

Foundations

Of

Prayer

Complete Version

Bible College Study Course

Foundations Of Prayer

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AUSTRALIA

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CHAPTER 1



What Prayer Is (It's Nature & Diversity)

§ INTRODUCTION: PRAYER DEFINED [LSN 1]

Welcome to the series: “*Foundations Of Prayer*”.

In this *particular series* you will learn, ‘*What Prayer Is*’, ‘*Why Prayer Is Important*’, ‘*How We Are To Pray According To The Scriptures*’, and also look at ‘*The Different Kinds Of Prayer*’ that exists in the Bible; In both Old Testament and New.

But, of course, as *The Spirit-Filled Believer's Topical Bible (...which I will call “The Spirit Filled BTB” from now on...)* points out: “*Scripture teaches so extensively on the subject of prayer that one could spend a lifetime examining its many revelations. Any study of prayer is apt to be incomplete. The subject is vast...But remember, [in the end] prayer is conversing with a Person, [God]. He is the One Who brings the joys of a satisfying prayer life.*”¹

It's no secret that, all throughout history, it is through *the prayer of faith* that *the miraculous, supernatural and impossible have taken place over and over again*, and *why* many consider *prayer* to be *one of the most important subjects in all of Scripture*.

¹ *Spirit-Filled Believer's Topical Bible (The), Reference Edition*, Copyright © 1992 by Harrison House, P.O. Box 35035, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74153, USA. p.98

In fact, in his *Bible Prayer Study Course*, Kenneth E. Hagin says that: “Learning how to pray effectively is one of the most important things we will ever do in our Christian walk.”¹

Added to this, Barry Chant, in his book ‘*Praying In The Spirit*’, says: “Scripture commands [prayer] and life demands it. It is not something we can leave to spiritual ‘experts’. It is not just for ‘intercessors’. It is not just for apostles or prophets or pastors. Prayer in the Spirit is for everyone.”²

These are just some of the reasons that we should develop a fervent prayer life, and absolutely refuse to allow anything to get in the way of our time with the Lord.

*The Spirit-Filled BTB*³ observes that, “...when a person has spent a lifetime talking with the Lord, there is a depth and a power in his or her prayers which reflect a deep knowledge of God, His ways, His will, His nature, and His presence. [It goes on to say...] How often have we heard an elderly saint begin to lead in prayer with an address as simple as ‘Dear Lord’ or ‘Lord Jesus’ and have the room charged with power and flooded with God’s presence before the next word can be breathed! The years of communing with God brings an unmistakable authority, depth, and sweetness to a believer.”⁴

And the way in which people pray (or ‘commune with God’) is as varied as the people that exist on the planet!

Therefore, as we go on to look at all the different Hebrew and Greek words for ‘prayer,’ it is not to categorise and restrict ‘prayer’ in any way or form, but to show you all the different ways people have prayed in the past, and free you to be led by the Spirit to find your own unique form of prayer that perfectly suits you!

🌀 PRAYER IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Let’s first look at some (not all) of the Old Testament Hebrew words for ‘prayer’.

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² Barry Chant, *Praying In The Spirit*, copyright © 2002 Barry Chant, Sovereign World Ltd, PO Box 777, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 OZS, England. p.11

³ BTB – Believer’s Topical Bible

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The first Hebrew word (*be'a':H1156*, pronounced 'beh-aw') is found in Daniel chapters 2 and 6, and *means*: 'to pray, ask, desire, seek, request, and make petition'¹ (...*a petition is defined as 'a formal request or supplication [which is, 'a humble and earnest prayer'] for something needed or desired*).

It is the *type of prayer* that Daniel, as *a prophet of God, favoured* (...*using it 8 times in his Book; The other [one] time it is used is in the book of Obadiah [in Obadiah 1:6] with regard to a prophesy concerning Esau*).

Now, to *understand the prayer that was prayed*, and *what it entailed*, we need some *context*: This was the time when Daniel and his friends (*Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego*), were taken into captivity by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon (*Dan. 1:1*); And while they were in captivity, the king had a troubling dream.

He knows it is *very significant*, and so he asks all his magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers, to tell him what his dream was, and also its meaning; They are dumbfounded at this request and say to the king: "*No one except the gods can tell you your dream, and they do not live among people*" (*Dan. 2:11*).

