

# immanuel institute

## “Prayer”

(Fall 2025 / Spring 2026)

### Course Goals:

- To know what prayer is.
- To understand the importance of prayer.
- To learn how to pray better.
- To be more faithful and consistent in prayer.

### Course Schedule:

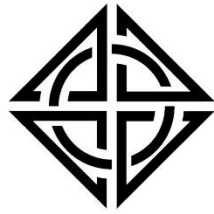
- Tuesday September 9, 2025, Moses (How to Intercede for Others)
- Tuesday October 7, 2025, David (How to Confess Sin)
- Tuesday November 11, 2025, Kings (How to Pray for Deliverance)
- Tuesday January TBD, 2026, Asaph (How to Pray Through Doubt)
- Tuesday February TBD, 2026, Jesus (A Model Prayer)
- Tuesday March TBD, 2026, Paul (How to Pray for Your Church)

### Assigned Books:

- Week One: *Do You Pray*, JC Ryle
- Week Two: *Why Do We Pray*, Stanley D. Gale
- Week Three: *How Can I Cultivate Private Prayer*, Joel Beeke
- Week Four: *Pray Better*, Landon Coleman
- Week Five: *Brass Heavens*, Paul Tautges
- Week Six: *Does Prayer Change Things*, RC Sproul

## Suggested Reading

- *Spurgeon on the Priority of Prayer*, Jason Allen
- *Pray Big*, Alistair Begg
- *Praying with Paul*, DA Carson
- *21 Days to Childlike Prayer*, Jed Coppenger
- *The Lord's Prayer*, Kevin DeYoung
- *Prone to Wander: Prayers of Confession and Celebration*, Barbara Duguid and Wayne Houk
- *Piercing Heaven: Prayers of the Puritans*, Robert Elmer
- *Be Thou My Vision: A Liturgy for Daily Worship*, Jonathan Gibson
- *I'm Praying for You*, Nancy Guthrie
- *When Prayer Is a Struggle*, Kevin Halloran
- *40 Questions about Prayer*, Joseph Harrod
- *Prayer*, Timothy Keller
- *5 Things to Pray for Your Kids*, Melissa Kruger
- *5 Things to Pray for Your Spouse*, Michael and Melissa Kruger
- *Everyday Prayer with Calvin*, Donald McKim
- *Everyday Prayer with the Puritans*, Donald McKim
- *Everyday Prayer with the Reformers*, Donald McKim
- *A Praying Church*, Paul Miller
- *A Praying Life*, Paul Miller
- *The Prayer That Turned the World Upside Down*, Albert Mohler
- *Prayer*, John Onwuchekwa
- *What If I Don't Desire to Pray*, John Onwuchekwa
- *The Valley of Vision*, Puritans
- *Persistent Prayer*, Guy Richard
- *When You Pray*, Philip Graham Ryken
- *Do You Pray*, JC Ryle
- *Does Prayer Change Things*, RC Sproul
- *The Prayer of the Lord*, RC Sproul
- *Praying the Bible*, Donald Whitney



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## Prayer: Week One

### Moses: How to Intercede for Others

JC Ryle, *Do You Pray*

#### Introduction

“I offer you these thoughts for your careful consideration. I hope I have done so with humility. I know that I need to be reminded of these truths more than anyone else I know. I do believe them to be God’s own truth, and I long for myself and my loved ones to feel the importance of these realities more and more. I long for the times we live in to be praying times. I long for today’s Christians to be praying Christians. I long for today’s church to be a praying church. My heart’s desire and prayer in writing this short book is to encourage a spirit of prayerfulness. I long that those who have never prayed would start right now! I long that those who do pray should know that they are not praying in vain. Your affectionate friend, JC Ryle.” (JC Ryle, *Do You Pray: A Question for Everybody*)

#### What is prayer?

- Most basically, prayer is \_\_\_\_\_ to God.
  - The act of talking to God is downstream of what one \_\_\_\_\_ about God.
  - Not everyone who “prays” is actually \_\_\_\_\_ to God (1 Kings 18:26-29).
  - Christians believe that God is \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Prayer is enjoying \_\_\_\_\_ with God and expressing \_\_\_\_\_ on God.
  - Done rightly, prayer is always a \_\_\_\_\_ to God’s self-revelation (Genesis 1:27, Psalm 19:1-6, 19:7-11, Romans 1:19-23 ... John Calvin’s *sensus divinitatis*).

