

Prayer

Why Should we pray:

- 1) Christ was constantly dependent upon it (Mt 14:23; 26:36,39; Mr 1:35; Lu 9:18,29.)
In the gospels there are 17 references to Jesus at prayer.
- 2) God commands it and is pleased by it. (1Thes.5:17; Prov.15:8)
- 3) Prayer protects us from our enemy who is great and our flesh who is weak
(Mk.14:38; Luke 22:31-32)
- 4) Prayer gives us peace from anxiety (Phil.4:6-7).
- 5) Prayer is the means that God has appointed for receiving mercy, and obtaining grace to help in time of need (Heb.4:16).
- 6) Prayer brings guidance and wisdom (Col.1:9; James 1:5).
- 7) God will answer (Isa.65:24)
- 8) God will heal us (Job 42:10)
- 9) Your joy will be made full (Jn.16:24)
- 10) Provides laborers for God's work (Matt.9:38).

Types of Prayer:

Adoration/Praise-Worshipping God for who He is (The Psalms, Rom. 11:33).

Thanksgiving- Thanking God for what He has done (Ps.107:8; Phil.4:6)

Confession- Praying for our forgiveness (1 John 1:9).

Intercessory- Praying for others especially for their spiritual well being (Eph.1:18-19; Eph.3:14-19; Exod.32:11-14).

Supplication- A plea to God for something we need. (James 4:2).

Different Answers to Prayer

- 1) Sometimes immediately. (Da 9:21,23; 10:12)
- 2) Sometimes after delay. (Lu 18:1-7)
- 3) Sometimes the answer is "no" or different than our desires. (Exod.32:30-35; 2Co 12:8,9.
- 4) Beyond expectation. Eph 3:20.

Answers to prayer are received by those who:

- a. Seek God. Ps 34:4.
- b. Seek God with all the heart. Jer 29:12,13.
- c. Wait upon God. Ps 40:1.
- d. Return to God. 2Ch 7:14; Job 22:23,27.
- e. Ask in faith. Mt 21:11; Jas 5:15.
- f. Ask in the name of Christ. Joh 14:13.
- g. Ask according to God's will. 1Jo 5:14.

- h. Call upon God in truth. Ps 145:18.
- i. Fear God. Ps 145:19; Heb.5:7
- j. Set their love upon God. Ps 91:14,15.
- k. Keep God's commandments. 1Jo 3:22.
- l. Call upon God under oppression. Isa 19:20.
- m. Call upon God under affliction. Ps 18:6; 106:44; Isa 30:19,20.
- n. Abide in Christ. Joh 15:7.
- o. Humble themselves. 2Ch 7:14; Ps 9:12; Luke 18:10-14.
- p. Are righteous. Ps 34:15; Jas 5:16.
- q. Are poor and needy. Isa 41:17.

Answers to Prayer are denied to:

- a. Ask with wrong and selfish motives (**James 4:3.**)
- b. Cherished iniquity in the heart. Ps 66:18.
- c. Live in sin. Isa 59:2; Joh 9:31.
- d. Being unforgiving of others (Matt.6:14-15)
- e. Offer unworthy service to God. Mal 1:7-9.
- f. Forsake God. Jer 14:10,12.
- g. Reject the call of God. Pr 1:24,25,28.
- h. Failure to read and obey God's word Pr 28:9; Zec 7:11-13.
- i. Are deaf to the cry of the poor. Pr 21:13.
- j. Are blood shedders. Isa 1:15; 59:3.
- k. Are idolaters. Jer 11:11-14; Eze 8:15-18.
- l. Lack of faith (**Jas 1:6,7; Matt.21:22.**)
- m. Lack of proper family life (1 Pet.3:6,7)
- n. Are hypocrites. Job 27:8,9.
- o. Are proud. Job 35:12,13.
- p. Are self-righteous. Lu 18:11,12,14.
- q. Are the enemies of saints. Ps 18:40,41.
- r. Cruelly oppress saints. Mic 3:2-4.
- s. Example of God refusing to answer: (Saul. **1Sa 28:15**; Elders of Israel. **Eze 20:3.**)

Who should we pray to:

To the Father (Matt. 6:6,9; Eph.3:14)

To Christ. Lu 23:42; Ac 7:59; Romans 10:13; John14:13-14; "And whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. "If you ask Me anything in My name. I will do *it*.

