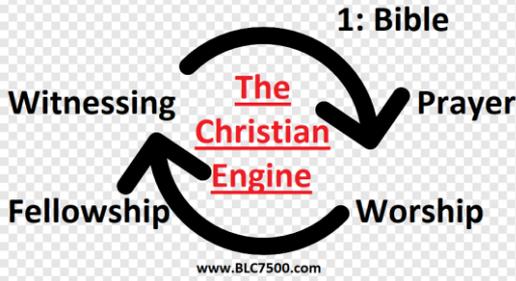


Third Wednesday in Lent – 2022

Wednesday, March 16 at 11:00 & 7:00



## Part 2: Prayer

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: Last week I made a comparison between *the 4-stroke internal combustion engine* and *the 5-stroke Christian engine*. These are the basics:

- A 4-stroke engine cycles through these strokes: intake, compression, power, and exhaust.
- A 5-stroke engine cycles through these strokes: Bible, prayer, worship, fellowship, and witnessing.

As the 4-stroke engines in our cars must keep going through the four strokes repeatedly to keep running, so, *believers in Jesus are functioning well when they keep moving through the five strokes of the Christian engine.*

Last week I introduced the Christian Engine concept and focused on the first stroke, *which is the Bible*; today we focus on the second stroke, *which is prayer.*

1. **Prayer Survey Results:** From last Saturday and Sunday:
  - a. **Prayer is talking to God in words and thoughts:** That statement is true, *and nearly everyone agreed.*
  - b. **Standing, sitting, laying, and kneeling:** Most people use many or all those postures when praying. Posture can be important, *but these are more important:*

- i. Trusting in Jesus for eternal life:
  - 1. <sup>NAU</sup> **Proverbs 15:29** “The LORD is far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous.”
  - 2. <sup>NAU</sup> **John 9:31** “We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him.”
- ii. Remembering: God is almighty—*so He can*; God is holy—*so He must!*
- iii. Believing: God will answer *at His own time and in His own way.*
- iv. Truth: <sup>NAU</sup> **Psalms 145:18** “The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.”
- v. Sincerity: Unity between *our mind* and *our heart.*
- vi. Wanting God’s Will: As Jesus prayed, “**Your will be done**” (Mt. 26:42), *may that also be our desire in every circumstance!*
- c. Why do you pray? Most said, “Yes” to these:
  - i. **To give thanks** – *we certainly should!*
  - ii. **To ask for what I need** – *yes, let us ask!*
  - iii. **To ask for forgiveness** – *after we confess!*
  - iv. **To ask for understanding of the Bible** – *Yes!*
  - v. **To ask for help to do God’s will** – *He will help us!*
  - vi. **To pray for the salvation of others** – *by all means!*
- d. Lord’s Prayer location: Some knew **Mt. 6:9-13**—*full version* or **Lk. 11:2-4**—*abbreviated version*; some knew only the book; about half had no answer.
- e. It is possible to pray to God through a saint: Most indicated “F” – false; a small number were unsure. This

passage tells us why it is false: <sup>NAU</sup> **1 Timothy 2:5** “For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus...”

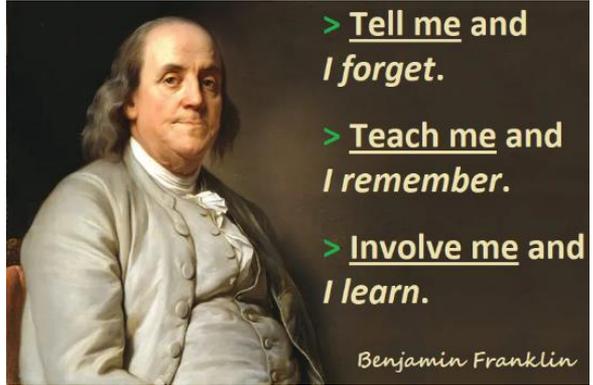
2. **Jesus**: He prayed at important times. Here are examples; *I encourage you to look up and read these passages*:
  - a. **Luke 3:21-22**: After Jesus was baptized, *He prayed, and three amazing things happened!*
  - b. **Luke 6:12-16**: Jesus prayed all night; *then He chose 12 of His disciples to be His apostles.*
  - c. **Luke 9:18-20**: After Jesus prayed, He asked His disciples about Himself; *then Peter made His great confession.*
  - d. **Luke 22:39-46**: Jesus prayed in Gethsemane, seeking God’s will, *and His sweat became like drops of blood.*
  - e. **Luke 23:34, 46**: From His cross Jesus prayed, “**Father, forgive...**,” and “**Father, into Your hands...**”
3. **Power**: Prayer has power; *read these examples*:
  - a. **Acts 4:23-31**: They were persecuted; then they prayed with boldness; *and then the place was shaken!*
  - b. **Acts 16:25-34**: When Paul and Silas were praying in prison, *a great earthquake opened all the doors!*
  - c. **James 5:16-18**: Elijah prayed earnestly—*no rain for 3.5 years*; then he prayed again—*it rained!*
4. **The Christian Engine**: *See part 1 of the series for a more thorough explanation. Here are some basics: When we are witnessing; then we will **▶ read the Bible looking for answers**, **▶ pray for the person’s understanding and protection**, and **▶ invite the person to worship with us and to attend fellowship opportunities with us.***

5. **Tell, Teach, and Involve:** Notice the quote in the image.  
This is how it applies to this sermon series:

a. **Tell me** – is the survey, *which introduces the topic.*

b. **Teach me** – is the sermon, *which focuses on the topic.*

c. **Involve me** – are the growth challenges, *which I am giving you each week.*



Think about life in general, especially the things of God:

- **Why hear something** – *if we are just going to forget it?*
- **Why remember something** – *if we are not going to apply it to our lives?*
- **Why get involved in something?** *Because it will become an important part of our lives!*  
Therefore, please **see** and **do** what is noted on the Sermon Series Action Information folder!

**Conclusion:** <sup>NIV</sup> **James 5:16b** “The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”

**Let Us Pray:** Dear Jesus, as prayer was important for You, so give us consistency, joy, and boldness in our prayers!

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