

PRAYER – ITS FUNCTION AND OPERATION IN THE BODY

Prayer

Luke 18:1

1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

1 Thessalonians 5:17

17 Pray without ceasing.

Ephesians 6:18

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Romans 12:12

12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

Kinds of Prayer

1. Edification

Jude 1:20

20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

Ephesians 5:19-20

19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

2. Importunate

Luke 11:1-10

1 And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

2 And he said unto them, **When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.**

3 Give us day by day our daily bread.

4 And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

5 And he said unto them, **Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves;**

6 For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?

7 And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee.

8 I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.

9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

3. The Watch

Mark 13:33

33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

Mark 13:35-37

35 Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:

36 Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.

37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

Mark 14:37-38

37 And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, **Simon, sleepest thou? couldest not thou watch one hour?**

38 Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.

Acts 20:31

31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

1 Peter 4:7

7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

Exodus 14:24

24 And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians,

Ps 102:7

7 I watch, and am as a sparrow alone upon the house top.

Ps 130:6

6 My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning.

("Watch" gives us the greatest endurance and greatest discipline in the Christian warfare. Jesus was accustomed to this rigorous schedule. The "watch" subjects our flesh to the Spirit and gives us overcoming power. The ministry of watching is not easily developed, but grows as a Christian increases in the capacity to maintain it.)

4. IntercessionExodus 32:7

7 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves:

Exodus 32:30

30 And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses said unto the people, Ye have sinned a great sin: and now I will go up unto the LORD; peradventure I shall make an atonement for your sin.

Exodus 32:33

33 And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.

(Intercession identifies itself with the person or group being prayer for. This was the kind of prayer Moses made for the children of Israel. Jesus is our go-between capacity for one another in our prayer life; it moves the hand of God. It is willingness to stand in the place of the other person.)

What Is Prayer?Matt 26:39

39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, **O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.**

Luke 18:11

11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

Luke 22:41

41 And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,

Where Do You Pray?

Matthew 6:5-6

5 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

Luke 5:16

16 And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.

Mark 1:35

35 And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

Acts 21:5

5 And when we had accomplished those days, we departed and went our way; and they all brought us on our way, with wives and children, till we were out of the city: and we kneeled down on the shore, and prayed.

Definitions

Watch

Strong's Concordance, Greek: *To keep watch, be on guard, vigilant, wake, to rouse from sleep, from death, from disease, from inactivity, to rise up again, rear up, stand.*