This makes the king furious, and *orders all the wise men be executed!*

And so, when Daniel is informed of what happened, it says in Daniel chapter 2, verses 16 through 23...

Dan 2:16 *So Daniel went in and asked the king to give him time, that he might tell the king the interpretation.*

Dan 2:17 *Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions,*

Dan 2:18 *that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.*

Dan 2:19 *Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven.*

Dan 2:20 *Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His.*

Dan 2:21 *And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding.*

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Dan 2:22 *He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, And light dwells with Him.*

Dan 2:23 *"I thank You and praise You, O God of my fathers; You have given me wisdom and might, And have now made known to me what we asked (be'a':H1156 – 'asked, , prayed, desired, sought, requested, and made petition') of You, For You have made known to us the king's demand."^{NKJV}*

In fact, this same Hebrew word is translated 'prayer' in Daniel chapter 6, and verse 11, where it says ...

Dan 6:11 *Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying (be'a':H1156) and making supplication before his God.^{KJV}*

This particular verse describes what Daniel was doing right after a decree was signed that said, "For thirty days anyone who prays to anyone, divine or human--except the king would be thrown to the lions"; And it is under these circumstances, that Daniel 'prayed' in this way, and made supplication (which is, 'a humble and earnest prayer') before God; What an incredible individual Daniel was!

So, what we understand is that, in both cases, Daniel was not just asking or praying to God, but was passionately seeking God, making petitions before God, and desiring something of Him (...which in the first case, was to know what the king's dream was, and its interpretation; And in the second case, perhaps for courage and boldness to remain faithful to God, and for God to deal with him and those who opposed him in a manner that was righteous and just.)

In both instances, of course, God answered him; Not only revealing the king's dream and its interpretation; But also saving him from the lions, and using the very thing that Daniel's enemies meant for his destruction, against them and their families.

Remember, God promised in **Isaiah 54:17** that, "No weapon formed against you shall prosper", and why the apostle Paul says in Romans 12:19 (from the New Living Translation)...

Rom 12:19 *Dear friends, never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God. For it is written, "I will take vengeance; I will repay those who deserve it," says the Lord.^{NLT}*

And that certainly was the case for Daniel; But only because he prayed and sought God with all his heart.

And what's fascinating is that, his prayer included 'the prayer of thanksgiving ('I thank You...'), and the prayer of praise ('...and praise You...'), and the prayer of petition ('...what we asked of You...'), all rolled into one.

Now, let's go on and look at a second Hebrew word for 'prayer', and that is the word (*sha'al:H7592*, pronounced 'shaw-al') that is found in Psalm 2:8, where we find it mentioned in the midst of a promise from God the Father to God the Son, beginning in verse 7, and continuing through to verse 9, where it says...

Psa 2:7b *"The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.*

Psa 2:8 *Ask (*sha'al:H7592*) of Me [...says God...], and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.*

Psa 2:9 *You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.*"^{NKJV}

Here the word for prayer is translated 'ask', and actually means 'to beg, ask earnestly, or demand'¹; It reveals the forceful nature of prayer, that is sincere (asking earnestly), reverential (begging God), and yet insistent (demanding); A very interesting combination, and unique in itself.

And while, in Psalm 2 it applies to God the Father's instructions to God the Son, when we get to Psalm 27 and verse 4, the same word is used by David, when He prays to God and says...

Psa 27:4 *One thing I ask (*sha'al:H7592* – that is, beg, ask earnestly, and demand) of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.*^{NIV}

What an incredible mixture of will (demand) and emotions (beg, ask earnestly), this type of prayer contains, and which is used 169 times in the Old Testament.

Now, a third Hebrew word translated 'prayer' (*siyach:H7878*, pronounced 'see-akh'), and which also used by David, is found in Psalm 55 and verse 17, where, after David had been betrayed by a friend, he says...

Psa 55:17 *Evening and morning and at noon I will pray (*siyach:H7878*), and cry aloud, And He [God] shall hear my voice.*^{NKJV}

Here the Hebrew word means 'to pray, meditate, ponder, converse with oneself (or talk to yourself), and muse (out loud)'²; So, here we see a more internal, meditative type of prayer that David utilises, and that he was extremely confident that God would definitely hear!

