

The Significance of Prayer to 21st Century Christians

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Abstract

The study adopted qualitative research approach, the research design used was explanatory research design, the research strategy used was cross sectional survey, the method of acquisition of data was primary source, the population of the study was 20 authors and the objectives of the study was achieved. The background of the study was Introduction of Christian prayer, the study found out the Biblical meaning of Christian prayer, types of Christian prayer, how to pray effective prayer, how to pray to God, the importance of intercession prayer, some of the religious views about prayer, misconceptions of prayer, the reasons to pray, the reasons why some of the Churches pray to dead Saints, the characteristics of Biblical prayer, the results of Christian prayer, the postures of prayer, hindrances to prayer, when to pray, Biblical examples of answered prayers, how to pray for salvation, how to become prayer warrior, the prayer life of Jesus Christ, the misconceptions of prayer, the prayer life of the early church and how to develop in prayer.

Keywords — **Prayer, Christian, Hindrances, Early church, Spiritual, Biblical, Intercession**

I. INTRODUCTION

Prayer is speaking to God and it is the way to express our thoughts, needs and desires to Him. Prayer is an act and not just an attitude but it is manifested through the way people pray (Luke 11:1). The central motive behind prayer is petition (Matthew 7:7-8) and the scriptures instruct Christians to keep on praying. The scriptures allow us to pray in public but Christ told individual Christians to pray in their closets (Matthew 6:6). This shows that we should devote our time for prayers and without prayer we cannot be successful Christians. We ought to learn to put our problems upon Him because He care about us and wants us to depend on Him as our source of strength (1Thess 5:17).

We must not pray for something just once but should keep on praying until we have received an answer. Let us remember that in the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus Christ prayed three times for one case. When we are praying, we should listen to what God will say to us. This makes the communication to be interesting and we will feel His presence. Prayer is the means to express our feelings before our creator but could be heard or pray in secret and we should pray in faith (James 1: 6).

Prayer is a communication between God and man whereby we show appreciation for His

kindness, protection, love, mercy and present our request to Him.

However, the word "prayer" comes from the Greek word call "proseuche" and it is used 127 times in the New Testament. The term "proseuche" is a combination of two words namely "pros" and euche".

The word "pros" means towards" or "a sense of closeness". In John 1: 1 the word "with" is derived from "pros" which shows the relationship between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Throughout the entire New Testament books the word "pros" implies "intimate contact with someone else". The word "euche" implies a wish, desire or vow. It refers to one's vow to God. The problem of Hannah in 1Samuel 1: 11 helps us to understand the word "euche".

The word "proseuche" means that approach God face to face and devote your life to Him. Maintain an attitude of commitment and show appreciation for His kindness.

A. *Objectives of the Study*

- i. To find out the meaning of prayer
- ii. To find out the prayer life of the early church
- iii. To find out how to communicate to God
- iv. To find out the reasons why we pray
- v. To find out hindrances to prayer

- vi. To find out the prayer life of Jesus Christ
- vii. To find out the characteristics of Biblical prayer
- viii. To find out the value of intercession prayer
- ix. To find out the importance of concentrating on God spiritually
- x. To find out the reasons some of the Churches pray to the dead Saints
- xi. To find out misconceptions of prayer
- xii. To find out the prayer of Jesus Christ
- xiii. To find out how to become develop in prayer

II. TYPES OF CHRISTIAN PRAYER

The types of Christian prayer are:

A. *Prayer of Supplication*

The Hebrew and Greek words for "supplication" implies "a request".

The word "supplicate" in Latin implies "to implore". It is a prayer to ask God to do either spiritual or physical needs for us. The New Testament explains supplication prayer as: ask, beseech, plead, invoke, entreat, cry out and "struggle in prayer".

This is a prayer to plead to God to do our heart desires for us (Luke 11: 9 ; James 5: 17 - 18; 1Kings 8: 37 - 40, 54 - 55)

The book of Psalms talks much about prayer of supplication (Psalms 4 : 1, 5 : 8, 6 : 4, 7 : 1).

In the New Testament Bible Christ told His disciples to pray for daily bread (Matthew 6: 11) , Apostle Paul instructed the Ephesian Christians to pray for all saints and told the Philippians to pray a prayer of supplication (Ephesians 6 : 13 - 18 ; Philippians 4 : 6 - 7).

B. *Prayer of Intercession*

We shall examine the meaning of following words: intercession and prayer. The word "intercession" is speaking on behalf others. Prayer is a communication between God and man. Therefore intercession prayer is communicating to God on behalf of others.

That is, praying for the needs of others both Christians and unbelievers, such as friends, family members, co-workers and brethren in the Lord. Abraham prayed for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 18. In Egypt Moses prayed for Pharaoh in Exodus 8 :28.

In Exodus 15: 25 Moses prayed for the Israelites and Apostle Paul's intercession prayer could be seen in Philippians 1: 9 - 11

When Apostle Peter was sentenced to prison, the early church prayed for him (Acts 12 : 3).

The book of 1 Timothy 2: 1 - 5 instructs Christians to pray for others.

These Bible verses show that Jesus Christ was an intercessor:

- He prayed for Peter (Luke 22: 32)
- He prayed for the people who crucified Him (Luke 23: 34)
- He prayed for His disciples and His believers in the world (John 17)

Prophet Samuel prayed for the Israelites (1 Samuel 12: 23; Genesis 18: 22 - 33; 1 Kings 18 41 - 46, Acts 12: 1 - 18)

C. Prayer of Faith

This depends on one's trust in His word and acting as if God has answered his or her prayer (Mark 11: 12 - 14, Mark, 11 : 20 - 25, Luke 7 : 1- 10)

Those who pray prayer of faith believe that God knows the best and never waver about His faithfulness. After praying prayer of faith, we should commit ourselves to Him and hope to experience His glory at the appropriate time.

D. Prayer of Agreement

That means, when two or more people come together, take a decision and place their requests before God (Matthew 18 : 19 - 20, Exodus 17 : 8 - 13, Psalms 133 : 1 - 3, Acts 4 : 23)

E. Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving

That is, showing appreciation and giving glory to God (Psalms 100 , Acts 16 : 16 - 34) (Psalms 149 : 4 - 9; 1Thess. 5 : 15 - 19)

F. Prayer of Worship

The word "worship" comes from the Greek word called "proskuneo" meaning "to fall down

before" or "bow down before". Worship shows the state of a spirit but it is an internal individual action and could be done at any time (John 4: 21). The scriptures instructs Christians to worship God in "Spirit and Truth"

The mind has to focus on God before one can worship Him in Spirit.

