

## Prayer: Our Privilege & Duty

BOLD class 2-23-2020

### A. Why do we need a BOLD course on prayer?

1. We believe that prayer is essential for everything we do as a church
  - We long to see a manifest power of the risen Christ in His church, and prayer is the means that God has given us to that end
2. As disciples of Christ, we need to grow in all aspects of the Christian life, and prayer is foundational to our growth (Luke 11:1; Rom 8:26-27)

### B. Our objectives for the course

1. To grow in our intimacy with God through prayer
2. To learn to pray in a manner prescribed for us in scripture (James 4:3; 1 John 5:14)
3. To grow in our commitment to prayer, both individually and corporately
  - God has woven our prayers into his eternal plans and purposes
  - Prayer is a direct assault on Satan's kingdom (Eph 6:18)  
*"Satan cannot deny but that great wonders have been wrought by prayer. As the spirit of prayer goes up, so his kingdom goes down" (W. Gurnall).*
4. To be encouraged in our faith, as we see God hearing and answering our prayers

### C. Examples of prayer in scripture to emulate

1. The Lord's prayer defines for us what prayer is:
  - a) Prayer is communion & fellowship with God our Father, and growing in intimacy with Him (Matt 6:9)
  - b) Prayer is worship (Matt 6:9-10)
  - c) Prayer is an acknowledgement of our dependence upon our Heavenly Father (Matt 6:11-13)
2. Lessons from Psalm 63 on the heart of prayer
  - a) Prayer emanates from a heart that longs to experience God's nearness & power (:1-2)
  - b) Prayer involves meditation on God's character until our hearts begin to worship (:3-5)
  - c) Prayer is a reflection on God's goodness till our hearts are filled with gratitude (:7-8)

### D. Questions:

1. Do you see prayer as a way to grow in your intimacy with God?
2. Do you see prayer as necessary for God to accomplish His purposes in your life, in the church, and in the world around us?
3. Do you see prayer as an assault on Satan's kingdom? (Eph 6:18)
4. What do you hope to get out of this course?