

Introduction:

In a recent survey on prayer in the UK it was discovered that up to 75% of people admitted to praying at least once a week. A strange statistic when you consider the number of people who go to church in our very materialistic secular society.

Prayer that is not linked to a living experience of Jesus Christ in the main falls into two categories.

- ❖ Superstitious prayers – “if I don’t say my prayers at night the next day will not go well”.
- ❖ Crisis prayers – when things go wrong we turn to God in prayer.

God wants to take us deeper than this. Prayer is the vital breath of the Christian life. It is our first breath as we pray to surrender our lives to Jesus and start the Christian lifestyle. Prayer then needs to be a growing experience learning its blessing in intimacy with our Heavenly Father and using it as we become co workers in the Kingdom.

During the month we aim to be practical, as well as calling us up as a fellowship to go deeper in our prayer life.

- ❖ When should I pray?
- ❖ How often should I pray?
- ❖ What do I say?
- ❖ My mind keeps wandering
- ❖ It’s difficult to find time
- ❖ I don’t like praying with others



Join us on an exciting exploration.

Leadership Team

Senior Pastor:	Frank Payne
Associate Pastor:	Andrew White
Administration	
Finance	John Ross
Deacons	Alison Fraser Jill Grant Mark Edwards
Ministry Team Leaders:	
Worship	Heather Andrews
Pastoral	Chris & Lynda Bryant
Local Outreach	Mark & Hannah Morgan
Overseas mission	Stephanie Ross
Children & Youth	Linda Tythe

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Explorations



MARCH - 2010 PROGRAMME

- ❖ Prayer must be an essential part of our church family life.
- ❖ Lord teach us to pray
- ❖ May God give us the grace to weep for our broken society



Belvedere
BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Teaching

7th

Morning: 10:30

Practical guidelines for prayer

- ❖ Finding the time and place for prayer and knowing what to say. Learning how to keep our minds on the subject.

Evening: 6:30

3rd in the series on healing: (communion)

- ❖ Getting free from bitter root judgements. We are beginning to see that things that go on in our souls (thinking & feeling) can affect our bodies. This week we explore this in a little more depth.

14th

Morning: 10:30

Persistence in prayer

- ❖ Jesus teaches us to ask, seek and knock. We shall also be looking at some examples in the Old Testament.

Evening: 6:30

An evening with "Street Pastors"

21st

Morning: 10:30

Prayer in the spirit

- ❖ Looking together at the value of praying in tongues, and how to get started.

Evening: 6:30

What happens when I die?

28th

Morning: 10:30

Praying the apostle's prayers

- ❖ In looking at how the apostles prayed we find some secrets of answered prayer

Evening: 6:30

Blessed are the merciful and pure

The third in Andrew Turner's studies



Home group notes

This month home groups meet three times on weeks commencing 28th Feb, 7th and 21st Mar. The third week is a members evening Wed 17th and our worship evening is Wed 31st

We are looking at prayer this month because we know that we will not see a breakthrough in outreach to our community until we as a church have matured more in our prayer life.

As we study prayer we want to "do it" as well as talk about it! Each week our groups will have the usual worship and study time. We will also have a "Problem spot" when we talk honestly about some of our struggles in prayer.

Could we ask each member of the group to do some preparation? Read the prayer of Paul set for each week and write it out in your own words. Bring it along to the group and start the study by each reading out what you have done.

To help in your group prayer times we have put on the web site www.belvederebaptist.org lots of ideas to help everybody join in praying.

Make it a goal that everybody takes a step forward in prayer during this month.

WEEK ONE:

Paul's prayer for study: Eph 3:14-21

1. What are the two things Paul asks for in this prayer and for what purpose?
2. Paul has reasons for his requests; are these things important to you?
3. In what way does Paul's prayer differ from yours?

Problem Spot:

- ❖ How do I stop my mind wandering?

WEEK TWO:

Paul's prayer for study
Phil 1:9-11



1. In companies and government we have the term "best practice". What is Paul's focus of best practice in this prayer?

2. What motivates Paul's prayers?
3. Can we get an idea of the fruits of righteousness from Rom 14:17-18 and Gal 5:22-23

Problem spot:

- ❖ How do I include worship in my prayer times?

WEEK THREE

Paul's prayer for study: Col 1:9-14

1. What are Paul's priorities in this prayer?
2. What gives Paul joy in prayer?
3. How does this prayer compare to yours?

Problem spot:

- ❖ How do I find time, energy and desire to pray

WED 31ST WORSHIP EVENING

During 2010 we are calling our church to unite in worship. The last Wednesday of every month will be a time for us to join together in worship. Home groups will meet centrally that week and we encourage those who are not linked into home groups to come along as well.

The focus is worship – to exalt our God for an hour.

Come NOW IS THE TIME FOR WORSHIP