To worship God in Spirit has to do with the action of a human soul.

Worshipping God in truth is based on applying His word (Psalms 119; John 17 : 17b)

The one who is praying must focus on the Superiority of God (Acts 13 : 2 - 3).

G. Prayer of Consecration

This is act of praying to surrender one's will to God (Matthew 26 : 39).

H. Prayer of Imprecation

This prayer brings the judgment of God upon the wicked (Psalms 7, 55, 69, Mathew 5: 44 - 48)

I. Prayer in the Spirit

This implies praying in the language of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 14: 14 - 14)

III. How to Pray

A. In the name of Jesus Christ

God expect us to pray to Him through in the name of Jesus Christ. Because He delivered us from the bondage of sin and had brought unity between God and man. He is a spiritual mediator between God and man. Failure to pray in the name of Jesus Christ is an attempt to displease God.

B. In humility

During prayer time, we should approach Him with a humble heart (Luke 18 : 9 - 14).

We have to understand that we are nothing in His sight. Through humility, we would experience His favor and become blessed in all aspects of life. He honors the prayer of a humble person

C. Faith

As Christians, we must believe that He is able to do all things and there is nothing that is impossible to Him. Through faith, we will see the power of God and receive the blessings in His service. All the men who served Him in faith enjoyed His blessings

D. Take time to pray

We ought to exercise patience with God. Through this, we will develop the habit of praying and can pray at anytime that would be convenient for us.

E. Find a Place to Pray

It is better to find a place which is devoid of noise in order for us to focus on Him during prayer time.

F. Purpose of Praying

We should have a purpose behind our prayers so that our communication to Him would be meaningful.

G. Prepare to Pray

We must make up our minds and fix our hearts on the purpose of our prayers.

H. Begin to Pray

We could pray through speaking or pray in silence. Some people pray through reciting the prayer from a book and others pray in the form of conversation.

I. Make Request

This is the time to tell Him what we need in life. If we don't understand anything in life, we can ask Him for explanation.

IV. When do We Pray?

The Bible does not state the time which is appropriate for Christians to pray to God. As children of God, we can choose to pray to Him at any time but it could be morning, afternoon or evening. Prophet Daniel decided to pray to God three times in a day (Daniel 6: 10). King David prayed three times in a day (Psalms 5: 3, 55: 17, 88: 13, 199: 147)

The Lord Jesus Christ prayed all night before He chose His twelve Apostles (Luke 6 : 12).

Also He presented His needs to His Father in the night before He was arrested (Matthew 26 : 36).

The early church gave herself to prayer regularly (Acts 2: 42). Apostle Paul and Silas prayed at midnight (Acts 16: 25). Apostle Paul instructed believers in Christ to pray (1Thess. 5: 7).

V. LITERATURE REVIEW

We want to consider what other authors have written about significance of prayer to Christians. An article written by the New Spring Church entitled "Everything you need to know about prayer". The New Spring Church's article helps to understand that prayer is a conversation between God and man but we can pray in our minds, spoken words or written words. The time we spend to talk to God builds our relationship with Him and prayer paves way for us to show our love, confess our sins and to present our needs to Him. Through prayer, He fills us with His love, wisdom and comfort us. Prayer is a time to listen to Him and when we pray the Holy Spirit directs us to follow the path of God. He loves us so we should not allow anything to hinder us to pray and prayer establishes our relationship with Him. Jesus Christ desires that we should pray because He wants us to get closer to God. He instructed and taught His disciples about how to pray to God. He spent time to pray and to receive instructions from God (Luke 11:1). God knows our state of being more than ourselves but prayer enables us to get breakthrough in life. Through prayer, we seek divine assistance, directions and God's response to our prayers helps us to depend on Him. God created man and has infinite love for us. Prayer is God's gift to mankind and a means to touch His

heart. When we are learning how to pray, we are just like toddlers who are learning how to walk. Jesus Christ made it clear that there is nothing which is below or above the strength of God so we should learn to put our problems upon Him. We must regard God as our protector and provider (Luke 17:6; 11:13). God wants to hear our prayers, bless and assist us to pray through the Holy Spirit. In 2017 pastor Wendell wrote an article entitled "Everything start with prayer". In his article he mentioned some areas Christians should pray.

- We pray for forgiveness of sin when we begin to fellowship with Jesus
- We pray for the baptism of the Holy Spirit
- During worship, we ask for His grace
 - We ought to pray over our food and plead to God to protect our children.
 - We should pray for sinners and family members.
 - We begin the day with prayer asking Him to guide us throughout the day
 - He also stated some of the characteristics of the praying Church. The characteristics of the praying Church are
 - Members of the praying Church have cultivated the habit of praying in their closets (Matthew 6:6).
 - They pray together as a body of Christ (Matthew 18:19).

- The congregation come together and pray for the welfare of the church (Acts 12:5)

With respect to the views of the writers, the study found out the meaning of prayer, how to communicate to God, how to pray effective prayer, hindrances to prayer, the results of Christiani prayer, the reasons to pray, misconceptions of prayer, some of the religious views about prayer, characteristics of Biblical prayer, how to concentrate on God spiritually, the types of prayer, the value of intercession prayer, the prayer life of the early church, the prayer life of Jesus Christ, prayer offers to the dead Saints, the reasons why some of the Churches pray to the dead Saints and how to become prayer warrior.

VI. EFFECTIVE PRAYER

This is a prayer that touches the heart of God; makes one to experience His favor. Those who pray effective prayer leave His presence with happiness because He will have mercy upon them. What we should know about effective prayer is that Christ has laid the foundation of effective prayer for us (Hebrews 10: 19 - 25).

A. Key to Effective Prayer

1. The Blood of Jesus Christ

During prayer time, the first thing we should do is to ask God to forgive us of our sins. Through

this, we will have clear conscience to appear before the throne of grace with all boldness.

2. Righteousness

The word "righteousness" implies living by the word of God (James 5 : 16). God's heart is after those who love His word and are able to apply His word daily but He does their needs for them (1Peter 3 : 12, Psalms 34 : 15). The root meaning of righteousness is "right" or "straight" (1Peter 3: 12, Psalms 34 : 15, proverb 15 : 8, Daniel 6 : 11, Exodus 16 : 17)

Therefore righteousness implies a person who is not crooked in character or conduct. There are three types of righteousness:

i. Imputed Righteousness

The word "impute" means "credit to an account". This righteousness is given through one's faith in Christ (Romans 3 : 22, Philippians 3 : 9).

ii. Imparted Righteousness

This refers to internal work of God that He has done in those who have replaced their confidence in Christ (2 Peter 1: 4).

iii. Imbedded Righteousness

The word "imbedded" implies "to fix into a surrounding mass or to incorporate as essential part or characteristic" This is a state of being whereby one has the will to follow what is right in accordance with the word of God.

