



What is Prayer

- "solemn request to God."
 - "...communion with God." Communion is "a sharing fellowship".
 - prayer is a two-way communication, and that it is much more than a formal religious exercise
1. The way for us to be an instrument for God to do with what He wants.
 2. Moving in God's direction.
 3. Breaking through from the natural to the supernatural.

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Why Pray

- We acknowledge that God is in control.
- We get to know God.
- We learn what burdens God and what He wants done.

Prayer results in us:

- Knowing God's voice
- Knowing God's will
- Knowing God's burdens

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Prayer Example

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.

Colossians 1:9-12

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Prayer Example

1. They would know God's will.
2. Live a life worthy of the Lord.
3. Please Him in every way.
4. Bear fruit in every good work.
5. Grow in the knowledge of God.
6. Be strengthened with all power to:
7. Have great endurance and patience
8. Joyfully give thanks to the Father for qualifying us to share in His inheritance.

Colossians 1:9-12

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Biblical Importance of Prayer

1. Frequently: But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. Luke 5:16
2. By Himself: And in the morning, a great while before day, He rose and went out to a lonely place, and there He prayed. Mark 1:35
3. Before making major decisions: In these days, He went out to the mountain to pray, and all night He continued in prayer to God. Luke 6:12
4. In time of great testing: And going a little farther, He fell on His face and prayed, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt" Matthew 26:39-44

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Biblical Importance of Prayer



5. To rejoice and give thanks to God: At that time, Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned, and revealed them to little children." Matthew 11:25
6. On behalf of others: Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers. Luke 22:31-32
7. To keep in close touch with the Father: By myself, I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but Him who sent me. John 5:30
Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing because whatever the Father does, the Son also does. John 5:19

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Historical Leaders



1. Martin Luther - "Prayer is the most important thing in my life. If I should neglect prayer for a single day, I should lose a great deal of the fire of faith."
2. John Knox - "O God, give me Scotland, or I die."
3. John Wesley - "I have so much to do that I must spend several hours in prayer before I am able to do it."
4. Charles Spurgeon - A prayerless soul is a Christless soul."
5. George Mueller - "When once I am persuaded that a thing is right, I go on praying for it till the end comes. I never give up!."
6. R. A. Torrey - "Prayer can do anything that God can do, and as God can do anything, prayer is omnipotent."
7. Billy Graham - A prayerless Christian is a powerless Christian."

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Principles of Prayer



1. Know your place in prayer.

All of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another because "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. 1 Peter 5:5-6

2. Let your words be few.

Do not be quick with your mouth; do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven, and you are on earth, so let your words be few. Ecclesiastes 5:2
And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Matthew 6:7

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Principles of Prayer



3. Wait on God

- Be still and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10

- Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who carries out wicked schemes. Psalm 37:7
- Wait for the Lord, and keep His way, and He will exalt you to inherit the land. When the wicked are cut off, you will see it. Psalm 37:34
- They who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like an eagle; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

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Principles of Prayer



4. Faith.

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Heb 11:1

Without faith, it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. Hebrews 11:6

Jesus answered, saying to them, "Have faith in God. Truly I say unto you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says is going to happen. It shall be granted him. Therefore, I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they shall be granted you." Mark 11:22-24

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Principles of Prayer



4. Faith.

For by the grace given me, I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the (measure of) faith God has distributed (given) to each of you. Rom 12:3

But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." 23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." 24 Immediately, the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" Mark 9:22

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Rom 10:17

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Principles of Prayer



5. In Jesus' name

Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it that the Father may be glorified in the Son. John 14:13

6. God's Will.

And this is the confidence which we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have obtained the requests made of Him. 1 John 5:14-15

You ask and do not receive because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. James 4:3

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Principles of Prayer



7. Confession and renouncement of Sin

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God, and we receive from Him whatever we ask, because we keep His commandments and do what pleases Him. 1 John 3:21-22

If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. Psalm 66:18

8. Forgiving Heart

And whenever you stand praying, forgive if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. Mark 11:25-26

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Principles of Prayer



9. Persistence and Diligence

22 They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. 23 He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?"

