

# People at Prayer

*“Do not be afraid or discouraged because...  
the battle is not yours, but God’s.”*

(2 Chron.20:15)

# **People at Prayer**

**Prayer is keeping company with God;  
it is friendship with the Almighty.**

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## Jesus and Prayer (*“may your will be done”*)

“Prayer is not a convenient device for imposing our will upon God, or for bending his will to ours, but the prescribed way of subordinating our will to his. It is by prayer that we seek God’s will, embrace it and align ourselves with it. Every true prayer is a variation on the theme, *‘Your will be done.’* Our Master taught us to say this in the pattern prayer he gave us, and added the supreme example of it in Gethsemane.”      John Stott

# People at Prayer

## The Lord's Prayer

3 God-centered petitions; 3 man-centered petitions

*'Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.'*  
– the purpose for every prayer!

# People at Prayer

## God's Concerns before Ours

*“O LORD, God of our fathers, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you.”*

(2 Chron.20:6)

# People at Prayer

## God's Concerns before Ours

*“Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others.”*

(Dan.2:20,21)

# People at Prayer

## Fellowship in Prayer

*'If two of you on earth agree on anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.'*

(Matt.18:19)

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## A Child Praying to a Father

*'We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you.'*

(2 Chron.20:12)

# People at Prayer

## Confession

“The message of this Psalm is that the vilest offender among God’s people can appeal to God for forgiveness, for moral restitution and for the resumption of a joyful life of fellowship and service, if he comes with a broken spirit and bases his appeal on God’s compassion and grace.”

[The Bible Knowledge Commentary]

# People at Prayer

## Confession

*'Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.'*

(Psalm 51:1,2)

# People at Prayer

## Confession

*'The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.'*

(Psalm 51:17)

# People at Prayer

## Persistence in Prayer

*“We have not stopped praying for you...”* (Col.1:9)

*Pray without ceasing.* (1 Thess. 5:17)

# People at Prayer

## Vocabulary of Prayer

### Colossae

- *filled with the knowledge of God's will*
- *live a life worthy of the Lord*
- *bear fruit in every good work*

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## Vocabulary of Prayer

### Ephesus

- *know the hope to which they were called*
- *know the riches of their glorious inheritance*
- *know God's incomparably great power*

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## Vocabulary of Prayer

### Philippi

- *love may abound more and more*
- *able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless*
- *filled with the fruit of righteousness*

# People at Prayer

## Practice of Early Christians

*“All these **with one accord** were devoting themselves to prayer.”*

(Acts 1:14)

# People at Prayer

## Conclusion

David: *“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”*

(Psalm 139.23,24)

# People at Prayer

## Conclusion

Jehoshaphat: *“We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”*

(2 Chron.20:12)

# People at Prayer

## Conclusion

Jesus: *“Not as I will, but as you will.”*

(Matt.26:39)

# People at Prayer

## Conclusion

Daniel: *“Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his... He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.”*

(Dan.2:20,22)

# People at Prayer

## Conclusion

Paul: *“Live a life worthy of the Lord.”*  
(Col.1:10)

# People at Prayer

## Conclusion

David: *“Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your unfailing love.”*

(Psalm 51:1)

# People at Prayer

## Conclusion

*'... always pray and not give up'* (Lk.18:1)

*'Pray without ceasing'* (1 Thess. 5:17)