3. *Praying in Accordance with the Will of God*

We have assurance that if we pray according to His will He would hear us (1 John 5: 14 – 15). If we don't know what to pray for, the Holy Spirit will intercede for us (Romans 8 : 27).

4. *Persistency*

We ought not to stop praying. Irrespective of our problems we should learn to depend on Him (Luke 18: 1) but must not give up if He has not answered our prayers. Through this, we will receive our requests.

5. *Revere God*

We ought to respect Him in our hearts as our creator and as the source of our lives. We should understand that He deserves to be praised, glorified and worshipped. We must know that there is no one who is like Him.

6. *Focus More on the Positive Things*

When we are praying, we should think of the good things He has done for us. We must praise Him from our hearts to let Him understand that we are grateful for what He is doing in our lives. When we behave like this, then it means we value Him as being greater than our problems. This compels Him to move on our behalf.

7. *Doubt*

When we are praying, we ought not to weave about the promises of God and should believe that He is faithful to those who depend on Him. Through doubt, we shall lose both spiritual and physical blessings of God. Doubt is the tool of

the devil to win souls into his kingdom and makes us to become unstable in our Christian Journey. In the scriptures those who doubted about His word never obtain His promises

8. *Eight Things to Remember About Prayer*

- 650 prayers are mentioned in the scriptures.
- 450 prayers are recorded as answers to prayers.
- prayer is first mentioned in Genesis 4 : 26
- The Bible states Jesus' prayer 25 different times during His ministry on the earth.
- Apostle Paul mentioned prayers, prayer reports, prayer requests and exhortation to prayer 41 times in the Bible.
- The Bible lists 9 types of prayer
- Jesus Christ taught His disciples five areas to pray (Luke 11: 1- 4).
- The word "Amen" is first appeared in the book of Numbers 5 : 22

VII. *The Posture of prayer*

A. *Knees*

As Christians, we are permitted to go down on our knees and pray to God (Ephesians 3:14).

B. *Bed*

We can lie on our beds and ponder on the word of God (Psalms 4:3).

C. *Loud*

We are allowed to cry loud to the Lord (Psalms 34:6).

D. Silently

We are permitted to pray in our hearts like Hannah prayed to God (1Samuel 11:13).

E. Hands Lifted

We are allowed to lift up our hands and pray to God (1Timothy 2:8).

F. Eye Open

We are permitted to open our eyes and pray to God (John 17:1).

G. Head Bowed

We can bow down our heads and pray to God (Genesis 24:26).

H. Prostrate

We are allowed to lie prostrate and pray to God (Matthew 28:39).

I. Standing

We are permitted to stand and pray to God (Mark 11:25).

VIII. WHY SHOULD WE PRAY?

-- Prayer is an act of serving God (1Thess. 5:18)

-- Prayer is a sign of obedience to Him (Luke 2: 36 – 38)

-- Prayer is a command from God.

Philippines 4 : 6 - 7

-- Christ gave Himself to prayer

-- The leaders of the early church were prayerful. Mark 1 : 35, Acts 1 : 14, 2 : 42

-- Christ taught His disciples how to pray.

-- Prayer is the way to receive solution to our problems.

-- Prayer prepares us towards major decisions in life (Luke 6 : 12 - 13).

-- Prayer assists us to defeat the works of Satan (Matthew 17 : 14 - 21).

-- Prayer helps us to overcome temptations (Matthew 26 : 41)

-- Through prayer, we are able to strengthen other Christians spiritually.

(Ephesians 6: 18 - 19)

-- Prayer is the means to present our requests before Him.

-- There is an assurance that He answers prayer (1John 5 : 14 - 15).

-- Prayer is the means to discern His will.

-- Prayer shows our faith in Him

-- There is a promise that He hears the prayer of a righteous man (James 5: 16)

-- Prayer assists us to receive breakthrough in life.

-- Prayer helps us become humble in His sight.

-- Prayer serves as witness to those who doubt His power.

-- Prayer portrays our total commitment to Christ.

-- Prayer creates chance for us to communicate to Him.

-- Prayer helps us to become spiritually sound.

-- Prayer opens the door for us to receive material blessings from Him.

-- Prayer changes our behavior and life style.

-- Prayer assists us to understand the wisdom of God.

-- Through prayer, we develop cordial relationship with Him

-- Prayer enables us to live victorious Christian life.

IX. Hindrances to Prayer

A. Word of God

If we are not willing to hear His word, He would not listen to our prayers.

When we don't put His word into action, He will not do our hearts requests for us (Proverbs 28:9).

B. Regard

When we regard sin in our hearts, He will turn His ear from hearing our prayers. We should not help others to commit sin against God (Psalms 66: 18).

Because He hates sin and does not want us to entertain sin.

If we love the world, He will not answer our prayers. When we give ourselves to the world, it shows that we have deviated from the path of

God and He has no friendship with those who love the world.

C. Desiring Wrongly

This means that we don't pray according to His will but follow our feelings to ask what is not in line with the scriptures (James 4: 2 - 3).

D. Unconfessed Sin

Since we are human beings, it is possible that we can sin against Him.

When we sin against Him and we overlook it to ask for forgiveness of sin (Isaiah 59 : 2).

E. Self Motivation

If we pray for ourselves only, without praying for the needs of others (James 4 : 1 - 4). This makes us to become spiritually selfish.

F. Unforgiveness

If we don't forgive those who sin against us, He will not hear our prayers. When we learn to forgive those who sin against us, it paves way for us to receive divine favor (Matthew 6 : 14 – 15).

G. Marital Conflict

When married couples are not living in peace, it hinders their prayers (Ephesians 5 : 22 - 24).

Troubles among married couples bring division and confusion in the home. This makes both of the couples to lose interest in marriage. When this happens, they are not able to pray together.

H. Idols

When we give our hearts to the lesser gods and value anything more than God (Exodus 14 : 13).

If we do this, it means we have belittled Him. To belittle Him is an act to undermine His divinity. In this case we begin to disregard Him in our hearts and do what please us.

I. Self Justification

When we are praying, we must not regard in our hearts that we are righteous than others. Our utterances should not portray that we have justified ourselves before Him.

