the very thing that Jesus did (John 17:4). Through this, God calls others to himself and offers release from bondage and rescue from destruction. Glorifying God is so much more than simply believing that he exists, attending church, or offering a few words or songs of praise – it is to place him foremost in all things and to raise no other thing above him. Glorifying God is to acknowledge his absolute sovereignty, majesty, power and splendour over the whole of creation, because he is the King of Glory!

Apply

9. **Can you think of an area of your life where you might apply the bringing of honour and recognition of God (the glory) in a greater way?**

10. **What behaviours or attitudes could you identify and work on that would reflect God's character, or imitate him more positively?**

11. **Have a think about whether your life is more like the first model, or the second model that Gareth presented in his sermon? Which model brings greater glory to God? How might you go about making a change on this?**

Model 1: "YOU" at the centre of everything, with the aspects of your life compartmentalized and where God is contained in only one of those compartments.

Model 2: "GOD" is at the centre and undergirding everything, where all the aspects of your life are subjected to consideration of God's ways.

John 1:12-13 *To all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn – not with a physical birth resulting from human passion, but a spiritual birth that comes from God.*