***PRAYER***

INTRODUCTION

1. We must understand whom we are praying to: God- The Creator (all powerful and sovereign) and our Father.
2. Prayer is essential for spiritual growth.
3. Prayer is the key to deepening our relationship with God.
4. Prayer unleashes the power of God. (James 5:16)
5. Prayer is not natural: It must be learned. (Luke 11:1f)

I. JESUS' PRAYER LIFE

1. Mark 1:35 – Jesus, although very busy, found time to pray in a place and time free from distractions.
2. Luke 6:12 - Jesus spends all night praying to God.
3. Hebrews 5:7 - Jesus prays with loud cries and tears.

II. KEYS TO EFFECTIVE PRAYER

1. 1 Peter 4:7 – Be clear-minded and self-controlled.
2. Luke 18:1-8 – Be persistent.
3. James 5:16-18 – Personal righteousness.
4. Matthew 21:21-22 – Believe and do not doubt.
5. Psalm 5:3 – Pray daily and expect prayers to be answered.

III. THE 'ACTS' GUIDE TO PRAYER

Acts – Total praise and worship of God

Confession – Confess your sins to God.

Thanksgiving – Give thanks to God for everything

Supplication – Submit your requests to God

CONCLUSION

1. God can and will do the impossible through prayer.
2. Prayer is vital to a dynamic walk with God
3. God is looking for people who will devote themselves to be close to Him. (Jeremiah 30:21b)

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURES

1. Colossians 4:2-4
2. John 14:13-14
3. Psalm 42:1
4. Psalm 62:1
5. 1 Thessalonians 5:17
6. 1 John 5:14
7. Philippians 4:6-7
8. John 9:31