Self justification shows that we are proud and have declared ourselves righteous before Him. It portrays that we don't accept that we were born in sin and never agree that we can fall into sin.

X. CHARACTERISTICS OF BIBLICAL PRAYER

A. Understanding of your Insignificance and Sinfulness

We have to accept that we were born in sin and had it not been His grace we would have remained in sin. Because of the sacrificial work of Christ, He listens to our prayers.

(Psalms 8 : 3-4 ; Psalms 130 : 3-4)

B. Jesus Christ the way to the Father

When we are praying, we should regard Jesus Christ as the only way to approach God (Hebrews 10: 19 – 22) Because He reconciled man to God. Without Him, we have no access to appear before the throne of grace.

C. Adoration

As Christians we ought to praise God for what has done and what He would do for us. We

must show appreciation to Him because of His faithfulness (Deuteronomy 32 : 1 - 4 ; Psalms 145 : 1 - 3)

D. Joyful Praise

We should thank and bless Him for His wonderful creative works. We ought to praise Him for how He redeemed us from the bondage of sin and had adopted us as His Children

(Ephesians 1 : 3 - 8, 10 - 11).

E. Thankfulness

We should show gratitude to Him for the good things He has been doing in our lives (John 1 : 17; Hebrews 13 : 15).

F. Strength to Overcome Specific Sin

We ought to ask Him to help us to overcome besetting sins in our lives. As Christians, we must learn to live in the Spirit so that we will be able to defeat the works of the flesh (Romans 8 : 1- 3).

G. Trust

We should depend on Him because He is able to do all things (Jeremiah 32 : 17 ; 1 John 5 : 14 – 15)

H. Praying for Others

We must accept it as our duty to pray for those who are in trouble (Ephesians 6: 18 – 19)

Also we should take it upon us to pray for our brethren in the Lord (1 Thess. 5: 25)

I. Spiritual Wisdom and Understanding

We ought to ask Him to open our minds to get revelation from His word (Proverbs 2: 3 – 5)

XI. THE RESULT OF CHRISTIAN PRAYER

A. Fellowship with God

Through prayer, we will develop our relationship with God. Out of this, we learn to draw near to Him (Galatians 3: 26, 1 John 3: 10)

B. Cleansed by God

When we confess our sins to Him, He will forgive and wash our sins away by the blood of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5: 21)

C. Change of Life

Morally prayer changes our lives to become good men in the sight of God. When He answers our prayers, we experience improvement in our lives.

D. Laborers for the Harvest

If we pray hard, we will be able to win souls into His kingdom. These saved souls would become useful in His ministry tomorrow and they will be trained to expand His kingdom.

E. Miracles

Through prayer, signs and wonders happen which are beyond the knowledge and the wisdom of man. These make man to respect and fear Him (Mark 5: 25 – 34)

F. Change Your World

When the situation of our country is bad, we can pray to God to bring things under control. If things are hard for us, we could pray to Him to make things easy for us. Through prayer, we will be able transform our destinies.

XII. THE PRAYER LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

According to the Bible Jesus Christ never took prayer for granted. These are the proof of His prayer life.

- Christ's life on earth (Hebrews 5 : 7)
- All night (Luke 6 : 12 – 13)
- Very early in the morning (Mark 1 : 35)
- During His baptism (Luke 3 : 21 – 22)
- At mountain side (Matthew 6 : 31, 33, 46)
- Prayed over 5 loaves of bread and 2 piece of fish (Matthew 14 : 19)
- Solitary place (Luke 5 : 15 – 16)
- In the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26 : 36)
- At the mountain of Olives (Luke 22 : 39 – 41)
- Manifestation of His Father's glory (John 12 : 28)
- Prayer for Himself (John 17 : 1)
- After His resurrection (Luke 24 : 30 31)

This shows He valued prayer as the source of His strength was successful in all aspects of His ministry. He was not selfish in prayer and His prayer life portrays that He depended on His Father. The way He prayed portrayed that His relationship between His Father was inseparable. He was not lazy in prayer and educated His disciples how to pray. He began His earthly ministry with prayer and ended it with prayer.

XIII. PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT

The following Bible verses instruct Christians to pray in the Spirit (1 Corinthians 14: 15; Ephesians 6: 18; Jude 1: 20).

This shows that God wants His Children to pray in the Spirit. Let us examine what it means to pray in the Spirit. The phrase "pray in" has a lot of meaning in Greek language. It implies "by means of", "with the help of", "in the sphere of" and "in connection to". To pray in the Spirit does not imply the face value but how we pray. Therefore praying in the Spirit means that the Holy Spirit is controlling the one who is praying.

XIV. THE PRAYER LIFE OF THE EARLY CHURCH

The pioneers of the early church met at the upper room to pray because Jesus Christ instructed them to wait until they were baptized with the Holy Spirit. Prayer was one of the foundations of the early church. Without prayer, Satan would have defeated the early church.

If we want to understand the prayer life of the early church, then we will look at from the birth of the early church (Acts 2: 42).

XVI. THE BIRTH OF THE EARLY CHURCH

When the disciples followed Jesus Christ, they saw that what He did was above the knowledge and the wisdom of man. Sometimes they became astonished at Him. Before He left for Heaven, He ordered His disciples to wait until the Holy Spirit baptized them. He knew that without the Spirit

they would not be able to finish their ministries. Since He promised them, they prayed to receive the Holy Spirit from His Father (Acts 1: 4 - 5, 8). Due to His faithfulness, they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues. (Acts 2 : 1-4)

A. *How did the Early Church Pray?*

1. *Without Ceasing*

The leaders and the members of early church gave themselves to prayer.

Because they perceived that without prayer, they would fail in His ministry. They never allowed problems to discourage them to stop praying but challenged them to pray hard (1Thess. 5: 17).

2. *Individually*

Christ educated His disciples to understand the need to devote their time for prayers (Matthew 6: 5 ; Luke 9: 18). Through His prayer life, He taught them the importance of spending time with God in their various closet.

3. *Corporate*

When Peter and John were released from prison, the religious leaders warned them not to preach in the name of Jesus Christ. Because of this, the early church met at one place and prayed together. The place shook and they were filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 4: 23-31).

