

# New Testament Prayer Study

Compiled by Russ Merritt

Facilitated by Stew Bruner

The purpose of this study is to orient and shape our belief and practice of prayer by using Scripture.

# Introductory Meme



New Testament writers



Russ Merritt



Stew

# Russ' / Our Approach

- Right doctrine, right belief, right thought, right action
- Have a discipleship perspective / desire to be taught
- Begin with no prior understanding of prayer (blank slate)
- Focus only on the text
  - Consult widest variety of English translations possible
- Write down what you see to inform later conclusions
- “All play” several complex passages
  - Discuss at tables
  - Report back

# Week 1: Pre-Work

- Goal: Determine gaps between what Scripture teaches and what we do
- Take an honest assessment of current practices before starting
- What is my current practice in prayer?

## Individually

- For what?
- How frequently?
- How long?
- Where?
- When?

## Corporately

- For what?
- How frequently?
- How long?
- Where?
- When?

# Week 5: Post-Work

- At the end, create concrete styles of prayer that you will implement individually and corporately, informed by Scripture
  - Prayer styles should be simple, easily teachable, and reproducible
- Time allowing, we'll actually pray using as many styles as we are able
- Decide how to teach and model each style and type of prayer to future disciples

All of this in 5 short weeks, so we have to keep moving!

# Let's start with 'Where'

**Where** did people pray in these passages? Make a record of the various places.

- A. Matt 6:6 \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Matt 14:13 \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Acts 2:46 \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Acts 3:1 \_\_\_\_\_
- E. Acts 12:12 \_\_\_\_\_
- F. Acts 16:13 \_\_\_\_\_
- G. Acts 16:25 \_\_\_\_\_
- H. Acts 26:27-29 \_\_\_\_\_
- I. Acts 27:35 \_\_\_\_\_

# Let's go on to 'When'

**When** is prayer modeled or commanded in these passages? Make a record of the times/events.

- A. Mark 1:35 \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Luke 6:12 \_\_\_\_\_
- C. **\*Acts 2:42-46** \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Acts 3:1 \_\_\_\_\_
- E. Acts 16:25 \_\_\_\_\_
- F. 1 Thess 5:16-18 \_\_\_\_\_
- G. Heb 4:16 \_\_\_\_\_
- H. James 5:13-18 \_\_\_\_\_

# Next is “Who’

**Who** is prayed for or is commanded to be prayed for in these passages? Record it below.

- A. Matt 5:44 \_\_\_\_\_
- B. John 17:9, 20 \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Acts 26:29 \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Eph 6:18-19 \_\_\_\_\_
- E. Col 4:2-4 \_\_\_\_\_
- F. **\*2 Thess 3:1-5** \_\_\_\_\_
- G. 1 Tim 2:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_



# Let's move on to 'What'

**What** should we pray for people according to these passages? Write everything down.

A. **\*Matt 6:9-13**

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B. Matt 9:37-38

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C. Luke 6:12-13

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D. **\*John 17:15-24**

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E. Acts 4:23-31

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F. Acts 14:23

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G. **\*Eph 1:15-19**

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H. **\*Eph 3:14-21**

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**What** should we pray (continued) Write everything down.

I. Eph 6:18-20

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J. Col 1:3-14

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K. Col 4:2-4

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L. 2 Thess 2:16-17

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M. 2 Thess 3:1-5

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N. 1 Tim 2:1-4

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O. James 1:5

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P. **\*James 5:13-18**

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# What about 'How'

**How** is prayer modeled or commanded in these passages? Make a list of all the ways.

- A. Matt 6:6-7 \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Matt 26:39-42 \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Mark 11:25-26 \_\_\_\_\_
- D. **\*Luke 11:5-13** \_\_\_\_\_
- E. **\*Luke 18:1-8** \_\_\_\_\_
- F. John 16:23-24 \_\_\_\_\_
- G. Acts 9:10-17 \_\_\_\_\_
- H. Acts 13:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_
- I. **\*1 Corinthians 14:4-5, 14-18** \_\_\_\_\_
- J. Eph 6:18-20 \_\_\_\_\_
- K. Col 4:2 \_\_\_\_\_
- L. Col 4: 12 \_\_\_\_\_
- M. 1 Thess 5:16-18 \_\_\_\_\_
- N. James 1:6-8 \_\_\_\_\_
- O. James 4:3 \_\_\_\_\_

# Special Topic: Prayer for Healing

List any distinctions you see specific to **healing**.

A. Luke 5:24

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B. **\*John 11:41-45**

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C. Acts 3:6-8

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D. Acts 28:7-9

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E. James 5:14-16

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# Special Topic: Fasting with Prayer

How are we commanded to **fast** (and pray) or how is that modeled in these passages?

A. Matt 9:14-15

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B. Matt 6:16-18

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C. Luke 4:1-2, 14

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D. Acts 13:1-3

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E. Acts 14:23

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*“Proskartereo...”*

Strong's Number 4342

It's all over the place when reviewing prayer passages

Definition – ‘Make every effort’ or ‘be diligent’ or ‘endeavor to’

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Your conclusion...

# Finally, 'What'

What does it look like to be **devoted and faithful** in prayer?

A. Acts 2:42

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B. Acts 6:4

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C. Rom 12:12

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D. 1 Cor 7:5

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E. Col 4:2

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# Wrapping It All Up...

- List the concrete styles of prayer that you have seen in the study, individual and corporate, informed by Scripture
  - Prayer styles should be simple, easily teachable, and reproducible
- How will you implement them? What will you do differently?
- Let's actually pray using as many styles as we have noted.
- How are you going to teach and model each style and type of prayer to your future disciples?

If you don't like the outcome, blame Russ!