

PRAYER
August 8, 2021

Welcome To
BARAH MINISTRIES
a Christian Church

Rory Clark
Pastor-Teacher

Good Evening!

Welcome to Barah Ministries...an intimate, local Christian Church with worldwide impact. My name is Pastor Rory Clark. Welcome to this Bible lesson! Who is Jesus Christ? At Barah Ministries we know this truth...that JESUS CHRIST IS GOD. Philippians, Chapter 2, Verses 5 to 7...

PHILIPPIANS 2:5

Have this attitude in yourselves (be like-minded with him)...the attitude that was also in Christ Jesus (an attitude of humility)...

PHILIPPIANS 2:6

...who, although He is the exact same in essence as God the Father (100% Deity)...did not regard His equality with God the Father as a thing to be seized and held onto...

PHILIPPIANS 2:7

...instead, the Lord emptied Himself (the Greek word kenoo...depriving Himself of the rightful functions of Deity for a time)...taking on the essence of a bond-servant (as 100% true humanity)...and having been made in the likeness of men...

Even though He is God, the Lord Jesus Christ was more than willing to set aside self-will in favor of obeying the will of God the Father to become the Savior of the whole world. He is definitely God, with the exact same nature and God the Father and God the Holy Spirit!

Why does Barah Ministries exist? At Barah Ministries, we introduce people to the Lord. We make a difference by teaching the Word of God verse-by-verse from the Lord's perspective and not from man's perspective. Barah Ministries is provided by God for the benefit of both unbelievers and believers. We give unbelievers the gospel message...the good news concerning Jesus Christ's salvation offer. We

PRAYER
August 8, 2021

teach believers in Christ the Word of God...the Bible...the inerrant Canon of Scripture...so that those who study the Word of God can have a deep, intimate, and personal relationship with the Lord. John, Chapter 20, Verse 31 gives a clear reason why ministries like ours exist...to edify!

JOHN 20:31

...these things written in the Bible have been written so that you may BELIEVE (the truth) that Jesus is the Christ...The Jewish Messiah...the Son of God in human form...and that by believing in Him you may have the resurrection life in His name.

Why study the Word of God? Proverbs, Chapter 30, Verse 5 says...

PROVERBS 30:5

Every word of God communicated through the Bible proves itself to be true...the Lord is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.

We study the Word of God because the Lord reveals Himself through His infallible Word. We get to know Him by studying the Bible...and through what we learn in the Bible we are able to experience a personal relationship with the Lord. As you study the Word of God with us, we implore you to always compare what you learn about God, both at Barah Ministries and in the world, with what the Bible has to say. Acts, Chapter 17, Verse 11 tells us...

ACTS 17:11

The Berean believers were more noble-minded than those believers in Thessalonica...for the Berean believers received the Word of God with great eagerness...examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things the apostle Paul was teaching were true.

God's enemy is Satan, whom God made 'the ruler of this world.' He is a deceiver who hates everyone in the world, including you and me. In John, Chapter 12, Verse 31, the Lord says...

JOHN 12:31

"Now judgment is upon this world...now the ruler of this world (Satan) will be cast out (he will be dethroned from ruling planet earth at a future time)."

PRAYER
August 8, 2021

We are comforted as believers in Christ because as First John, Chapter 5, Verse 19 makes it clear...

FIRST JOHN 5:19

We believers in Christ KNOW that we are possessions of God the Father...even though we also know that the whole world lies in the power of Satan...the evil one.

Satan is a creature. He is not a “symbol of evil.” He is not a concept. He isn’t a cartoon character with a red epidermis and a pitchfork. He does exist...even though it is his preference for you to think he does not exist.

He is a perfect, gorgeous, well-dressed, former officer angel...and he is a brilliant genius. He blinds the minds of unbelievers so they don’t get to know God and so they don’t see the power of the gospel message...and he interferes with the believer's chance to become intimate with God through the study of the Word of God by distracting us to other pursuits. If not for God’s protective power, we would be defenseless against him.