4. *The Word of God*

His word is the greatest weapon that He has given to us. If we remind Him of what He has said concerning us, it made our prayers to

become effective (Luke 4 : 4). Reminding God about His promises in the scriptures stirs Him up to act but it is the greatest weapon to defeat the strategy of the devil

XVII. SPIRITUAL CONCENTRATION

This is the act of devoting ourselves to prayer and Bible study but should be the lifestyle of every Christian. Without spiritual concentration, Christians cannot grow in the Lord and Satan will take us captives. As Christians, we must observe spiritual concentration for the rest of our lives until death. If we fail to do this, we will not be victorious in our Christian lives. In the scriptures those who followed God did this exercise and failure to do this exercise is an attempt to backslide. We ought to understand that if we don't have time for God, we cannot serve Him (Proverbs 17 : 27 - 28 ; Eccl. 3 : 7 ; Colossians 3 : 23 - 24, Mark 6 : 31, Isaiah 30 : 15 ; 1Peter 3 : 15 - 16 ; 2Timothy 3 : 16; Proverbs 10 : 8). Spiritually this helps us to grow in the Lord, builds us to be self-disciplined and draws us closer to Him. It assists us to become conscious of ourselves and serve Him in perfection. It helps us to grow in knowledge of the Lord and God wants Christians to fellowship with Him. Through this, we will receive both spiritual and material blessings from Him. Without this there is no way to communicate to

Him. When we do this exercise, we shall receive divine directions from above. It is the only means to give spiritual food to the soul of man. We should not only care about our bodies but also think about our souls. If we feed the flesh, we should think of feeding the soul with the word of God. The soul loves to communicate to his creator and should be fed with the word of God.

XVIII. MISCONCEPTIONS OF PRAYER

- i. Prayer is one - way relationship. During prayers it is not only man who speaks to God but He also talks to us.
- ii. God hears the prayer of those who are good people. God listens to the prayer of a righteous person
- iii. Prayer becomes powerful when we take an action. God strengthens the weak so our actions will amount to nothing without His intervention.
- iv. When we are praying, we have to beg God to give us what we need. As children of God, we can approach the throne of grace with all boldness and present our requests before Him.
- v. Prayer becomes prayer when we receive an instant answer. God answers our prayers at His appropriate time.

- vi. Prayer is boring. prayer is interesting because the Holy Spirit empowers us to pray
- vii. Prayer must be prayed just once. The Bible instructs Christians to keep on praying until we have received an answer.
- viii. We should pray by kneeling before God. God hears our prayers base on our relationship with Christ.
- ix. God listens to those who are Christians. Because of sacrificial work of Christ, God is ready to hear the prayer of sinners.

XIX. THINGS THAT HAPPEN WHEN WE DON'T PRAY

- i. When we don't pray, we cannot fulfill His ministry with our own strength
- ii. If we don't pray, we will become carnal Christians.
- iii. When we don't to pray, we will break our relationship with God.
- iv. If we don't pray, we will not be able to live holy life.
- v. When we refuse to pray, we would depend on ourselves.
- vi. If we don't pray, we will lift ourselves high instead of Christ.
- vii. When we don't pray, we will lose boldness to fight the Christian battle.

XX.HOW TO DEVELOP YOUR PRAYER LIFE

A. Determination

We should prepare our minds and hearts that we want to be prayerful Christians. All the prayer warriors in the scriptures prepared their minds and hearts to be prayer warriors. Those who have prospered in life depended on their preparation towards what they wanted to achieve in life.

B. Holy Spirit

We ought to allow ourselves to the Holy Spirit to lead us in our prayers. Through this, we will be able to pray in line with the will of God. As the Holy Spirit leads us , our prayers would be effective.

C. Read and Study Books about Prayer

We must read and study Christian literature books about prayer. These books will revive us to be prayerful Christians. Reading Christian literature books about prayer builds our faith in prayer.

D. Pray Without Ceasing

We must not allow Problems to discourage us to stop praying to God but should learn to pray without ceasing. Through this we will receive spiritual strength to keep on communicating to Him.

E. Pray for Others

While we pray for ourselves, we ought to intercede for others. This should become part and parcel of our prayer lives. We must pray to God to protect, give peace and give them long life.

F. Thank God

We must show appreciation to Him for what has done and what He will do in our lives. We should praise and bless Him for the good things He has done for us. Out of this we would experience His glory in due time.

G. Let God Talk to You

When we are praying, we should take time and listen to what He will say to us. We should tune our minds and hearts to Him in order to hear from Him.

H. The Mode of Prayer

We ought to understand that prayer is a dialogue between God and man but it is not only a means to present our requests to Him. Many people regard prayer as a way to request something from Him instead of consulting issues from Him. When we inquire issues from Him, He will mysteries to us.

I. Read the Bible and Learn How Christ Prayed

We must study the Bible and learn Jesus' style of praying. This will help us to become strong in prayer. Also we should learn the prayer lives of the prominent men of God in the Bible like David and Paul.

J. Pray with an Open Mind, Heart and Soul

We should feel free to share our problems to Him because He knows the state of our hearts. We ought to understand that without Him our strength would fail us.

K. Biblical Examples of Answered Prayers

We want to look at some people in the scriptures who had problems and through God delivered them.

1. Hezekiah

He was sick, God sent prophet Isaiah to tell him that he would die and he should put things in order at his house. He prayed to Him to increase his life and He granted his request to him (1 Kings 20 : 1- 6).

2. Hannah

She was a barren married woman and prayed to God to give her child. Out of her prayer He gave birth to Samuel (1 Samuel 1: 1 - 2, 6, 9 - 11, 19, 20).

3. The Church

King Herod instructed that James should be killed and sentenced Peter to prison. The church prayed for Peter and He sent His angels to go and delivered him (Acts 12: 1 - 17).

4. Joshua

The kings of Amorites planned to attack Gibeon because of their alliance with the Israelites. They told Joshua to come and assist them. He came with the mighty men of Israel and fought with them and defeated them (Joshua 10: 11 - 14).

5. Jabez

The word "Jabez" implies "sorrow". His mother bore him in pain and his name had negative effect on his life. He prayed to Him to change his

destiny and He granted his request to him (1 Chronicles 4: 9 - 10).

