

Prayer

What is prayer? Prayer is speaking to or talking with the Lord Jesus Christ. Prayer is an offering up of our desires to God for all things lawful and needful and humble confidence that we shall obtain them through the mediation and merits of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Pray – to ask the earnestness or zeal, as for a favor, or for something desirable, to entreat, to supplicate; to petition, to ask, make requests; in worship: to address God with solemnity and reverence, with adoration, confession of sins, supplication for mercy, and thanksgiving for blessings received.

Things you need to know about prayer:

- In the Bible prayers by the righteous are only directed towards God, never idols, saints, dead people, Mary, etc – that is all pagan foolishness.
- You can pray to God anytime, anyplace, anywhere: out loud or to yourself, with your face to the ground or standing up, with your eyes opened or closed
- It's okay to pray about the same thing over and over again (Matthew 26:39-44)
- One of the ways you can serve God is by praying continually (Luke 2:37)
- The Spirit of God intercedes on our behalf, but you cannot hear him pray (Romans 8:26) and so does Jesus Christ (Romans 8:34, Isaiah 53:12)
- Prayer cannot override or force others or yourself to go or act against the free will and desires of the individual person.

*The first time men prayed after the fall (Genesis 4:26)

The four parts of Prayer:

1. Adoration: Prayer should be the act of the soul worshipping and praising God (Psalm 95:6).
2. Confession: repentance from every known sin as well as confession of sin (Psalm 32:1, 1 John 1)
3. Thanksgiving: be thankful for anything, be thankful for everything (Philippians 4:6)
4. Supplication: intercession, requests, petitions or desires, wants or needs expressed to the Father (1 Timothy 2:1)

Our prayer should be directed to God the Father (Acts 12:5) in the name of Jesus Christ (John 14:13) through the power of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 6:18).

You are to pray always and constantly (Luke 18:1, 21:36; 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Ephesians 6:18, Acts 10:2).

You can pray everywhere and anywhere (1 Timothy 2:8).

We should pray privately, with our family, and publicly.

You ought to be ready to pray anytime, anyplace, and anywhere; that is you ought to be on “praying grounds” all the time.

David and Prayer:

Prayed in the morning (Psalm 5:3), noon and night (Psalm 55:17). He prayed daily (Psalm 86:3, 88:1).

*Daniel prayed three times a day (Daniel 6:10).

Jesus' prayer habits:

Matthew 14:23 He prayed alone by himself in secret for a long time (Luke 5:16, 9:18)

Luke 6:12 He prayed all night to God

Mark 1:35 Jesus rose up before the sun and went into a solitary place to pray

Matthew 26:39 Prayed for God's will to be done, not his own

Mark 14:35 Prayed while flat on his face and on his knees (Luke 22:41)

Luke 3:21 Prayed during his baptism and got full of the Holy Ghost

Hebrews 5:1-10 Offered up prayers with strong crying and tears unto the Father

What we ought to pray for?

There is a lengthy list of what we should pray for but here are a few:

Pray for the Second Coming of Christ (Revelation 22:20), God's will to be done, Pray for our lives, daily bread, forgiveness of sins, guidance, and victory over temptation and sin.

Pray for all men (1 Timothy 2:1), pray for the saints (Romans 1:9), for long life (Isaiah 38:1-3), for personal safety (Daniel 6:22-23) and for the safety of others. Pray for wisdom and understanding (1 Kings 3:9, James 1:5). Pray for a prosperous journey (Romans 1:10). Pray for your enemies (Matthew 5:44). Pray for those that are sick (James 5:14), pray for those in authority (1 Timothy 2:1-4). Pray for the salvation of sinners (2 Peter 3:9). Pray for immature Christians that they would grow up into Christ (Colossians 1:28). Pray for the pastors, elders, and bishops who are over them in the ministry (1 Timothy 5:17).

How to pray?

The Lord's prayer example (See also Luke 11:2-4):

Matthew 6:9-13

6:9 Addressed to the Father who dwells in heaven, wanting his name to be revered and adored

6:10 Praying for the physical kingdom to come (the second coming of Christ) and for God's will to be done on the earth just like it is in heaven.

6:11 Ask for provision for today

6:12 Ask the Lord to forgive us of our sins as we have already forgiven others that sinned against us

6:13 Ask the Lord to lead us not into temptation, but to deliver us from evil. (2 Peter 2:9, Hebrews 2:17-18, James 1:12-16)

6:14 Say to the Lord, hey, it's all about you, it's all for you, and to you, for ever and ever AMEN!

We should be guided first of all by the Bible in our praying. Any praying that is not according to what God said is not the work of the Holy Spirit. Pray according to God's will (1 John 5:14-15)

We must pray with faith in the existence of God (Hebrews 11:6).

We must believe that God rewards faithful intercession (Hebrews 11:6).
We must pray with humility (2 Chronicles 7:14).
We must confess our sins and judge them (1 Corinthians 11:31-32).

What are the conditions of prayer?

We must pray in the will of God (Luke 22:42). We must forgive others before God will hear and answer our prayers (Mark 11:25). We must pray in faith, believing (Mark 11:24, James 1:6-7). We must keep the Lord's commandments and do what is pleasing in his sight (1 John 3:22). Other conditions are abiding in Christ and praying in Jesus name (John 16:24).

Prayer promises in the Bible:

Mark 11:24, 1 John 5:14-15, John 15:7, Ephesians 3:12-20, Philippians 4:13, 19, Matthew 7:7-8, Luke 11:9-13, Hebrews 4:16

Why very often our prayers are not answered:

Sin (Isaiah 59:1-2)
Selfishness (James 4:2-3)
Double-mindedness (James 1:7-8)
Unforgiving spirit (Ephesians 4:32)
Holding Grudges (James 5:9)
Bitterness (Colossians 3:19, 1 Peter 3:7)

More on Prayer:

God can hear you praying out loud or within your heart (1 Samuel 1:10-18).
Prayer is praising, worshipping, and thanking the Lord (1 Samuel 2:1-10).
Don't pray to be seen of men (Matthew 6:5)
Pray in a private secret place (Matthew 6:6)
Pray publicly with other believers (Acts 12:5, 20:36)
Don't pray using vain repetitions (Matthew 6:7)
You are not necessarily heard for much speaking (Matthew 6:7)
*The Lord knows that you need before you ask him (Matthew 6:8)
Pray God would send forth laborers into the field (Matthew 9:38)
Praying helps you not enter into temptation (Matthew 26:41)
You can get filled with the Holy Ghost to preach the word boldly through prayer (Acts 4:29-31)

The Lord's prayer (John 17)

Prayer cannot override or force others or yourself to go or act against the free will and desires of the individual person.

God wills all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:3-4, 4:10) but do all get saved?

Praying for the salvation of others: Pray the Lord will draw them to Christ (John 6:44)
You cannot name and claim someone's salvation because that is a free will issue that God will *never* infringe upon! Now when praying for someone's salvation you can expect that God is going to do something and try to get their attention and draw them to the Saviour, but them getting saved is determinant upon whether they call upon the name of the Lord themselves.

If you're right in the sight of the Lord, you can believe and receive things of God that has nothing to do with the individual free wills of others unless those free wills line up with God (Amos 3:3). Once you started naming and claiming things over which you have no control of, or over which God said he will not infringe upon (the free will and choice of all men to do whatever they want to do) you are erring. I can believe God is going to save so and so but if that person doesn't want to be saved, guess what, he is not going to be saved. You need to understand that.