The spiritual life is warfare, and your soul is the battleground. As believers in Christ, we are not fighting FOR the victory in this warfare...we are operating FROM victorious ground! Those of us who are in union with Christ have the victory over Satan through our Lord, who has overcome the world. James, Chapter 4, Verses 7 says...

JAMES 4:7

(Believers)...Submit (yourselves) to God (by obeying Him). Resist the devil (by standing fast on your victorious ground against Him) and he will flee from you.

Satan is powerless against our God.

TONIGHT’S BIBLE LESSON

Prayer is Mandatory for an Intimate Relationship with the Lord

LESSON INTRODUCTION

What role does PRAYER play in your life? Christianity is a relationship with the Lord...Jesus...the Christ. You would never dream of having a human relationship that was absent of communication. You would never be foolish enough to think that you could develop and maintain a connection with someone without

PRAYER
August 8, 2021

interacting with them. Yet it is routine for Christians to be saved, but to never have any interaction with the Lord...not through the study of the Word of God and not through prayer. In tonight's lesson, we'll investigate the power of prayer and what it can add to your life.

SONG INTRO

Prayer is a transformative experience. It takes you from where you are to a totally new and different mental place, because prayer is powered by our Almighty God...First John, Chapter 5, Verses 14 and 15...

FIRST JOHN 5:14

This is the confidence which we believers in Christ have before Jesus...that if we ask anything according to His will...He hears us.

FIRST JOHN 5:15

And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, and of course we do, we know that we already have the requests which we have asked from Him.

Here's June Murphy to sing about prayer in her song WE PRAY TO THE FATHER.

MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ
Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

WE PRAY TO THE FATHER

June Murphy

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray...

We're grateful, Heavenly Father, for the privilege of studying Your absolute truth...the Word of God...

Thank you for providing this message for the benefit of everyone You have assembled to hear Your message today...whether in person or online...thank you for giving us Your Son, our Lord, to save us from our sins with the payment of His

PRAYER
August 8, 2021

blood... thank you for giving us the Word of God so that we know Your Son's mind and so we can have an intimate relationship with Him through the study of the Word...thank you for the power of prayer which allows us to communicate with You and to use Your supernatural power to solve our human problems...

...open closed hearts to the truth...help us to discard the garbage that has been placed in our souls by Your enemy, Satan, to make us indifferent or antagonistic toward You...open blind eyes to see all the places in our lives where self-will is replacing Your will for our lives...remind us to value the relationships we have because You provide every one for our benefit...keeping on working all things together for our good so that we can see you and reflect you to everyone we meet...

We ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit in Christ's name...Amen.

TONIGHT'S BIBLE LESSON

Prayer is Mandatory for an Intimate Relationship with the Lord

Christians are charged with doing what is suggested by the apostle Paul in Second Corinthians, Chapter 10, Verse 5...

SECOND CORINTHIANS 10:5

We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God (things like worldly philosophy, personal influence, impressive credentials, legalism, asceticism, mysticism, and the do-it-yourself lifestyle)...and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of the Christ...

Christians are saved because we have chosen a relationship with Christ as our way to be saved...placing our faith in the Person and the work of Jesus Christ at the Cross to save us...as He moves us from being spiritually dead unbelievers to spiritually alive believers.

Now that we are Christians, we are being sanctified by God the Holy Spirit...we are set apart for a series of mind-boggling privileges...one of which is prayer...a way for us to interact with God. What is prayer?

PRAYER

Deliberate interaction with God...whether formal or informal...whether audible or

PRAYER
August 8, 2021

silent...whether public or private...where we talk with God and where we listen to the messages God has for us...either through His Word or through people.

Prayer is not only a gift from God...it is an underutilized weapon in the spiritual life. What does God expect from you as a Christian in the matter of prayer? He expects you to understand the vision of prayer...

Vision of Prayer

What does our prayer life look like in perfect condition?

Christians use prayer as a weapon in the Creator-creature conflict.