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Now, because of its definition, this Hebrew word is also found in Psalm 77, and verse 6, where it is translated 'meditate', with the Psalmist (*Asaph*) saying there...

Psa 77:6b *I meditate (siyach:H7878 – that is, pray, meditate, talk to myself, and muse) within my heart, And my spirit makes diligent search.*^{NKJV}

This Psalm was written at a time when the Israelites had been warned by God's prophet, Jeremiah, over and over again, that if they didn't stop sinning and rebelling against God, that they would be taken into captivity by Babylon; They didn't listen; And what God said was now coming to pass; And, it is in this time of 'darkness', that Asaph prays and meditates, and his 'spirit makes diligent search' for answers from God.

So, this is a type of prayer that Asaph used when all seemed lost.

This same Hebrew word for prayer is also found Psalm 119, and verse 78, where it says...

Psa 119:78 *Let the proud be ashamed, For they treated me wrongfully with falsehood; But I will meditate (siyach:H7878) on Your precepts.*^{NKJV}

This shows us that there is a type of prayer that we can engage in that, while our enemies are fighting against us with the 'arm of flesh', we can resist them with the armour of the Word of God, by 'prayerfully meditating on His precepts'.

So, just from looking at these three Hebrew words for 'prayer', we have discovered three different approaches to prayer, three different applications to prayer, and three different attitudes in prayer!

And as wonderful as this is, there is still one more Hebrew word for prayer we need to look at, that is found twice in Daniel chapter 9; First it is found in verse 4, where it says...

Dan 9:4 *And I [Daniel] prayed (palal:H6419) to the LORD my God, and made confession, and said,(...so, this is Daniel's prayer and confession...) "O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments (...or as the New Living Translation puts it: "You [God] always fulfil your promises of unfailing love to those who love you and keep your commands.")^{NKJV}*

This same Hebrew word is also found in Daniel chapter 9 and verse 20, where Daniel says...

Dan 9:20 *I went on praying (palal:H6419) and confessing my sin and the sins of my people, pleading with the LORD my God for Jerusalem, his holy mountain.*^{NLT}

Here is Daniel interceding for the sins of his nation, and even though he himself had done nothing wrong, he still includes himself, and uses the Hebrew word for 'prayer' (palal:H6419, pronounced 'paw-lal') that means 'to pray or intercede earnestly and intensely'¹, 'to judge, and to make supplication'² (...and which happens to occur 81 times in 79 verses³).

Accordingly, this same word is also translated as both 'judge', and 'intercede', in 1st Samuel 2:25, where Eli the priest says to his sons (who were described as 'scoundrels who had no respect for the Lord)...

1 Sam 2:25a *"If one man sins against another, God will judge (palal:H6419 – lit. 'judge and intercede' for) him (...meaning that 'through prayer, God will help make things right between the two.'). But if a man sins against the LORD (...as Eli's sons were doing, by eating the meat off the sacrificial altar while the people were still there praying over it! And, even worse, engaging in sexual immorality with the women who were helping do God's work in the temple! Eli says...), who will (lit. 'who can') intercede (palal:H6419) for him?" ^{NKJV}*

In these verses, we see the different uses of this word, giving rise to yet another type of prayer, with the Spirit-Filled BTB⁴ saying that this Hebrew word (palal:H6419), "almost always...suggests a strong sense of taking it upon oneself to pray or intercede earnestly and intensely"⁵, (as we see here, and in Daniel chapter 9).

Here again, we see the way that prayer can be engaged in so many different ways, and why it is wrong to try and categorise them too much, because none of them fit into any one category, and all of them come from the heart of the individual praying, as they are led by the Spirit (which is what makes them so powerful).

🔗 PRAYER IN THE NEW TESTAMENT [LSN 2]

As we continue on into the New Testament, we find that there are actually Nine different Greek words for prayer, all of which have different shades of meaning, and describe nine different approaches to prayer!

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⁴ BTB – Believer's Topical Bible

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We will look at each word, from least used to most used; Even though the number of times used does not reflect how important it is.

