

- I. The Prayer Life of Jesus.**
  - A. He prayed in the morning (Mark 1:35) and at night (Luke 6:12); between these scheduled times of secluded prayer he prayed repeatedly – he practiced the presence of his Father in heaven by keeping in touch with him through prayer.**
  - B. He looked up to pray (John 17:1); knelt to pray (Luke 22:41); and fell facedown to pray (Matt. 26:39).**
  - C. He prayed before making major decisions (Luke 6:12,13).**
  - D. He prayed after great victories (Matt. 14:23).**
  - E. He prayed earnestly and persistently (Luke 22:44 and 18:1)**
  - F. He prayed with and for people (Luke 9:28 and John 17:15).**
- II. The Essentials of Effective Prayer (James 5:16).**
  - A. “The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”**
  - B. The “righteous man” is trusting in Christ for his salvation and living in obedience to the Word of God.**
  - C. For prayer to work right we need to be right with God.**
  - D. Ten “enemies” of effective prayer.**
    - 1. Praying for the wrong reasons (James 4:3).**
    - 2. Praying while hanging on to sin (Ps. 66:18).**
    - 3. Praying with a “closed” Bible (Prov. 28:9).**
    - 4. Praying in unbelief (Matt. 21:22).**
    - 5. Praying when God isn’t first in your life (Mt. 6:33).**
    - 6. Praying with an unforgiving spirit (Mk. 11:25).**
    - 7. Praying with conflict in your marriage (1 Pet. 3:7).**
    - 8. Praying for something that’s not in the will of God (1 John 5:14,15).**
    - 9. Not praying at all (Matt. 7:7 and James 4:2).**
    - 10. Praying apart from Christ (John 14:6).**
- III. Developing and Maintaining an Effective Prayer Life.**
  - A. Choose to pray ...commit to a life of prayer.**
  - B. Pray throughout the day (practice God’s presence).**
  - C. Try different prayer positions.**
  - D. Pray Scripture back to God (e.g., Ps. 46:1).**
  - E. Be persistent in prayer.**
  - F. Commit to pray before making “major” decisions.**
  - G. Confess sin as quickly as possible.**
  - H. Pray for and with people.**
  - I. Pray honestly.**
  - J. Pray with expectancy.**