Ephesians, Chapter 6, Verses 10 to 17...

EPHESIANS 6:10

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

EPHESIANS 6:11

Pick up and put on the full armor of God...so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil (on victorious ground).

EPHESIANS 6:12

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood (human beings)...but our struggle is against the rulers...against the powers...against the world forces of this darkness...against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

EPHESIANS 6:13

Therefore, take up the full armor of God (pick it up and put it on) so that you will be able to resist in the evil day...and having done everything...to stand firm.

EPHESIANS 6:14

Stand firm, therefore...having girded your loins with truth...and having put on the breastplate of righteousness...

EPHESIANS 6:15

...and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace...

EPHESIANS 6:16

...in addition to all...taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to

PRAYER
August 8, 2021

extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

EPHESIANS 6:17

And take the helmet of salvation...and the sword of the Spirit...which is the word of God.

Why did God give us prayer?

Objective of Prayer

The specific, measurable, time-bound outcome of prayer

To receive supernatural help from the Sovereign God of the Universe to assist us in the journey of our lives.

Second Corinthians, Chapter 12, Verses 9 and 10...

SECOND CORINTHIANS 12:9

And the Lord has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for divine power is perfected in human weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I (Paul) will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ (divine omnipotence) may dwell in me.

SECOND CORINTHIANS 12:10

Therefore, I am well content...with weaknesses...with insults...with distresses...with persecutions...with difficulties...for Christ's sake...for when I am weak...then I am strong.

God wants us to be content regardless of the circumstance we are in. Why? Because He has us firmly in His grip...and He knows He is always prepared to help us when we request it through prayer...John, Chapter 14, Verse 14...

JOHN 14:14

If (3) you ask Me anything in My name...I will do it.

What do we count on to make our prayer lives meaningful?

Strategy of Prayer

The single thing we do for distinctive advantage in prayer

PRAYER
August 8, 2021

Schedule time for prayer daily.

Put it on the calendar and keep the appointment with yourself. First Thessalonians, Chapter 5, Verse 17...

FIRST THESSALONIANS 5:17

Pray without ceasing (make it a habit to pray).

The imperative mood in the Greek makes this a command from God...the middle voice in Greek indicates that prayer is something you do actively that accrues a personal benefit from God that is credited to your account. Hebrews, Chapter 4, Verse 16...

HEBREWS 4:16

Therefore, because we have such an amazing High Priest in Jesus, let us believers in Christ draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may fully expect to receive mercy and to find grace to help in time of need.

When we don't know what to say to God in prayer, Romans, Chapter 8, Verse 26 reminds us...

ROMANS 8:26

...God the Holy the Spirit helps our weakness when we pray...for we do not know how to pray as we should...but God the Holy Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words...

And if the Holy Spirit's power were not enough...which it is because He is Deity...the Lord intervenes for us during prayer as well...First John, Chapter 2, Verses 1 and 2...

FIRST JOHN 2:1

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if(1) anyone sins...and of course we do...we have an Advocate with God the Father...Jesus Christ the ONLY righteous One...

FIRST JOHN 2:2

...and Jesus Himself is the propitiation for our sins (the only perfectly satisfactory payment for your sins in the eyes of God the Father)...and not for our sins only as believers in Christ...but also for the sins of the whole world (for unbelievers as

PRAYER
August 8, 2021

well).

What are some of the things we can pray for?

Tactics of Prayer

The specifics of building a prayer life

Pray for God's PLAN

We can pray that God illuminates His plan for mankind and His perfect plan for us...which He is more than willing to do! Psalm 86, Verse 11...

PSALM 86:11

Teach me Your way, O Lord...I will walk in Your truth...

Tactics of Prayer

The specifics of building a prayer life

Pray for God's PROTECTION

We can pray for God to shield us from our enemies...Psalm 23, Verse 5...

PSALM 23:5

You prepare a table before me, Lord, in the presence of my enemies...you have anointed my head with oil...my cup (of blessing) overflows.

