

Prayer: Communing with the Father

HOPE813 FAITH WALK RESOURCES

"Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know." — Jeremiah 33:3 (NKJV)

Introduction

Prayer is not a religious performance — it is a relationship. Before it is a discipline, it is a conversation between a Father and His children. At HOPE813, we believe prayer is the breath of the Christian life: the means by which prevenient grace draws the lost, justifying grace is received, and sanctifying grace is sustained day by day. If worship is our response to who God is, prayer is how we stay in step with Him.

Prayer Is Relationship, Not Ritual

Jesus taught His disciples to pray "Our Father" (Matthew 6:9), not "O Distant Judge." Prayer begins with identity — we come as sons and daughters, not as strangers negotiating access. Romans 8:15 tells us we have received "the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.'" That cry is itself a work of the Holy Spirit within us. This means prayer is never a solo human effort to reach God; it is God the Spirit enabling us to reach toward God the Father, in the name of God the Son.

The Shapes of Prayer

Scripture gives us more than one posture for prayer:

- **Adoration** — praising God for who He is (Psalm 145)
- **Confession** — agreeing with God about sin and receiving cleansing (1 John 1:9)
- **Thanksgiving** — gratitude for what God has done (Philippians 4:6)
- **Supplication** — bringing our needs and the needs of others before Him (Philippians 4:6-7)
- **Intercession** — standing in the gap for others (1 Timothy 2:1)

A mature prayer life includes all five, not just the asking. Many believers stall out in supplication alone; a full prayer life listens, praises, repents, and gives thanks as much as it petitions.

Praying in the Spirit

Because HOPE813 stands in the Wesleyan-Holiness-Pentecostal stream, we hold that prayer is not merely a human discipline but a Spirit-empowered one. Jude 20 exhorts believers, "praying in the Holy Spirit." Romans 8:26 reminds us that "the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered" when we do not know what to pray. For many believers, this includes praying in tongues as part

of a private devotional life — a gift given for the edification of the one praying (1 Corinthians 14:4). Praying in the Spirit does not replace praying with understanding; Scripture calls us to both (1 Corinthians 14:15).

Persistence and Faith

Jesus told the parable of the persistent widow "that men always ought to pray and not lose heart" (Luke 18:1). Prayer is not a single transaction but a posture we live in. Hebrews 11:6 reminds us that "he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Unanswered prayer is not always denied prayer — sometimes it is a "not yet," and sometimes God's answer reshapes the request itself, as it did for Paul concerning his thorn in the flesh (2 Corinthians 12:8-9).

Reflection Questions

1. When you pray, do you tend to only ask God for things, or do you also praise, confess, give thanks, and intercede?
2. What does it mean to you that the Holy Spirit helps you pray, even when you don't have the words?
3. Is there a prayer you've stopped praying because the answer hasn't come yet? What would it look like to keep bringing it to God?
4. Who is someone you can intercede for this week — someone who may not be praying for themselves right now?

This Week

Set aside 10 minutes a day, at the same time each day, for prayer with no other purpose than being with God. Use the ACTS pattern — Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication — to shape your time if you're not sure where to start.

Closing Prayer

Father, teach us to pray as Jesus taught His disciples. Thank You that we do not come to You as strangers, but as sons and daughters, welcomed by the blood of Jesus and carried by the Spirit who intercedes within us. Give us the discipline to seek You daily and the faith to keep asking, seeking, and knocking. In Jesus' name, Amen.