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**Series/Subject: Prayer**

**Title:** The Prayer of Praise and Worship

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**Confession:** *This is my Bible, the Living Word of God. I am, what the Word says I am. I have what the Word says I have. I can do, everything the Word says I can do, and I will do it, in Jesus Name!*

**Text:** **Acts 13:1-4** Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. **2**As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” **3**Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent *them* away. **4**So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus

**Proposition/Purpose:** Learning how to pray effectively is one of the most important things a believer can ever do in his/her Christian Walk. We want to get results! A believer’s prayer life should be based and built upon the Word of God. As we look at these principles together, determine to get them into your heart so you can practice them in your own private prayer life.

**Ephesians 6:18** praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— “praying at all times in the spirit with all manner of prayer.

Some translations say, all kinds of prayer.

In this study of course we are examining the kinds of prayer that are Illustrated in the NT. We are primarily interested in the NT because that is the Covenant under which we are living. We are not living under the old covenant. Those under the old covenant were living under a shadow of what was to come. But why live under the shadow, when we can live under the light!

Last week we looked at the Prayer of Faith and the Prayer of Consecration. We also looked at receiving The Desires of Your Heart.

* **Prayer of Faith** – we saw that according to Matthew 21:21-22 that when we pray and do not doubt then whatever we ask in prayer, BELIEVING, we will RECEIVE. We also saw that when we put “if” in that prayer then we are in doubt and that will not get our prayers answered – we MUST BELIEVE!! (Lazarus)
* **Prayer of Consecration** – we saw this example with Jesus in Luke 22:42 when He said “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done.” And that this is a prayer that we should prayer more often in our lives.

1. **Ministering to the Lord** 
   1. **Acts 13:2** As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”
2. We are talking about different kinds of prayer. Often the only kind of prayer we are familiar with is the prayer petition, or the prayer to change things – the Prayer of Faith. We are almost always petitioning God to do something for us and of course it is scriptural to pray the prayer petition and to receive our needs met.   
   But in our text and Acts 13:1-4, the people were not petitioning God to do anything. It says they ministered to the Lord and fasted. Ministering to the Lord is the Prayer of Praise and Worship.
3. Notice in this verse Acts, 13:2 that there is more than just a one-way conversation involved in this account, it says as they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said.
4. **The Prayer of Praise and Worship**
   1. This is the prayer of worship. You see, God made man so he would have someone to have Fellowship with. It is true that God is concerned about us and is interested in us and wants to meet our needs, for he tells us in his word to ask for things we need. We went over this and see he is faithful! (John 16:23-24)  
      Jesus also said our heavenly father knows what things we have need of. But he said for us to ask. (Matt. 6:5-8; John 16:23-24)
   2. When we wait upon God and minister to him, we are not asking Him for anything, nor are we petitioning Him for anything: we are ministering to Him.
   3. Worship can involve more than one person. As Acts 13:2 says “as **they** ministered to the Lord." (Acts 13:2)
5. **Fellowshipping with Our Father**
   1. **1 Peter 1:23** "having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,"
6. God made man for His own pleasure, so he would have someone with Him to fellowship with. He is our Father, we are His very own children, we are born of God!
7. No earthly parent ever enjoyed the fellowship of their children more than God enjoys the fellowship of His sons and daughters.
8. God will speak to us more, as He did to Saul and Barnabas in Acts chapter 13, as we would take more time to minister to the Lord.
   1. **Isaiah 40:28-31 AMPC** Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, does not faint or grow weary; there is no searching of His understanding. 29He gives power to the faint *and* weary, and to him who has no might He increases strength [causing it to multiply and making it to abound]. 30Even youths shall faint and be weary, and [selected] young men shall feebly stumble *and* fall exhausted; 31But those who wait for the Lord [who expect, look for, and hope in Him] shall change *and* renew their strength *and* power; they shall lift their wings *and* mount up [close to God] as eagles [mount up to the sun]; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint *or* become tired.
9. Remember we go where we focus. You see when we are focused on Him then He's renewing our strength. When we are in His presence. Our strength is renewed, we run and we are not weary we walk and we are not faint or tired.
   1. **Psalm 18:28** For You cause my lamp to be lighted *and* to shine; the Lord my God illumines my darkness.
   2. **Psalm 36:9** For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.
10. We go toward the light we look to Light Himself - He is light.

**Psalm 136**

**1**O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy *and* loving-kindness endure forever.

**2**O give thanks to the God of gods, for His mercy *and* loving-kindness endure forever.

**3**O give thanks to the Lord of lords, for His mercy *and* loving-kindness endure forever—

**4**To Him Who alone does great wonders, for His mercy *and* loving-kindness endure forever;

**5**To Him Who by wisdom *and* understanding made the heavens, for His mercy *and* loving-kindness endure forever;

**6**To Him Who stretched out the earth upon the waters, for His mercy *and* loving-kindness endure forever;

**7**To Him Who made the great lights, for His mercy *and* loving-kindness endure forever—

**8**The sun to rule over the day, for His mercy *and* loving-kindness endure forever;

**9**The moon and stars to rule by night, for His mercy *and* loving-kindness endure forever;

**10**To Him Who smote Egypt in their firstborn, for His mercy *and* loving-kindness endure forever;

**11**And brought out Israel from among them, for His mercy *and* loving-kindness endure forever;

**12**With a strong hand and with an outstretched arm, for His mercy *and* loving-kindness endure forever;

**13**To Him Who divided the Red Sea into parts, for His mercy *and* loving-kindness endure forever;

**14**And made Israel to pass through the midst of it, for His mercy *and* loving-kindness endure forever;

**15**But shook off *and* overthrew Pharaoh and his host into the Red Sea, for His mercy *and* loving-kindness endure forever;

**16**To Him Who led His people through the wilderness, for His mercy *and* loving-kindness endure forever;

**17**To Him Who smote great kings, for His mercy *and* loving-kindness endure forever;

**18**And slew famous kings, for His mercy *and* loving-kindness endure forever—

**19**Sihon king of the Amorites, for His mercy *and* loving-kindness endure forever;

**20**And Og king of Bashan, for His mercy *and* loving-kindness endure forever;

**21**And gave their land as a heritage, for His mercy *and* loving-kindness endure forever;

**22**Even a heritage to Israel His servant, for His mercy *and* loving-kindness endure forever;

**23**To Him Who [earnestly] remembered us in our low estate *and* imprinted us [on His heart], for His mercy *and* loving-kindness endure forever;

**24**And rescued us from our enemies, for His mercy *and* loving-kindness endure forever;

**25**To Him Who gives food to all flesh, for His mercy *and* loving-kindness endure forever;

**26**O give thanks to the God of heaven, for His mercy *and* loving-kindness endure forever!

**Psalm 113**

**1**Praise the Lord! (Hallelujah!) Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord!

**2**Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forever

**3**From the rising of the sun to the going down of it *and* from east to west, the name of the Lord is to be praised!

**4**The Lord is high above all nations, and His glory above the heavens!

**5**Who is like the Lord our God, Who has His seat on high,

**6**Who humbles Himself to regard the heavens and the earth!

**7**[The Lord] raises the poor out of the dust *and* lifts the needy from the ash heap *and* the dung hill,

**8**That He may seat them with princes, even with the princes of His people.

**9**He makes the barren woman to be a homemaker *and* a joyful mother of [spiritual] children. Praise the Lord! (Hallelujah!)