XXI. THE PRAYER LIFE OF APOSTLE PAUL

Apostle Paul recorded his prayers in the thirteen New Testament books that he wrote. In the first century God used him to proclaim the gospel of Christ to the Gentiles and to the then Roman world. If we learn his prayer life, we will develop to become prayerful like him. When we learn his prayer life, our minds would be saturated with proclaiming the gospel and exalting Christ to the world. His prayer life shows that his heart and mind were centered on Christ. The following Bible verses show that he was a man of prayer:

- i. His prayers for the believers at Rome (Romans 1: 8 – 10; Romans 10: 1)
 - ii. His exhortation to the Romans to prayer (Romans 12: 12; Romans 15: 5 – 6; Romans 15: 13)
 - iii. He requested for prayer (Romans 15: 30 – 33)
 - iv. His prayers for the believers at Corinth (1 Corinthians 1: 4 – 9; 1 Corinthians 16: 23; 2 Corinthians 1: 3 – 7; 2 Corinthians 13 : 7 – 9)
 - v. His prayers for the Galatians church (Galatians 6: 18)
 - vi. His prayers for the Ephesians (Ephesians 1: 3; Ephesians 3: 14 – 21; Ephesians 6: 19 – 20)
 - vii. His prayers for the Philippians (Philippians 1: 3 – 6; Philippians 1: 9 -11; Philippians 4: 6 – 7)
 - viii. His prayers for the Colossians (Colossians 1: 3 – 4; Colossians 4 : 2 – 4)
 - ix. His prayers for the Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians 1: 2 – 3; 1 Thessalonians 2: 13 – 16; 1 Thessalonians 3: 9 – 13; 2 Thessalonians 1: 3; 2 Thessalonians 1 :11 – 12)
 - x. His prayer to be chosen (1 Timothy 1: 12)
 - xi. He interceded for others (1 Timothy 2: 1)
 - xii. He interceded for his son in the Lord (2 Timothy 1: 3 – 7; 2 Timothy 4 :22)
 - xiii. His prayer for Titus (Titus 3: 15)
 - xiv. His prayer for Philemon (Philemon 25)
- He liked and valued prayer more than his favorite food and loved to communicate to God. He devoted himself to prayer, interceded for his junior pastors, his brethren in the Lord and the nation Israel. When it comes to prayer, he was not selfish and was interested in interceding for his fellow brethren in the Lord. He was not lazy in prayer and instructed the Churches under him to pray hard. Prayer helped him to become submissive and obedient to the Lord in all aspects of ministry. Through prayer, he took

ministry easy and endured all the problems he encountered. Because he was prayerful, he enjoyed cordial relationship with God and received directions from Him. He did not depend on his knowledge, wisdom and strength. Out of prayer He won the lost souls for the Lord. He was vigilant and committed his soul to His creator but made up his mind to work hard for the Lord. He encouraged his brethren in Christ to pray hard.

XXII. THE PARABLE OF THE PHARISEES AND THE TAX COLLECTOR

This parable teaches about spiritual truth and the importance of the gospel of Christ. The Pharisees believe that righteousness is based on good works. This helps us to understand that Jesus' purpose of His earthly ministry was to save the lost souls. The parable says that a Pharisees and a Tax Collector went into a temple to pray to God. Through prayer, the Pharisees justified himself before Him. Because of his religion, he thought that was righteous than the tax collector. He never prayed for forgiveness of sin and did not praise God but praised himself based on his religious practices. His utterances shows that he esteemed himself more than the tax collector. Besides, the tax collector saw himself as a sinner who deserved the mercy of God. He cried to Him from the bottom of his heart that He should

forgave of his sins. Because he his heart and conscience condemned him. The tax collector went home being justified in the sight of God. Looking at the issue of these two people, it portrays that God is seeking for the lost souls and He has opened up His arms to welcome them into His kingdom. He is not looking for the righteous. He is interested in the salvation of sinners and does not want them to perish. As Christians we should not under esteemed sinners as useless but respect them as precious in the sight of God. We must not justified ourselves that we are better than them. We must let sinners understand that they are great instrument in the hands of God. Moreover, the tax collector's heart was broken and he prayed with a humble spirit. His soul was seeking for divine favor and recognized Him as his last hope in life. The case of the tax collector proofs that God hears the prayer of sinners and shows that He is merciful Father. He does not discriminate but loves to save those who will call upon Him from sincere heart (Luke 18 vs 9 – 14).

XXIII. RELIGIOUS VIEWS ABOUT PRAYER

A. Christianity

Christians' model of prayer is the Lord's Prayer. It was Jesus Christ who taught His disciples to pray such a prayer. The Lord's Prayer consists of praise, confession and petition. Because of this,

Christians believe that prayer is learned and is the means to talk to God. Prayer shows their total dependence on Him. Christians regard prayer as the tool to defeat the plans of Satan and a means to receive breakthrough in all aspects of ministry. When Christ was dwelling on earth, He gave Himself to prayer. Through prayer, He completed His earthly ministry successfully. Due to this reason, Christians value prayer more than material possessions. The early church devoted their time to prayer. Out of prayer the early church was able to spread the gospel and plant churches. Prayer assisted them to endure the temptations and moved forward in ministry. They performed signs and wonders through Prayer. Christians believe that God has commanded us to pray and we ought to pray in faith. We know that prayer without faith will amount to nothing and believe that prayer would prevent us from falling into temptations. We believe that through prayer we will be able to do great things for Him. Prayer will solve our spiritual and physical problems. We believe that if we don't pray our relationship with God will break. We believe that when we don't pray it paves way for Satan to take advantage of us

B. Judaism

The Jews pray three times a day giving thanks, praise and plead for His assistance. They pray in

the morning, afternoon and evening and believe that the more one pray, the more He shows His love to him. Most of the Jewish prayers are based on reciting the prayer from a book loud in a synagogue. Prayer develops the relationship between God and man. Prayer is the act of serving Him in your heart and obeying His commandment. When they are praying, their minds focus on the prayer and they pray from their hearts. Praying everyday helps a person to build his relationship with God and prayer changes their faith and their patterns of living. Praying with their heart, mind and the soul takes a person into different states of being. Through prayer, a person can get closer to Him. and his fellow Jew. They pray in order to obey His commandment but prayer portrays their faith in Him.

C. Islamic

Muslims believe that has instructed them to pray five times in a day. In Islam this prayer ritual is called "salat" and it is compulsory for every Muslim to pray such a prayer. The prayers of Muslims are:

- Salat al fajr -- before sunrise
- Salat al - zuhr -- Midday after sunset
- Salat al - as -- late afternoon
- Salat al - Maghreb -- just after sunset
- Salat al - Isha -- between sunset and midnight Every. Muslim must pray these

prayers including their children who are seven years old. Throughout the world, this prayer ritual has been observed over 1400 years by millions of Muslims. They pray with their mind, soul and body and make sure they have clear conscience before they appear in the presence of God. When they are praying, they concentrate on the prayer and forget about their personal problems. If a Muslim pray without clear conscience, it means he has not prepared to pray. During the ritual prayer, every Muslim believes have direct contact with Him so there is no need for a leader. They could pray at any place but it is good to pray with others in a Mosque. Praying together assist them to perceive the essence of unity and as human beings, we are equal in the sight of God. They believe that they must be clean before they pray to Him. Because of this reason, they perform ritual washing call "Wudhu".