We can pray for God to open our spiritual eyes so we can see those who are not on our side...Psalm 31, Verse 4...

PSALM 31:4

You will pull me out of the net which my enemies have secretly laid for me for You are my strength.

Tactics of Prayer

The specifics of building a prayer life

Pray for God's PROVISION

PRAYER
August 8, 2021

We can pray for God to carry our burdens and to cover our needs...Matthew, Chapter 6, Verse 33...

MATTHEW 6:33

But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness (the rewards of salvation)...and all these (other) things (food, shelter, and clothing) will be added to you.

Tactics of Prayer

The specifics of building a prayer life

Pray for God's PRESENCE

We can pray that we notice God's omnipresence in our lives...Psalm 46, Verse 10...

PSALM 46:10

God is our refuge and strength...a very present help in trouble.

Tactics of Prayer

The specifics of building a prayer life

Pray for God's PROMISES

We can pray that we remember the promises of God when we are under pressure...promises like John, Chapter 16, Verse 23...

JOHN 16:23

"In that day (of my ascension into heaven) you (apostles) will not (be able to) question Me about anything. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father for in My name, He will give it to you.

Promises like Matthew, Chapter 21, Verse 22...

MATTHEW 21:22

"And all things you ask in prayer...believing...you will receive."

Tactics of Prayer

The specifics of building a prayer life

PRAYER
August 8, 2021

Pray for God's POWER

Colossians, Chapter 2, Verse 9...

EPHESIANS 1:18

I (Paul) pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened (true spiritual insight)...so that you will know what is the hope (the absolute confidence) of God the Father's calling (you to salvation...the victory through Christ)...what are the glorious riches of His inheritance in the saints...

EPHESIANS 1:19

...and what is the incomparable greatness of His divine power...directed toward us who believe.

Tactics of Prayer

The specifics of building a prayer life

Pray for God's PRESSURE

How often do you ask for God to put pressure on you? Growth only occurs with pressure and with feedback. Romans, Chapter 5, Verses 3 to 5...

ROMANS 5:3

And we believers in Christ not only exult in all these things (from our past...righteousness and justification...in our present...peace...in our future...glory)...but we also exult in our tribulations (pressure) that are given to us by God the Father...knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance...

ROMANS 5:4

...and perseverance brings about proven character...and proven character brings about hope...

ROMANS 5:5

...and hope does not disappoint...because the unconditional love of God the Father has been poured out within our hearts through God the Holy Spirit who was given to us by God the Father (as a pledge of our inheritance).

We even have a right to ask God in prayer for His help in keeping His commands.

PRAYER
August 8, 2021

Please take a five-minute break and when we return, we'll take the offering, and we'll have some closing thoughts about prayer.

FIVE MINUTE BREAK

NOBODY

Casting Crowns with Matthew West

TONIGHT'S BIBLE LESSON

Prayer is Mandatory for an Intimate Relationship with the Lord

When you give to Barah Ministries, you make it possible for us to provide the gift of the gospel message and the gift of the Word of God verse-by-verse to people all over the world through the magic of the internet. Thank you for supporting this ministry with your generosity...it's an intimate thing to do. Your unselfish giving is a reflection of our God, and it gives people around the world a chance to respond to a life-giving message...the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Let's welcome up Deacon Denny Goodall with one of his always inspiring offering messages.

THE OFFERING

Deacon Denny Goodall

OFFERING VERSE

ROMANS 14:13

Therefore...let us not keep on judging and condemning one another...rather, let's determine this—not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block (something another trips over) in a brother's way.

OFFERING SONG

HAVEN'T SEEN IT YET

Danny Gokey

TONIGHT'S BIBLE LESSON

Prayer is Mandatory for an Intimate Relationship with the Lord

How does the enemy of God affect your prayer life?

PRAYER
August 8, 2021

The enemy of God distorts your prayer like He perverts everything else in your life. Here are a few of the things the Bible makes evident. Satan encourages... Vain Repetition (In Roman Catholicism...The Hail Mary...The Our Father)

What does the Bible have to say about vain repetition...Matthew, Chapter 6, Verse 7...