24 He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around."

25 Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. 26 Jesus sent him home, saying, "Don't even go into the village." Mark 8:22-25

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Principles of Prayer



9. Persistence and Diligence

18 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. 2 He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. 3 And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

4 "For some time he refused. But finally, he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'"

6 And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? 8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth? Luke 18:1-8

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Why do I not feel like praying



Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak. Matthew 26:41

For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. Romans 8:13

"Father, by your Spirit, help me to put to death the desires of the flesh which would draw me away from prayer."

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How do we pray (Elements of Effectual Prayers)



1. **Worship (praise, adoration):** Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the lands Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with singing! Know that the Lord is God! It is He that hath made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise! For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. Ps 100:1-5

2. **Thanksgiving:** Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. Ephesians 5:4 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. Colossians 4:2 Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

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How do we pray (Elements of Effectual Prayers)

3. Confession:

If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; but if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. 1 John 1:6-10

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How do we pray (Elements of Effectual Prayers)

4. Intercession: 1. Rulers and authorities: First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men, for kings and all who are in high positions that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectable in every way. 1 Timothy 2:1-2

Intercession: 2. Enemies: But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. Matthew 5:44

Intercession: 3. Our fellow Christians: Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints. Ephesians 6:18

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How do we pray (Elements of Effectual Prayers)

4. Intercession: 3. Our fellow Christians

Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16

We need to for Christians who are going astray that the Holy Spirit's conviction would bring them back to repentance.

If anyone sees his brother commit a sin which does not lead to death, he should pray, and God will give him life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that he should pray about that. 1 John 5:16

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How do we pray (Elements of Effectual Prayers)

4. Intercession: 4. Non-Christians Salvation

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. Romans 10:1

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. John 6:44

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How do we pray (Elements of Effectual Prayers)

4. Intercession: 5. Ourselves (petition) Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks, it will be opened..... Matthew 7:7-11

Warning

You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. James 4:3

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How do we pray (Elements of Effectual Prayers)

4. Intercession: 6. Stand in the Gap

Ezekiel 22:30, "I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one."

"Genesis 18:23-25 : "Abraham stepped forward and said, 'Will You really sweep away the righteous with the wicked? What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will You really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people who are there?'

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Praying in Gods will



And this is the confidence which we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have obtained the requests made of Him. I John 5:14-15

1. The Word of God is God's revealed will. When we pray in line with God's Word, we can be confident that God will hear and answer positively.

Through these He has given us His very great and precious promises so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. II Peter 1

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Praying in Gods will



2. Let God's Spirit pray for you

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. Romans 8:26-27

3. Let your Spirit pray for you: Pray in Tongues

For is I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. I Corinthians 14:14

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Examples of Prayer



Compassion prayer: Eph: 3:14

1. Lord, I pray that _____ may be strengthened with power through your Spirit in _____'s inner most being so that you may dwell in _____'s heart through faith.
2. Lord I pray that _____ may be rooted and established in love and that _____ may have power to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.
3. Lord I pray _____ may know your love that surpasses knowledge and that _____ may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

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Examples of Prayer



Spiritual Growth prayer: Col 1:9-11

Lord, fill _____ with the knowledge of your will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. I pray this in order that _____:

- may live a life worthy of the Lord
- may please you in every good work
- may grow in the knowledge of God
- and be strengthened with all power according to your glorious might.

That _____ may have great endurance and patience and joyfully give thanks to you who has qualified _____ to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.

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Examples of Prayer



Spiritual Growth prayer: Eph. 1:17-19

1. Father give _____ the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that may know you better.
2. I also pray that the eyes of _____ heart may be enlightened in order to know the hope to which you have called _____, the riches of your glorious inheritance in the saints, and your incomparable great power for us who believe.

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Examples of Prayer



Confession of sin: Ps. 51:1-12

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love, according to your great compassion

- Blot out my transgressions.
- Wash away all my iniquity and
- Cleanse me from all my sins.

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me.

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The Lords Prayer



"Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Thy Kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

For thine in the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Matthew 6:9-13 KJV

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The Lords Prayer



'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

1. Come your Kingdom

2. Be done your will, on earth as it is in heaven.

3. Give us today our daily bread.

4. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

5. Lead us not into temptation,

6. Deliver us from the evil one

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Enemies to Prayer



1. Interruptions:

2. Drowsiness:

3. Wandering Thoughts:

4. Busyness

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Personal Application: Journaling Exercise



Father, what would you like to say to me about prayer?

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