XXIV. INTERCESSORY PRAYER OF ABRAHAM

Abraham had good relationship with God because he decided and determined to worship Him. He humbled, feared, obeyed and devoted himself to Him.

Due to this, he became a friend of God and He tested him in several ways but he did not sin against Him. The greatest test was to sacrifice his only son Isaac to Him. When He told him to sacrifice his son, he took a step of faith to proof to Him that he loved Him more than himself. However, the Bible testifies that he was an intercessor. He prayed for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah when He wanted to destroy them. Because the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah were great, He destroyed them. Because he had good relationship with Him, he was able to stand before Him to pray for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. He had compassion and love for these two cities and cried to Him to deliver them from destruction. He was not interested and did not celebrate about the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah but pleaded to Him to forgive them. He shew concern, and demonstrated love towards the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. He asked Him if would destroy the wicked with the righteous. It was compassion that moved him to ask such a question. He asked Him this question because he wanted Him to be merciful and saved these two cities for sake of the righteous ones. He inquired from Him if He would destroy the cities when got fifty up to ten righteous people. God replied no. Sad to say that he did not get the expected figure. This shows that he spent his time to pray for them. He put his problem aside

and interceded for their deliverance. This indicates that Christians should possess genuine love and compassion before we can be an intercessors. The above mentioned qualities will help us to care about others. Through caring for others, we would see the need to spend our time to pray for them. If we are selfish, then we can't pray intercede for others. Brethren, we should know that Abraham was not selfish. During that time, he had problems but forgot his problems and prayed them. We ought not to be interested in the destruction of others rather think about the prosperity of others. He would have stopped praying for them but cared about where their souls were going. We should think about the souls that are perishing and pray to deliver these souls from eternal destruction. Remember that if we lack the ability to intercede for people, then we will not be effective in soul winning. He regarded it as his responsibility to pray for them (Genesis 18:18-33).

The value of intercession prayer

- Intercession prayer makes our relationship with God to be cordial
- If we pray for people, God will reveal secret things to us which He would not show them to any other person (Amos 3:7).

- When we learn the book of Exodus, we will see that Moses prayed for the Israelites and God told him what he should do
- God planned to destroy the Jews, Moses prayed to Him to have mercy upon them. Through his prayer, He stopped what He had decided to do to them (Exodus 32 : 7).
- The intercessor's personal problems are solved through praying for others (Job 42 : 10).
- When we pray for others, it saves them from bad situation (Genesis 19 : 29; Acts 12 : 5).
- Biblical reasons for intercession prayer
 - It is a command from God (Colossians 4: 2; Luke 18: 1).
 - It is a sin to refuse to pray for people (1 Samuel 12: 23).
 - It is a means to obtain divine blessings (Matthew 7: 11).
 - It is the key to have victory over demons (Ephesians 6: 12 - 18).
 - Christ instructs Christians to pray for others (Hebrews 5: 7).
 - God becomes grived if we don't pray for others (Isaiah 43: 21- 22).

XXV. THE PRAYER OF SINNERS

The Bible states that God does not hear the prayer of those who have rebelled against Him.

In the book of Psalms king David says that He does not hear the prayer of sinners (Psalms 34: 15 – 16). They are interested in sin and sin has taken control of their lives (Psalms 66: 18).

Those who rebel against His word their prayers will not be answered (Proverbs 28: 9.). Sin is a hindrance to prayer so we must abstain from it. According to John 9 : 31 God does not listen to the prayer of sinners. This is true because He has no relationship with them. They don't value His word but are moved by their own desires and follow the pleasures of the world. He does not like to see the face of sinners because He hates sin (Isaiah 59 vs 2) and does not fellowship with them (2 Corinthians 6 : 14 ; John 1: 6).

A. Prayer of Salvation

God wants every sinner to pray a prayer of salvation. When a sinner prays a prayer of salvation, God Himself becomes glad and His angels rejoice in Heaven. All Christians prayed a prayer of salvation before they became Children of God. When we pray a prayer of salvation, it implies that:

- We accept that Jesus Christ is God
- We believe that Jesus Christ came and dwelled on earth as a man.

- We agree that Jesus Christ led a sinless life on earth.
- We believe that Jesus Christ died to deliver man the bondage of sin.
- We believe that Jesus Christ is our personal savior and Lord.
- We invite Jesus Christ to come and stay in our hearts.
- We believe that His word is true (Hebrews 11:6)
- We believe in Jesus Christ as our source of eternal life.
- We have decided to follow the footsteps of Jesus Christ
- We believe in our hearts that we have sinned against God. (Romans 3: 23)
- We believe that Jesus Christ resurrected from the dead.
- We believe that Jesus Christ had triumphed over sin and death.

There is no special prayer that we have to recite in order for us to receive divine salvation. Divine salvation is based on one's faith in Christ Jesus. Through faith in Him, we will be compelled to pray for forgiveness of sin. In the scriptures those who received salvation exercised their faith in Christ and not that they were kind to people. We should understand that if we don't value Jesus Christ as the savior of the world, then we cannot be saved. Many people have become

Christians due to their faith in Christ. Attending church regularly does not give us salvation and accepting ministerial appointment is not the condition to receive salvation. If one believes in God and does not believe in Christ. Then that person is not saved because he does not believe in Christ. Brethren, let us understand that the lesser gods don't possess eternal life so paying in the name of a lesser god is not the means to receive salvation.

B. How to Become A Prayer Warrior

1. Understand That There is a War

As Christians, we should know that we are involved in the spiritual battle which is happening in the spiritual realm. This is a battle between good and evil. We cannot look unconcern about this spiritual battle. Because God has called us to take part in the spiritual warfare and we ought to understand that divine power that resides in us is superior to any other power. Through prayer, we will be able to save people from bad situation. We must allow ourselves to the Holy Spirit to direct us to do the will of God and should pray towards the progress of the kingdom of God and pray against the works of Satan.

2. Know Your Commander

Jesus Christ is our Spiritual warfare commander. Without Him, we cannot be

victorious in spiritual warfare. He leads two armies and they are: the army of angels in Heaven and the army of prayer warriors on earth. He chose us from darkness and gives us eternal inheritance of blessings. He stays in us and wants us to depend on Him as our source of power. He is the greatest example of spiritual warfare who has never recorded failure in spiritual battle. If we learn from Him, we will be successful in all aspects of spiritual battle.

