

# The Great Privilege of Prayer

## *How Prayer Works!*

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity – 2012

Sunday, September 9 → 8:00 & 10:45 ♦ Monday, September 10 → 7:00

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ, so far in this series called: “Abide in Me,” we have focused on ♦the Bible being God’s very Word, ♦the importance of daily devotion, and ♦the powerful benefits of writing God’s Word upon our hearts! Beginning today, we focus on the topic of prayer – *our communication with God the Father on the basis of our relationship with Jesus and with the help of the Holy Spirit!*

### 1. **A Trinitarian Diagram of Prayer:**

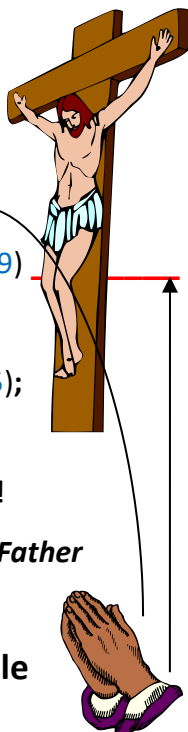
God – the Father

**Sin Separates us from God** (Is. 59:2; Ps. 66:18; Prov. 15:29)

**God – the Son, the man Christ Jesus is the one mediator between God and People** (1 Timothy 2:5);  
*He took away the sin of the world* (John 1:29)  
*and is the only way to God the Father* (John 14:6)!

**God – the Holy Spirit helps us communicate with the Father**  
(1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Romans 8:26)

People



## 2. **The Scripture references noted above and more:**

### a. **The Sad Separation:**

- i. <sup>NAS</sup> **Isaiah 59:2** But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden *His* face from you, so that He does not hear.
- ii. <sup>NAS</sup> **Psalms 66:18** If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear...
- iii. <sup>NIV</sup> **Proverbs 15:29** The LORD is far from the wicked but he hears the prayer of the righteous. ↘
  1. <sup>NAS</sup> **2 Corinthians 5:21** He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
  2. <sup>NIV</sup> **Romans 3:20** Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. <sup>21</sup> But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. <sup>22</sup> This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe....

## b. The One Mediator:

- i. <sup>NAS</sup> **1 Timothy 2:5** For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...
- ii. <sup>NIV</sup> **John 1:29** The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”
- iii. <sup>NAS</sup> **John 14:6** Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.”

**Note:** In regard to our prayers, Jesus is the ONE Mediator; regarding our entrance into heaven, Jesus is the ONE Way; therefore, what can be said about Mary and the saints? They are super-wonderful examples of how we are called to live as Christians; however, they are not legitimate mediators between God and people! If the Bible is true – and I am convinced that it is, then Jesus is the “one mediator...between God and men...” (1 Tim. 2:5)

## c. The Holy Spirit:

- i. <sup>NAS</sup> **1 Corinthians 6:19** Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

- ii. <sup>ESV</sup> **Romans 8:26** ...the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

**Conclusion:** Now that you know more about prayer – ***how it works***, PRAY → to God the Father, → with the help of the Holy Spirit, → on the basis of your saving relationship with Jesus! Also, to help you remember this sermon AND to enhance your prayer life, please choose and memorize at least one verse from this sermon.

And all God's people said: ***Amen!***

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***Live God's Word; then share it with family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers!***  
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