MATTHEW 6:7

“And when you are praying...do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do...for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words.”

Vain repetition is just that...vain...meaningless...don't do it...it is not an interaction with God.

Satan encourages...Self-Agrandizement...Luke, Chapter 18, Verses 9 to 14...

LUKE 18:9

And Jesus also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous...and who viewed others with contempt...

LUKE 18:10

“Two men went up into the temple to pray...one a Pharisee...and the other a tax collector.”

LUKE 18:11

“The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people...I’m not a swindler...I’m not unjust...I’m not an adulterer... I’m not even like this tax collector.’”

LUKE 18:12

“I fast twice a week...I pay tithes of all that I get.”

LUKE 18:13

But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner (an unbeliever)!’”

LUKE 18:14

“I (the Lord...Jesus...the Christ) tell you...this tax collector went to his

PRAYER
August 8, 2021

house justified (as a new believer in Christ) and the Pharisee did not...for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled...but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Satan encourages meaningless procedures like the...In Fellowship-Out of Fellowship lie...the arrogance of thinking that you as a human being control your fellowship with God. We can't put ourselves into fellowship with God and we can't do anything to get out of fellowship with God once we're in fellowship with Him. If you are out of fellowship with God you're an unbeliever...and there is certainly nothing you can do with human power or works to get yourself into fellowship with Him.

In addition, there is not a single piece of evidence in the Bible that supports the thought that believers in Christ...who are saints...can be unrighteous. There is ample evidence that God has made believers in Christ righteous...like Second Corinthians, Chapter 12, Verse 10...

SECOND CORINTHIANS 12:10

God the Father made Jesus...who knew no sin...to be sin on our behalf...so that we might become the righteousness of God the Father in union with Him.

My hope is that if you are a Christian, you'll use the information in this lesson to evaluate the quality of your prayer life. If as you look at your prayer life through God's eyes you find it lacking, do something about it! You won't regret it.

GOD WANTS YOU!

Make the Most Important Decision of Your Life

God gave you an amazing ability from the moment of birth. He gave you VOLITION...the ability to choose. You can make your own decisions. You have the power of free will...the power of choice.

What do you choose to believe about God?

Many people have beliefs about God. According to the world, a belief is an opinion or a conviction or a confidence in the existence of something that does not seem provable. Yet everything with God is provable! There is no need for blind faith with God! He reveals Himself in ways that make sense to human beings. If

PRAYER
August 8, 2021

He didn't, what kind of God would He be? What would make Him worthy of our worship? Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 20 says...

ROMANS 1:20a

For since the creation of the world the Lord Jesus Christ's invisible attributes...His eternal power...and His Deity...have been clearly seen by all mankind...

ROMANS 1:20b

...being understood even through everything that has been made in the entire created universe...so that all mankind (especially unbelievers who practice ungodliness and unrighteousness) are without excuse in the matter of knowing God.

Satan, the enemy of God, prefers we have beliefs because he knows there is a big difference between beliefs and truth. Only when your beliefs and the truth are the same are your beliefs significant. Satan hates the truth. Why? He can't handle the truth! Do you choose to believe Satan or do you choose to believe God?

What many people believe is that they can impress God so much that He will let them into heaven because of their good deeds and religious practices. So, they give money to beggars...they give food to the homeless...they are actively involved in community projects...they generously donate their time, talent, and treasure to charitable organizations...they "give back." You've heard that term "give back" used countless times. People who "give back" usually are convinced they are good people, impressive to God *because* they "give back." Many think they are so good, that after they die God will reward them by letting them into heaven for their good deeds.

The Bible, the owner's manual for life, tells a completely different story. Titus, Chapter 3, Verse 5...

TITUS 3:5

The Lord Jesus Christ saved us believers in Christ...not on the basis of deeds which we have done in self-righteousness...but according to His mercy...by the washing of regeneration and through renewing by God the Holy Spirit...