The **First Greek word** we will look at translated ‘prayer’ (enteuxis:G1783, pronounced ‘ent-yook-sis’) is found in 1st Timothy 4:5, where the apostle Paul writes (beginning in verse 4)...

1 Tim 4:4 *For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving;*

1 Tim 4:5 *for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer (enteuxis:G1783).^{NKJV}*

In the literal translation, the latter half of verse 5 says: ‘...by praying words of Scripture over the food.’¹ (*This is where the concept of ‘saying grace’ came from; With the Spirit-Filled Believer’s Topical Bible saying that ‘Early-day believers offered up praise verses before eating their meals’.*²)

This Greek word is used only 2 times in Scripture; Once here, and the other in 1st Timothy 2:1, where it is translated ‘intercession’, with the apostle Paul saying there...

1 Tim 2:1 *Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications (4th word - deesis:G1162), prayers (6th word - proseuche:G4335), intercessions (enteuxis:G1783), and giving of thanks be made for all men...^{NKJV}*

The Greek word used here expresses a ‘freedom of access, [along with] confidence and holy intimacy, as we boldly approach the Lord to present our requests and needs.’³

So, here we see a type of prayer that is used not only to pray over food, but also to intercede for others; Showing us, once again, that you can pray in any way for anything as the Spirit leads (...without ever feeling limited or restricted by definitions).

Moving on to the **Second Greek word** for ‘prayer’ (euche:G2171, pronounced ‘yoo-khay’), and therefore, another way to pray (and type of prayer), which is found in James 5:15, where the apostle James says, in verses 14 and 15...

James 5:14 *Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray⁴ over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.*

¹ *Spirit-Filled Believer’s Topical Bible (The), Reference Edition, Copyright © 1992 by Harrison House, P.O. Box 35035, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74153, USA. p.109*

² *Spirit-Filled Believer’s Topical Bible (The), Reference Edition, Copyright © 1992 by Harrison House, P.O. Box 35035, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74153, USA. p.109*

³ *Spirit-Filled Believer’s Topical Bible (The), Reference Edition, Copyright © 1992 by Harrison House, P.O. Box 35035, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74153, USA. p.108*

⁴ The eighth way to pray (proseuchomai:G4336): and points to ‘a warm and genuine conversation with the Lord: [where...] A strong element of worship is included.’

James 5:15 And the prayer (euuche:G2171) of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ^{NKJV}

The Greek word here is only used 3 times in the New Testament, once here, and twice in the book of Acts translated ‘vow’ (...which is a solemn promise to God about something).

Like the first Greek word we looked at, this word, even though it’s rarely used in Scripture, is another extraordinary word, with *The Spirit-Filled BTB* saying that: “There is a seriousness about [this Greek word]. People who make vows (or ‘solemn promises’ to God – for example, to keep praying in the spirit for this person until they are completely healed...) are serious about their commitment.”¹

And because this prayer is meant to be so serious and powerful, and also, because it is meant for those people who are seriously ill, it is usually prayed by the elder’s of the church who can not only believe for the person to be healed and raised up, but also for their sins to be forgiven, if needed.

So, here again, we see another type of prayer; One that makes ‘vows’ to God; And seeks forgiveness and healing from God, for the individual, that was used by the elder’s of the church.

That brings us to the **Third** Greek word for ‘prayer’ (euchomai:G2172, pronounced ‘yoo-khom-ah-ee’), and yet another type prayer, found in 2nd Corinthians 13:7, where the apostle Paul writes...

2 Cor 13:7 Now we pray (euchomai:G2172) to God that you do no wrong; not that we ourselves may appear approved (or ‘successful’ [...for having converts that just ‘do no wrong’]), but that you may do what is right, even though we should appear unapproved (...people were unjustly accusing Paul of not having enough miracles, signs and wonders in his life and ministry). ^{NASB}

This Greek word (used 7 times in the New Testament) is the type of ‘prayer’ that is associated with ‘a strong desire or hope; an intense longing’²; It describes the sort of person who prays prayers that are ‘heartfelt and sincere’.³

Besides the apostle Paul, the apostle John prayed in this way too, using the same Greek word in 3rd John 2, where he says...

