



Question

- **What is the most important purpose of prayer?**
 - **To be close to God or the divine**
 - **To thank God**
 - **To seek God's guidance**
 - **To help others**
 - **To improve a person's life**
 - **Other**
 - **Don't know**

Purpose of Prayer

- What is the purpose of prayer?
 - There are many reasons to pray.
 - One way to remember the Purpose Of Prayer is with an acronym

a|c|t|s

A for Adoration

- **Expressing Adoration...**
 - God is certainly worthy of our praise, our adoration
 - While we can praise God in song, we can also praise God in prayer

A for Adoration

- **Examples of Adoration in Prayer**
 - When Paul prayed for the Ephesians, he took time to praise God - **Ep 3:14-21**
 - David provides an example of offering adoration and praise - **1Ch 29:10-13**

C for Confession

- **Confessing Our Sins...**

- There is mercy to be found in confessing one's sins - **Pr 28:13 2, James 5:16.**
- The Christian enjoys cleansing of sin by the blood of Jesus. **1Jn 1:7-10**

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C for Confession

- **Examples of Confessing Sins**

- Jesus provided an example in the parable of the Pharisee and the publican - **Lk 18:10-14**
- David provides an example with his confession of sin - **Ps 51:1-13**

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C for Confession

- Obtaining forgiveness by confessing sins is a blessing now enjoyed only through Christ (**Jn 14:6**).
- Once we have put on Christ prayer is crucial to remaining forgiven.

T for Thanksgiving

- **Offering Thanksgiving...**
 - Being thankful is emphasized repeatedly in exhortations to pray - **Ep 5:20; Col 4:2; 1Th 5:17-18**
 - The antidote to anxiety is to pray for everything, with thanksgiving - **Phil 4:6**

T for Thanksgiving

- **Examples of Offering Thanksgiving...**
 - **Christ set an example of thanksgiving - Mt 11:25; 26:27; Jn 6:11; 11:41**
 - **Daniel had the custom to thank God three times a day - Dan 6:10**

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T for Thanksgiving

- **We cannot discount the importance of thanksgiving in our prayers. Especially if we expect God to answer us as we make requests for future blessings.**

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S For Supplication

- **Making Supplication**

- We are encouraged to let our requests be known to God - **Php 4:6**
- 2. We are commanded to make supplications for all men - **1Tim 2:1-2**

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S For Supplication

- **Examples of Making Supplication**

- Widows are known for their supplications night and day - **1Tim 5:5**
- Solomon made supplication at dedication of the temple - **1 Kin 8:28-29**
- Jesus made supplication as He was crucified; Stephen also, as he was being stoned - **Lk 23:34; Ac 7:59-60**

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Conclusion

- **With the aid of a simple acronym (ACTS), we should never forget the Purpose of Prayer**
 - **A**doration
 - **C**onfession
 - **T**hanksgiving
 - **S**upplication

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The Power Of Prayer

- Jesus anticipated that people would become slack in their prayers...
 - Telling the parable of the persistent widow, that people might always pray - **Lk 18:1-7**
Wondering if He would find faith on earth (i.e., people praying) when He returned - **Lk 18:8**

POWER

The Power Of Prayer

- Paul frequently exhorted Christians to be diligent in their prayers...
 - "praying always with all prayer and supplication..." - **Ep 6:18 b.**
 - "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving" - **Col 4:2**
 - "Pray without ceasing" - **1Th 5:17**

POWER

The Power Of Prayer

- If we have become slack in our prayers, might that be an indication that we do not appreciate the Power of Prayer?
 - Have we forgotten what a privilege it is to pray?

POWER

The Power Of Prayer

- **Examples of the Power of Prayer**
 - There is Forgiveness from God...
 - The Christian can find forgiveness through the blood of Christ - **1Jn 1:7-10**
 - Thus the erring Christian is told to repent and pray - **Acts 8:22**

POWER

The Power Of Prayer

- **There is Peace from God...**
 - **The antidote to anxiety is to pray - Phil. 4:6**
The Christian will find their hearts and minds guarded by the peace of God - Phil. 4:7

POWER

The Power Of Prayer

- **There is Strength from God...**
 - **Paul prayed that the Ephesians might be strengthened in the inner man - Ep 3:14-16, 20**
 - **When we need to be strong, Christians can likewise pray for themselves!**

POWER

The Power Of Prayer

- **There is Boldness from God**
 - When the apostles needed boldness, they prayed and God delivered - **Acts 4:23-31**
 - When Paul needed boldness, he asked for prayers in his behalf - **Eph 6:19-20**

POWER

The Power Of Prayer

- **There is Wisdom from God**
 - The Christian is promised wisdom through prayer without doubt- **Jm 1:5-8**

POWER

The Power Of Prayer

- **There is Healing from God...**
 - Those who are sick should ask elders to pray for them - Jm 5.14-15
 - Those who have sinned should confess, and we should pray for one another - Jm 5:16

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Conclusion

- The power of prayer can indeed be a blessing...
 - To the one who prays in faith
 - For those for whom prayers are offered
- There is help in time of need from God...
 - We have a wonderful High Priest who understands our problems - Heb 4:14-15
 - Thus we can at anytime approach God boldly in prayer, to obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need - Heb 4:16

POWER

Conclusion

- Indeed, the effective fervent prayer of a righteous man (cf. James 5:16)...
- "avails much" (NKJV)
- "can accomplish much" (NASB)
- "has great power" (ESV)
- "is powerful and effective" (NIV)

POWER