

PRAYER

What is Prayer?

Prayer is our way of communicating with God. It is an avenue that God has provided for the believer to make known the deepest feelings of our heart and know the deepest feelings of His heart. Prayer is an act. This can be seen by the way the Scripture speaks of people praying. “He (Jesus) was praying in a certain place, and after He had finished, one of His disciples said to him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught His disciples” (Luke 11:1). Notice it says that Jesus was praying and then He finished praying. This means that prayer is an act. You begin it and you finish it. Prayer is something that we are to do all of the time. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 tells us to “pray without ceasing.”

Why Do We Pray?

We pray because God tells us to. How awesome it is that we serve a God who wants to talk with us! “Let us therefore come boldly before the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Heb 4:16). For further references see: Jer 33:3, Matt 7:7-11, James 5:13-16, Luke 18:1-8, 2 Chron 7:14, and 1 Thess 5:17.

God’s Promises Regarding Prayer

God promises to hear our prayers and answer them. Like any good father, He will not give us things that will cause us harm (even if we disagree), but He will bless us with things that are good. He may not answer in the way that we expect Him to, but He will always answer.

- If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us (1 John 5:14-15, James 4:3).
- His Spirit intercedes for us when we do not know what we should pray (Romans 8:26-27).

How Should We Pray?

In Matthew chapter 6:9-13, Jesus tells us how we should pray. The Lord's prayer, as it is often called, is not just a prayer that we are to recite to God; it is an example of how we should be praying to God. It can be broken into six main points.

Main Points	Reference	Cross Reference
Declaring God's Authority/Holiness	Matt 6:9	Isa 5:16 & Rev 4:8
Declaring that His will be done, above our own	Matt 6:10	Psalms 103:19, John 6:38 & James 4:3
Asking for provision	Matt 6:11	Prov 30:8-9 & Phil 4:19
Confession of sin & asking for the ability to forgive others	Matt 6:12	Psalms 66:18, Mark 11:25-26
Deliverance from temptation	Matt 6:13	James 1:13-16 & 1 Cor 10:13
Declaring that the kingdom, power and glory belong to God forever	Matt 6:13	Eph 1:19 & Rev 4:11

LOOKING AT JESUS' EXAMPLE

Jesus, the fullness of God in human form, prayed all the time. He has a relationship with His Father and so should we. Jesus set this example:

- Always seeking the Father's direction (Luke 6:12)
- Surrendered to follow as God answered (Luke 22:42)
- Getting away to a solitary place (Luke 9:18, & Mark 1:35)
- Prays for others (John 19)

Bible Study on Prayer

IN YOUR OWN WORDS, WHAT IS PRAYER?

WHO

According to Psalm 32:6, who should pray?

According to Luke 6:12 & Matt 6:6 & 9, who should we pray to?

WHAT

Read the following passages and write down what we are told we should pray about.

a) Philippians 4:6-7

b) Matthew 6:9-13

c) Matthew 9:38

d) 2 Thes 3:1

e) James 5:13-16

f) Eph 3:14-20

g) Luke 6:28

Bible Study on Prayer

WHEN

What do the following passages say about when we should pray?

- a) Luke 18:1
- b) 1 Thes 5:17
- c) Psalm 61:2

WHY

According to the following passages, why should we pray?

- a) Hebrews 4:16
- b) Eph 6:10-18
- c) James 5:16
- d) Luke 22:40

Bible Study on Prayer

HOW

In Matthew 6:9-13, Jesus teaches His disciples how to pray. Make an outline of Jesus' prayer. Highlighting main ideas. Note the order of Jesus' requests to God.

Where is Jesus' focus in prayer?

What do the following verses say about how we should pray?

a) Matthew 6:5-7

b) 1 John 5:14

c) Jude 20

d) 1 Cor 14:15

e) Luke 18:9-14

f) James 1:6

Bible Study on Prayer

CHECK IT OUT ON YOUR OWN:

Supplication:

Psalms 119:170

Eph 6:18

1 Kings 8:28-54

Phil 4:6

Psalms 6:9

1 Tim 2:1-2

Intercession:

Jeremiah 27:18

Isaiah 53:12

Romans 8:26-27

Romans 8:34

Hebrews 7:25

1 Tim 2:1-2

What is the difference between supplication & intercession?

Supplication and intercession are often grouped with prayer. So what are they? Supplication is simply seeking God's favor and humbly asking Him for something. Intercession is praying on behalf of another person. When you intercede you are standing the gap for another person. You might be saying to yourself, "I thought that was prayer?" and you are right! They are types of prayers.