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² *Spirit-Filled Believer’s Topical Bible (The), Reference Edition*, Copyright © 1992 by Harrison House, P.O. Box 35035, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74153, USA. p.104

³ *Spirit-Filled Believer’s Topical Bible (The), Reference Edition*, Copyright © 1992 by Harrison House, P.O. Box 35035, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74153, USA. p.104

3 John vs.2 Beloved, I wish (*euchomai*:G2172 – that is, “I have a strong desire and hope, and an intense longing, that...) above all things that you may prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers.^{KJV mod.}

So, for all who like to pray in this way, you're in good company!

Continuing on, that brings us to the **Fourth Greek word for 'prayer'** (*deesis*:G1162, pronounced 'deh-ay-sis'), and way to pray, as found in James chapter 5, and the latter half of verse 16, where the apostle James writes...

James 5:16b The effective, fervent prayer (*deesis*:G1162) of a righteous man (or woman) avails much.^{NKJV}

The Greek word here (*used 19 times in the New Testament*¹) refers to: “a petition² (or 'need'³) that can take the form of a prayer (for example: 'Lord, I pray that the eyes of their understanding be enlightened...'), a request (for example: 'Lord, would you please help me to understand sister Mary's behaviour...'), or a supplication (for example: 'Merciful Lord, please hear my heart's cry and deliver my child from his destructive behaviour...').”⁴

Here again, we see two of the most popular 'kinds of prayer' mentioned, and that is 'the prayer of petition' and 'the prayer of supplication'; It is what most people approach God with, and it takes on many different forms.

In fact, we see this particular Greek word translated as both 'prayer' and 'request' in Philippians chapter 1 and verse 4, where the apostle Paul, beginning in verse 3 says there...

Phil 1:3 Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God.

Phil 1:4 I always pray (*deesis*:G1162) for you, and I make my requests (*deesis*:G1162) with a heart full of joy

Phil 1:5 because you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now.

Phil 1:6 And I am sure that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on that day when Christ Jesus comes back again.^{NLT}

¹ 13 times by Paul, 4 times by Luke, 1 time by James, and 1 time by Peter

² A formal request or supplication for something needed or desired.

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Further to this, there's also an example of how this Greek word is translated as 'supplication', in Philippians chapter 4 and verse 6, where it says...

Phil 4:6 *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer (6th word - proseuche:G4335) and supplication (deesis:G1162) with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*^{NKJV}

According to the *Spirit-Filled BTB*, this kind of prayer “Stresses (1) our needs; (2) our inability or insufficiency to meet that need; and (3) God’s willingness to hear, respond, and meet the need. [This type of prayer] is not an appeal to God’s reluctance, but an appeal to His willingness.”¹

In other words, this is the sort of person who is extremely positive, and expects God to say ‘Yes’, to almost everything they pray about.

The **Fifth** Greek word for ‘prayer’ (deomai:G1189, pronounced ‘deh-om-ahee’) is found in Acts chapter 4 and verse 31, where it says...

Acts 4:31 *And when they had prayed (deomai:G1189), the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.*^{NKJV}

The Greek word here (used 22 times in the New Testament) involves humbly and earnestly praying for an urgent or specific need (as well as desires and longings); And expecting a definite answer.²

This is especially seen in 1st Thessalonian 3:10, where the apostle Paul says...

1 Th 3:10 *Night and day we pray (deomai:G1189) earnestly (and ‘exceedingly’^{NKJV}) for you, asking God to let us see you again to fill up (‘complete and perfect’) anything that may still be missing in your faith.*^{NLT}

So, here we have a way to pray that is ‘emphatic and intensive’³, and that would be classified as yet another way to pray ‘the prayer of petition and supplication’ (...which are formal and heart-felt prayers).

Next, we come to the **Sixth** Greek word for ‘prayer’ (proseuche:G4335, pronounced ‘pros-yoo-khay’¹), which is found in Revelation chapter 5, and verse 8, where it says...