When should we pray:

Should be offered

- a. At evening, morning, and noon. Ps 55:17.
- b. Day and night. Ps 88:1.
- c. Without ceasing. 1Th 5:17
- d. Before important decisions are made (Luke 6:12-13)

- e. When going through hard times (Luke 22:39-40; James 5:13)
- f. When anxious (Phil.4:6-7)

Accompanied with

- a. Repentance. 1Ki 8:33; Jer 36:7.
- b. Confession. Ne 1:4,7; Da 9:4-11.
- c. Humility. Ge 18:27.
- d. Weeping. Jer 31:9; Ho 12:4.
- e. Fasting. Ne 1:4; Da 9:3; Ac 13:3.
- f. Spiritual Alertness. Lu 21:36; 1Pe 4:7.
- g. Praise. Ps 66:17.
- h. Thanksgiving. Php 4:6; Col 4:2.

Plead in the

- a. Promises of God. **Ge 32:9-12; Ex 32:13**; 1Ki 8:26; Ps 119:49.
- b. Covenant of God. Jer 14:21.
- c. Faithfulness of God. Ps 143:1.
- d. Mercy of God. Ps 51:1; Da 9:18.
- e. Righteousness of God. Da 9:16.

Intercessory Prayer for others:

Should be offered up for

- a. Kings. 1Ti 2:2.
- b. All in authority. 1Ti 2:2.
- c. Ministers. 2Co 1:11; Php 1:19.
- d. The Church. Ps 122:6; Isa 62:6,7.
- e. All saints. Eph 6:18.
- f. All men. 1Ti 2:1.
- g. Masters. Ge 24:12-14.
- h. Servants. Lu 7:2,3.
- i. Children. Ge 17:18; Mt 15:22.
- j. Friends. Job 42:8.
- k. Fellow-countrymen. Ro 10:1.
- l. The sick. Jas 5:14.
- m. Persecutors. Mt 5:44.
- n. Enemies among whom we dwell. Jer 29:7.
- o. Those who envy us. Nu 12:13.
- p. Those who forsake us. 2Ti 4:16.
- q. Those who murmur against God. Nu 11:1,2; 14:13,19.

Principles of Prayer

- 1) Be persistent (Luke 11:8-9; 18:1-7)
- 2) Pray with expectancy (Mark 11:24)
- 3) With confidence and faith in God. (1Jo 5:14-15; Lu 11:9,10; Joh 14:13,14.)
- 4) According to the will of God (**1Jo 5:14-15**)
- 5) With submission to God. **Lu 22:42.**
- 6) With boldness. Heb 4:16.
- 7) In holiness and a cleansed heart (Heb.10:22)
- 8) With earnestness (**James 5:16-17**)

Model of Prayer (Matt.6:9-15) (c.f. John 17)

Statement: *Make God the center of your prayers and God will make you the center of His answers.*

God's glory (V.9-10)

- 1) *God's priority*-“Hallowed be Thy name.”
- 2) *God's program*- “Thy kingdom come”
- 3) *God's plan*- “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”

Man's need (11-13a)

- 4) *God's provisions*-“Give us this day our daily bread.”
- 5) *God's pardon*- “Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”
- 6) *God's protection*- “Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

Practical principles of a prayer life

- 1) Have a time (Dan.6:10; Mark 1:35; Ps. 57:2,8).
- 2) Have a place (Matt.6:6)
- 3) Talk to the Lord throughout the whole day.
- 4) Record your requests and God's answers.
- 5) Pray with your family.
- 6) Have soft music in the background to keep your mind from wondering and to create an atmosphere of worship.
- 7) Turn off the radio in the car and pray while you drive.
- 8)
- 9)
- 10)

Quotations on Prayer:

- 1) We are to talk to God about man before we talk to man about God. (L.S. Chafer)
- 2) Prayer is not informing God of one's needs but expressing one's confidence in Him
- 3) Prayer can do anything God can do.
- 4) “In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart” (John Bunyan).
- 5) Prayer is the only omnipotence God grants to us.
- 6) Praying is learned by praying.