“We can define prayer as a *personal, communicative response to the knowledge of God*.” (Timothy Keller, *Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God*)

## **Moses: How to Intercede for Others**

- Intercession: Praying to God \_\_\_\_\_ of another (1 Timothy 2:1 ... Isaiah 53:12, Romans 8:26-27, 8:34, Hebrews 7:25).
- Biblical Context
  - God’s \_\_\_\_\_ with Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3, 15:1-19, 17:1-14)
    - God promised to show Abraham a \_\_\_\_\_, make him into a great nation, bless him and make his name great, use him to bless the entire earth (Genesis 12:1-3).
    - God promised to protect and reward Abraham, to give him offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven, and to rescue his descendants from slavery and bring them back to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Canaan (Genesis 15:1-19).
    - God promised to multiply Abraham, to make him the father of a multitude of nations, to bring kings out of his family, to give Abraham’s family the \_\_\_\_\_ of Canaan, and to do all of this through one of Sarah’s children (Genesis 17:1-14).
- Immediate Context
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ from Egypt (Exodus 1-31)
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ (Exodus 32:1-10)
- Moses’ Intercessory Prayer
  - Exodus 32:11-14, 32:15-29, 32:30-35
    - Question #1 (32:11) ... Moses questioned God’s proposed action, and his question was rooted in both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Question #2 (32:12A) ... Moses questioned God’s proposed action, and his question focused on God’s \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_).
    - Request #1 (32:12B) ... Moses asked God to \_\_\_\_\_ from his anger and \_\_\_\_\_ from his proposed action.

- Request #2 (32:13) ... Moses asked God to \_\_\_\_\_ his covenant promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- Response #1 (32:14) ... “And the LORD \_\_\_\_\_ from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people.”
- Confession (32:30-31) ... Moses acknowledged the \_\_\_\_\_ of the people, and he acknowledged the need for \_\_\_\_\_.
- Request #3 (32:32) ... Moses asked God to \_\_\_\_\_ the people, and he even offered to be \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s book instead of the people.
- Response #2 (32:33-35) ... The LORD promised to \_\_\_\_\_ those who sinned. He also told Moses to lead the people to the promised \_\_\_\_\_, and he promised to go with the people. The LORD also sent a \_\_\_\_\_ in response to Israel’s sin.

## Application

- As sinners, we need someone to \_\_\_\_\_ on our behalf and provide \_\_\_\_\_ for our sins (Exodus 34:6-7, Romans 3:21-26, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Galatians 3:13-14, 1 Peter 2:24-25).

“Praise God! What Moses offered to do in Exodus 32, Jesus actually did on the cross! When we pray “in Jesus’ name,” we’re not just adding the finishing touches to an otherwise incomplete prayer. Rather we are acknowledging that our ability to speak to the Father is a result of the earth shattering truth that Jesus was blotted out in our place.” (Landon Coleman, *Pray Better: Learning to Pray Biblically*)

- God is merciful and gracious, yet even when our sins are forgiven the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin often remain (Exodus 32:25-29, 32:35).
- All of our prayers – including our intercession for others – should be grounded in a concern for the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (Matthew 6:9, John 17:1-5, Revelation 4-5).
- Our intercessory prayers should not only be for family and friends, but also for \_\_\_\_\_ (Numbers 12:3, Matthew 5:2-11, 5:43-48).

- The omniscient God genuinely responds to our intercession because he ordains the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 106:23).

“They made a calf in Horeb and worshiped a metal image. They exchanged the glory of God for the image of an ox that eats grass. They forgot God, their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt, wondrous works in the land of Ham, and awesome deeds by the Red Sea. **Therefore he said he would destroy them — had not Moses, his chosen one, stood in the breach before him, to turn away his wrath from destroying them.**” (Psalm 106:23)

“In his infinite and eternal wisdom, God had planned to extend mercy and grace to these undeserving people. Additionally, in his infinite and eternal wisdom, God has planned to move Moses to prayer and to hear Moses’ prayer ... God would have destroyed the people if Moses, God’s chosen one, had not stood in the gap to pray for Israel. Moses’ prayer was not a last minute plan-B that unexpectedly moved the LORD to compassion. Rather, Moses was God’s “chosen one” from eternity past to intercede for the people. Does that mean God was going to extend grace and mercy regardless of whether or not Moses prayed? Not according to Psalm 106:23 which says God would have destroyed the people if Moses had not prayed. Yes God ordained the end, grace and mercy for Israel. But he also ordained the means, the prayer of Moses. And the eternal plans of God did not make Moses’ prayer less critical. He would have destroyed the people had not Moses prayed on their behalf. Prayer matters.” (Landon Coleman, *Pray Better: Learning to Pray Biblically*)

- *Other Intercessory Prayers in the Bible*
  - *Abraham Praying for Sodom (Genesis 18)*
  - *The Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16)*
  - *Jesus’s High Priestly Prayer (John 17)*
  - *Paul’s Prayer for the Church (Colossians 1)*