

# The Nature of Prayer

- A spiritual discipline
  - Lk. 11:1; importance of learning how to pray
  - Rom. 8:26:
    - Spirit of God assist us in our prayers
    - We need to ask Him
- Prayer: Communication with God
  - Ps. 34:15; where His eye are and how His ear are
  - Ps. 142:2; what we are able to bring before the Lord
  - Heb. 4:16; our attitude in prayer

# The Nature of Prayer

- Prayer: Communication with God
  - Ecc. 5:2; a caution in prayer
  - 1 Pet. 5:6-7; where our cares are to be put
- Prayer is Effective; Jms. 5:16
  - Example in Acts 12:5-7
  - Phil. 4:6-7; what God grants in prayer besides answers

# The Practice of Prayer

- Perseverance in Prayer
  - Lk. 18:1
  - 1 Thess. 5:17
  - Eph. 6:18
  - What does this mean?
    - Attitude of prayer, wanting God in our business!
- Developing the Practice of Prayer
  - Lk. 11:5-10; the expectation in prayer
  - Jn. 15:7; requirement for answered prayer
  - 1 Jn. 5:14; our confidence in prayer

# The Practice of Prayer

- Hindrances to answered prayer
  - Ps. 66:18; regarding iniquity in our hearts
  - Jms. 4:3; consuming requests of our own lusts
  - Isa. 59:1-2; having iniquity and sin
- Four Important Areas of Prayer
  - Adoration: reflect on God Himself
  - Confession: admit to God that you have sinned
  - Thanksgiving: tell God how grateful you are for everything He has given you, even the unpleasant things
  - Supplication: make specific requests
  - Follow the ACTS of prayer

# The Struggle of Prayer

- Prayer can be hard work
  - Lk. 6:12; all night prayer
  - Lk. 22:44; the intensity in prayer
  - Col. 4:2; be mindful of doing when praying
- God is sovereign in prayer
  - 2 Cor. 12:7-9
    - What did Paul pray for and what was the response?
  - Mk. 14:35-36
    - What did Jesus ask for and what was He willing to do?