3. Recognize Your Enemy

We ought to bear in mind that Satan is our enemy in spiritual battle; he is the head of the fallen angels and regard him as a accuser, tempter and deceiver. His aim is to persuade us to doubt about the faithfulness of God and to take control over our lives. When we disobey God, we create chance for him to take advantage of us. We should resist him and pray hard to destroy his plans.

4. Be Certain of Your Authority In Prayer

We ought to know the authority Christ had given to us and use it for the progress of His kingdom. We must understand that He will answer our prayers base on His will at the appropriate time. We should know that we can bring every situation under control through prayer.

5. *Condition Yourself*

We have to make sure that we are healthy physically, mentally, spiritually and emotionally. Prayer warriors are like soldiers who should prepare well before they go to the battle field.

6. *Become Skilled With Your Spiritual Weapon*

We must read the scriptures and live by the scriptures. Through praises and worship, we allow His presence to take control of our lives.. We ought to accept that there is nothing that is impossible to Him

7. *Engage In The War*

We should be aware that the time of Jesus' arrival is short. Because of this, we must serve Him well and fight against evil.

8. *Put on the Armor of God*

Since we are Christians, our lives should portray that we are wearing the armor of God. If our lives, shows that we have put on the armor of God, then it will be difficult for Satan to defeat us.

9. *Identify the Immediate Battle Field*

If the devil touches us, we must pray about it. Instead of generalizing our prayer points.

10. *Follow His orders to resist the devil*

We need to surrender every aspect of our lives to God in order to prevent Satan and his angels from controlling us.

XXVI. PRAYING TO THE DEAD SAINTS

The teaching of praying to the dead saints is practiced by the Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches. Prayers offered to the dead saints were found in Christians writings around 3rd century. In 4th century the Apostle Creed specified belief in the Communion with the saints. Through the Apostle Creed, certain churches hold on to this belief. The act of praying to the dead saints has become a hot debate in Christianity, Judaism and Islam.

A. *Reasons Why Some of the Churches Pray to the Dead Saints*

- They ask the dead saints to pray with and to pray for them.
- They pray to the dead dead saints in order to continue fellowshiping with them
- The dead saints and the angels stand in the presence of God to offer their prayers to Him.
- They believe that asking the dead saints to pray for them is the same as asking their fellow brethren to pray for them.
- They regard Mary and the dead saints as intercessors before God.
- They believe that the dead saints have direct access to God than the living Christians.

- They believe that when dead a saint delivers prayer to God it is effective than the living Christians.

B. What does the Bible Says about Praying to the Dead Saints?

The Bible does not permit man to pray to the dead saints. We cannot see it in the scriptures where a man of God prays to the dead saints or asking a dead saint to pray for him. According to the Bible man is expected to pray to God through Jesus Christ. Besides Jesus Christ there is no mediator who can stand before God and interceded for us. Therefore the Virgin Mary and the dead saints are not mediators rather Jesus Christ is the mediator (Hebrews 7: 25). The Holy Spirit prays for us (Romans 8: 26-27) and it is scriptural when we ask our brethren in Christ to pray for us (2 Corinthians 1: 11; Ephesians 1: 16). There is one God and one Mediator (1 Timothy 2: 5). Apostle Paul asked believers in Christ to pray for him (Ephesians 6: 19). Mary and the dead saints are still finite beings with limitations. The phrase "praying to or speaking to the dead in the scriptures is connected to witchcraft or sorcery and the Bible does not instruct us to involve ourselves in this act (Leviticus 20: 27; Deuteronomy 18: 10 - 13). It is wrong to think that God hears the prayer of a dead saints more than the living saints. When we

pray in faith, God will listen to our prayers and there is no where in the Bible a dead saint prays for a living saint.

XXVII. METHODOLOGY

The research design that was adopted for writing this paper was explanatory research design. Through explanatory research design the study was able to achieved the objectives of the study and it was the best method for giving reasons for collecting data. The study used qualitative research approach, the research strategy that used was cross sectional survey where a number of articles were chosen as a case study and the method used for collecting data for the study was primary source.

A. Method of Data Collection

The method that used for collecting data to write this paper was primary source where a lot of articles were consulted.

B. Population

The population of the study was 15 authors.

XXIII. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Summary of Findings

The study used explanatory research research design because it was the best method to give reasons for collecting data. The research strategy used was cross sectional survey where a number of research articles were chosen as a case study,

the research approach used was qualitative research approach because the study wanted to find out the benefits behind prayer and fasting, the method for collecting data for the study was primary source, the population of the study was 15 authors and the objectives of the study was achieved. The study find out the meaning of prayer, types of prayer, how to pray, when to pray, what happened when we do not pray, the results of Christian pray, characteristics of Biblical prayer, the reasons why we pray, misconceptions of prayer, how to become a prayer warrior, the need to observe spiritual concentration, how to pray effective prayer, the value of intercession prayer, how to fast and pray, state the reasons why we don't pray to the dead Saints, the prayer life of Jesus Christ, the prayer life of the early church, how to develop in prayer, some of the religious views about prayer, the prayer of a sinner and how to pray for salvation.

B. Conclusion

Through the study, Jesus Christ never took prayer for granted, the early church was prayerful and educated Christians about the right way to pray to God. Due to these reasons, the study generalized that prayer is significant to the 21st century Christians.

C. Recommendations

1. Preaching and Teachings

The pastors of the various churches should spend much time to preach and teach about prayer. They ought to preach and teach their congregation to understand the need to pray and to build their prayer lives. During preaching and teaching the pastors must not rush but take time to explain the scriptures well so that their congregation see it as their duties to pray. The pastors ought to expose their congregation to know the blessings behind prayer and should educate them to understand that all the men who followed God gave themselves to prayer. They should preach and teach them to understand that without prayer they cannot bring the Christian journey to a successful end.

2. Organize Program

The pastors of the various churches should organize programs on prayer to develop the spiritual life of their church members. The program ought to be continuous and it will assist them to be prayerful Christians

3. Play

The pastors of the various churches should organize and act educative play concerning the significance of prayer. Through this, it will urge their church members to be serious in prayer.

4. *Films*

The pastors of the various churches must encourage their church members to watch films which are very educative about prayer. Out of this, they will be compelled to pray.

5. *Christian Literature Books*

The pastors of the various churches must teach their congregation to study Christian literature books to broaden their knowledge about prayer and to build upon their prayer lives.

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