PRAYER
August 8, 2021

Ephesians, Chapter 2, Verses 8 and 9...

EPHESIANS 2:8

For by God's grace you have been saved through faith in Christ for salvation...and that grace and that faith and that salvation are not from the source of yourselves... it is the gift of God....

EPHESIANS 2:9

...so being saved is not as a result of your works (deeds you have done in self-righteousness) ... so that no one may boast (about saving himself).

The Bible directs all mankind to let God do the saving! One thing you would never want is to put the burden of your salvation on your own back. So, if you can't get into heaven from doing good deeds, what is the truth about how to get God to let you into heaven? The ONE way to get into heaven...the ONLY way to get to heaven is through the Lord Jesus Christ... John, Chapter 14, Verse 6...

JOHN 14:6

Jesus said to the doubting apostle, Thomas, "I am the way (to salvation)...and I am the truth (through the Word of God)...and I am the resurrection life (eternal life)...and no one comes to God the Father (in heaven) but through believing in Me."

The apostle Paul describes this amazing Messiah...the Christ...in First Corinthians, Chapter 15, Verses 3 and 4...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 15:3

For I (Paul) delivered to you as of primary importance the gospel message I also received...that Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Old Testament Scriptures...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 15:4

...and that He was buried...and that He was raised from the dead on the third day...according to the Old Testament Scriptures...

When you choose to believe that Jesus Christ is God, it is much more than a belief...it is the absolute truth! When you choose to believe that Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven, it's more than a belief...it's the absolute truth! So how can

PRAYER
August 8, 2021

you get to heaven when you close your eyes in this life? Romans, Chapter 10, Verses 9 and 10...

ROMANS 10:9

...if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord (that He is God) ... and if you believe in your heart that God the Father raised Him from the dead...you will be saved...

ROMANS 10:10

...for with the heart a person believes...resulting in the imputation of absolute righteousness by God (your admission ticket to heaven) ... and with the mouth a person confesses (admitting faith in Christ alone) resulting in salvation.

It's wise to let God save you, because once God does something, it can't be undone...and God never changes His mind. So, heed the warning in John, Chapter 3, Verse 36...

JOHN 3:36

"He who believes in the Son has the resurrection life right at that moment...but he who does not obey the command to believe in the Son will not see the resurrection life...instead the wrath of God (the Lake of Fire) abides on him."

Or the warning in Matthew, Chapter 13, Verses 40 to 42...

MATTHEW 13:40

So just as weeds are gathered up and burned with fire...so shall it be at the end of the age.

MATTHEW 13:41

The Son of Man will send forth His elect angels...and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks (unbelievers)...and those who commit lawlessness (unbelievers)...

MATTHEW 13:42

...and the elect angels will throw unbelievers into the furnace of fire...and in that place, there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Do you want to make the most important choice of your life? Have a great eternity by doing what is suggested in Acts, Chapter 16, Verse 31...

PRAYER
August 8, 2021

ACTS 16:31

“Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved...you and everyone in your household who also believes.”

John, Chapter 3, Verse 17...

JOHN 3:17

For God the Father did not send God the Son (the Lord...who took on human form as Jesus...the Christ) into the world to judge the world...but God the Father sent God the Son into the world that the world might be saved through Him.

Take the free gift of eternal life right now! There's no time to waste! God wants you! Why bother working for your salvation with good deeds when it's a free gift. Let the Lord Jesus Christ's work at the Cross "give back" to you! Make the right choice!

SONG INTRODUCTION

Romans, Chapter 3, Verse 11 says...

ROMANS 3:11

There is no creature who understands God (or any divine thing)...there is no creature who seeks out a relationship with GOD...

Ruh-roh! How are we supposed to have a relationship with God if you're not seeking one? June Murphy explains in her song YOU RAN AFTER ME.

CLOSING SONG

YOU RAN AFTER ME

June Murphy

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray...

Thanks for coming!

Thanks for watching!

Thanks for listening!

www.barahministries.com