

**Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!**



Holy, Holy, Holy

Hymn 323



Grace Greater Than Our Sin

Hymn 105



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An open Bible is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with text, and the background is a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is centered on the pages.

Call to Worship

Psalm 146:1-7

Psalm 146:1-7 Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD,
O my soul! I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I
will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in
whom there is no salvation. When his breath
departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day
his plans perish. Blessed is he whose help is the
God of Jacob, **whose hope is in the LORD his God,**
who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that
is in them, who keeps faith forever; who executes
justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the
hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;

Heaven Came Down

Hymn 657



Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Hymn 91





Praise and Prayer Request

Philippians 1:3-6 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Receiving of the Offering



2 Corinthians 9:5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready **as a willing gift**, not as an exaction.

Famous Quote:

“Conscience is the internal perception of God’s Moral Law.”

OSWALD CHAMBERS

An open Bible is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with text, but it is mostly out of focus. The background is a bright blue sky with some light clouds. The text is overlaid in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

Today's Message

“Prayer”

Scripture text: Ephesians 6:10-20

Ephesians chapter 6 tells us **that a great weapon of the soldier of Christ is prayer.**

It is the line of communication we have with Headquarters. It is by that line that we request supplies for the troops—ammunition, food, medical aid, etc.

This is why it is essential to keep the communication line open, free from interference and from Satanic static. **Sin interferes with earth-to-heaven communication.**

For the soldier of Christ, **true prayer should be a way of life**, not just a call for help in the heat of battle. This is made very clear in Scripture:

Romans 12:12: “Continuing instant [steadfast] in prayer.”

Ephesians 6:18: “Praying always ...”

Colossians 4:2: “Continue in prayer ...”

1 Thessalonians 5:17: “Pray without ceasing.”

Proverb 15:8-10 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but **the prayer of the upright is acceptable to him.** The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but **he loves him who pursues righteousness.** There is severe discipline for him who forsakes the way; **whoever hates reproof will die.**

Proverb 19:8 **Whoever gets sense loves his own soul; he who keeps understanding will discover good.**

Jeremiah 33:2-5 "Thus says the LORD who made the earth, the LORD who formed it to establish it--the LORD is his name: **Call to me and I will answer you,** and **will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.** For thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the houses of this city and the houses of the kings of Judah that were torn down to make a defense against the siege mounds and against the sword: They are coming in to fight against the Chaldeans and to fill them with the dead bodies of men **whom I shall strike down in my anger and my wrath,** for I have hidden my face from this city because of all their evil.

How to Pray

God always answers prayer.

Sometimes He says yes; sometimes He says no; and sometimes He says, “Wait for a minute.”

And since to the Lord a thousand years is the same as a day (2 Peter 3:8), that could mean a ten-year wait for us.

So ask in faith, but rest in peace-filled patience.

Surveys show that more than 90 percent of Americans pray daily. No doubt they pray for health, wealth, happiness, etc.

They also pray when grandma gets sick, and when grandma doesn't get better (or dies), many end up disillusioned or bitter. **This is because they don't understand what the Bible says about prayer.** It teaches, among other things, **that our sin will keep God from even hearing our prayer** (Psalm 66:18), and that if we pray with doubt, we will not get an answer (James 1:6, 7).

Psalm 66:17-19 I cried to him with my mouth, and high praise was on my tongue. If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. But truly God has listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

James 1:6-7 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

So if someone says to you, “why pray, God doesn't hear or answer anyway”.

This is a person **who is in rebellion to God**, who has **made themselves an enemy of God**, and yet they expect Almighty God to answer their prayer?

Isaiah 59:1-2 Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but **your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God**, and **your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.**

Here's how to be heard:

Pray with faith (Hebrews 11:6).

Pray with clean hands and a pure heart (Psalm 24:3, 4).

Pray genuine heartfelt prayers, rather than vain repetitions (Matthew 6:7).

Make sure that you are praying to the God revealed in the Scriptures (Exodus 20:3–6).

Pray with Faith: As far as God is concerned, **if you belong to Jesus, you are a VIP.** You can boldly come before the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16). **You have access to the King** because you are the son or daughter of the King. When you were a child, did you have to grovel to get your needs met by your parents? I hope not.

So when you pray, don't say, "Oh God, I hope you will supply my needs." Instead, say something like, "**Father, thank You that You keep every promise You make.** Your Word says that You will supply all my needs according to Your riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Therefore, **I thank You that You will do this thing for my family.** I ask this in the wonderful name of Jesus. Amen."

Hebrews 13:5-8 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "**I will never leave you nor forsake you.**" So we can confidently say, "**The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?**" Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

Lord, allow me to feel Your Presence, guide my choices, grant me wisdom and mercy to do Your Will, that the efforts may glorify and magnify Your Holy Name. In Jesus Name I Pray, Amen.

How do you get “clean hands and a pure heart”?

Simply by confessing your sins to God through Jesus Christ, whose blood cleanses from all sin (1 John 1:7–9). God will not only forgive your every sin, He promises to forget them (Hebrews 8:12). Based on the sacrifice of the Savior, **He will justify you**—just as if you had never sinned. He will make you pure in His sight—sinless. He will even “purge” your conscience, so that you will no longer have a sense of guilt that you sinned. That’s what it means to be “**justified by faith**.” That’s why you need to soak yourself in Holy Scripture; read the letters to the churches and see the wonderful things God has done for us through the cross of Calvary. **If you don’t bother to read the “will,” you won’t have any idea what has been given to you.**

1 John 1:7-2:1 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and **the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

Hebrews 8:10-13 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more." In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

3. How do you pray “genuine heartfelt prayers”?

Simply **by keeping yourself in the love of God.** If the love of God is in you, you will never pray hypocritical or selfish prayers. Just talk to your heavenly Father as candidly and intimately as a young child, nestled on Daddy’s lap, would talk to his earthly father.

How would you feel if every day your child pulled out a pre-written statement to dryly recite to you, rather than pouring out the events and emotions of that day? **God wants to hear from your heart.** When your prayer-life is pleasing to God, He will reward you openly (Matthew 6:6).

Matthew 6:5-8 "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But **when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.**" And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

4. How do you know you're praying to "the God revealed in Scripture"?

Study the Word. Don't accept the image of God portrayed by the world, even though it appeals to the natural mind. A kind, gentle Santa Claus figure, dispensing good things with no sense of justice or truth, appeals to guilty sinners. **Look to the thunderings and lightnings of Mount Sinai. Gaze at Jesus on the cross of Calvary—hanging in unspeakable agony because of the justice of a holy God.**

Such thoughts tend to banish idolatry.

Remember: By prayer the kingdom of God is built, and by prayer the kingdom of Satan is destroyed.

Where there is no prayer, there are no great works, and there is no building of the kingdom. **Where there is much prayer and fervent prayer, there are great gains for the kingdom:** God's rule is established, His power is directed, His will is done, society is transformed, lost persons are saved, and saints are enabled to "stand against the devil's schemes" (Eph. 6:11). **If that isn't enough to compel us to "devote [ourselves] to prayer" and "always [wrestle] in prayer" (Col. 4:2, 12), I don't know what is!**

Holy Communion



The Family of God

I'm so glad to be part of the family of God

**I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by
His blood**

Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod

For I'm part of the family, the family of God.