

Bethel

Baptist Church
Hawthorn



Newsletter

May 2020

God Listens to Us

“The Lord sees the good people and listens to their prayers”

1 Peter 3:12

Recently, I received an e-mail from a new Christian. She had read my devotional on the elements of effective prayer and asked, “*What words would I use?*”

It’s an interesting question to which I have given some thought. How do you teach a new Christian the words to use to begin to talk to God? When mature Christians have walked and talked with God for a long time, they forget what it was like at the beginning of their walk with Christ.

She would need to be told that prayer is simply talking to God. He isn’t as interested in our words as He is in the attitude of our heart. Because more mature Christians often pray long prayers (*whole paragraphs – even a whole sermon*) in one sitting, new Christians are intimidated. They know they can’t pray like that – nor do they need to.

Using the acrostic, **Adore, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Asking**, I would teach her to pray in short, simple sentences – something like this:

- **Adore** “Father God, I love You.”
- **Confess** “I was (name a bad attitude or action) today.”
- **Thank God** “Thank You for cleansing my heart from these sins.”
- **Ask** “Please fill my heart with Your Holy Spirit and empower me to please You and get to know You better.”

When she begins to feel comfortable praying one short sentence, she could begin praying several sentences for each part of the acrostic.

Too simple? For some people it would be. Others will welcome a very simple “how to pray” outline. Regardless of how few or how many words we use, we can be sure that God listens to us, and to our hearts.

Jesus, Your disciples asked You to teach them how to pray. We also ask You to teach us to pray. Amen.

By Katherine Kehler

Keeping in touch

We don't have a current e-mail address for everyone in these social distancing times! If you think your details may need updating, please let one of the deacons know your new details or email mail@bethelbaptisthawthorn.org

Quotes

This is the confidence that we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

1 John 5:14



In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart

John Bunyan



Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Philippians 4:6



We have to pray with our eyes on God, not on the difficulties

Oswald Chambers



Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference.

Max Lucado

A Prayer for this time

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need
as if we were caring for you.

In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated
of our love, and your love,
for your name's sake.

Amen.

Thought

"Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tyre?"

Corrie ten Boom

Congratulations!

Congratulations and best wishes to Betty who is going to celebrate a very special birthday in this month. We look forward to a proper celebration with her when meetings resume.

Please remember in your prayers

Please continue to pray for Dorothy as she is quite poorly at this time.

Barbara is really unwell. Please continue to bring her before the Lord in prayer. Also, Phyllis who has been admitted to hospital and Keri who is at home and is recovering slowly.

Please remember in prayer all those of our fellowship who are unwell, especially those feeling the effects of being so isolated at this time and missing Christian fellowship.

Remember Andrew our Pastor as he continues to minister to us from a distance and as he continues to minister to the bereaved and to conduct funerals. Pray for his protection from the coronavirus.

Remember those of our fellowship in care homes that the Lord will protect them also.

Pray for those who are caring for others within our church fellowship and are so in need of supportive prayer.

We would especially pray for all those working within our community and those front-line workers, whether it be in hospitals, care homes, shops or wherever the need is. Lift them up to God that they may be kept safe and protected.

There are so many ill with coronavirus and many who have died throughout the country and the world. Keep all those in your prayers who need God's comforting and healing arms around them.

Pray for our Government and those in authority who make decisions, that they will seek wisdom and guidance from God in these difficult times.

Sheridan has broken a bone in her foot and is being cared for by her sister in law. Please remember her in your prayers.

We also thank God and praise Him for his healing power. Anne's cousin Elaine who was very ill with coronavirus and in intensive care is now much improved and at home, but please remember her in your prayers as she continues her recovery. Christine Temple's father, Lewis, had a fall and was very poorly with food poisoning and hospitalised. Amazingly through the result of many prayers and the excellent care he received he has recovered and is now home.

Thank you so much for all those who faithfully pray when requests are circulated in times of need. Thank you too for all the phone calls of support and encouragement between church members that keep us in touch with each other during this lock down.

"He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart." Psalm 91:4

Puzzles

Were you a fan of Catchphrase? Can you solve these Bible Dingbats? Remember to say what you see!

<https://biblepuzzles.com/dingbats.php>

And for those missing our quiz nights, try your hand at this 'It happened on May' themed quiz.

1. In May 1707 the Act of Union joined which 2 kingdoms together?
2. On 1st May 1851, Queen Victoria opened what in London?
3. In 1994 which 3 times World Formula 1 champion was killed in the San Marino Grand Prix?
4. In 1960 the Anne Frank House museum opened in which European city?
5. Workers of the United Kingdom went on general strike in May of which year?
6. In May 1821, who died in exile on the island of St Helena?
7. In 1967 Celtic became the first British football team to win the European Cup, but who did they beat?
8. In May 1927 the aviator Charles Lindbergh made the first solo transatlantic non-stop flight in which plane?

9. Which novel by Margaret Mitchell won the Pulitzer prize for fiction in May 1937?
10. V.E. day was in May 8, 1945. What does V.E. stand for?

1. England and Scotland
2. The Great Exhibition
3. Ayrton Senna
4. Amsterdam
5. 1926
6. Emperor Napoleon
7. Internazionale Milan.
8. The Spirit of St. Louis
9. Gone With the Wind
10. Victory in Europe

Answers