¹ *Spirit-Filled Believer’s Topical Bible (The), Reference Edition*, Copyright © 1992 by Harrison House, P.O. Box 35035, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74153, USA. p.102

² From: *Spirit-Filled Believer’s Topical Bible (The), Reference Edition*, Copyright © 1992 by Harrison House, P.O. Box 35035, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74153, USA. p.102

³ From: *Spirit-Filled Believer’s Topical Bible (The), Reference Edition*, Copyright © 1992 by Harrison House, P.O. Box 35035, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74153, USA. p.102

Rev 5:8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers (*proseuche*:G4335) of the saints. ^{NKJV}

The Greek word here (which is considered one of the generic words for prayer and used 37 times in the New Testament) carries with it “a general feeling of devotion to the Lord; And it also emphasises the power of the One to Whom we are praying. It includes requests for spiritual blessings, prayer poured out in an intercessory way, praise and thanksgiving, presenting needs that only God can supply, and asking for strength which God alone can bestow.”²

Examples of this kind of ‘prayer’ are found in Colossians 4:2, where the apostle Paul says...

Col 4:2 Continue earnestly in prayer (*proseuche*:G4335), being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; ^{NKJV}

It is also found in Acts 2:42 where it said...

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers (*proseuche*:G4335). ^{NKJV}

And the result of this is seen in the next verse, where it says in Acts 2:43...

Acts 2:43 Then fear came upon every soul (or ‘a deep sense of awe came over them all’ ^{NLT}), and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. ^{NKJV}

And just as a final example of this Hebrew word, it also used in Ephesians chapter 6 and verse 18 (...the Scripture we will be using as our foundation text for ‘the Kinds of Prayer’), where the apostle Paul says...

Eph 6:18 Praying always with all prayer (*proseuche*:G4335) and supplication (4th word - *deesis*:G1162) in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication (4th word - *deesis*:G1162) for all saints; ^{NKJV}

So, this is the way that a person who is devoted to the Lord would pray; One who knows that God is God, and exemplifies the Scripture that says...

Psa 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God: ^{KJV/NKJV}

¹ Which comes from the Greek word (*proseuchomai*:G4336), referring to one of the most common kinds of prayer, occurring 90 times in 82 verses.

² *Spirit-Filled Believer's Topical Bible (The), Reference Edition*, Copyright © 1992 by Harrison House, P.O. Box 35035, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74153, USA. p.105

Just a *side note*, this Greek word has also been translated *just twice* to denote *a place of prayer* in Acts chapter 16 which *we won't look at* for the sake of time (...in verses 13¹ and 16² – see below).

That brings us to the **Seventh** Greek word for 'prayer' (*erotao:G2065*, pronounced 'er-o-tah-o'), which is found in John chapter 17 and verse 20, where Jesus prays for *all believers...*

John 17:20 *"I do not pray (erotao:G2065) for these (disciples) alone, but also for (all) those who will believe in Me through their word (or 'their testimony',^{NLT});"*^{NKJV}

The Greek word here (*used 59 times in the New Testament*) means '*to pray, to interrogate or question, to ask a favour, to beseech (or plead), to desire, to make a request, to seek information, to get an answer, with the confidence that the answer will come.*'³

The aspect of 'beseeching', or 'pleading', and 'asking a favour', is clearly seen in John 4:47, where it says, beginning in verse 46...

John 4:46 *So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum.*

John 4:47 *When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored (erotao:G2065 – 'pleaded', or 'besought',^{KJV}) Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death.*^{NKJV}

And, of course, in answer to his *request*, Jesus says in **John 4:50**, *"Go your way; your son lives";* And it goes on to say in John 4:51...

John 4:51 *And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told him, saying, "Your son lives!"*^{NKJV}

So, here is the type of person that prays in a *respectful* ('implored, pleaded'), and *determined* way (to 'come to Capernaum', with *no doubt whatsoever*, that Jesus would 'heal his son'); People like this, have the *utmost confidence* that *God 'will' answer them.*

Now we come to the **Eighth** Greek word for 'prayer' (*proseuchomai:G4336*, pronounced 'pros-yoa-khom-ahee'), which is found in 1st Timothy 2:8, where the apostle Paul says to Timothy...

¹ **Acts 16:13** *On the Sabbath we went a little way outside the city to a riverbank, where we supposed that some people met for prayer (proseuche:G4335), and we sat down to speak with some women who had come together.*^{NLT}

² **Acts 16:16** *Now it happened, as we went to prayer (proseuche:G4335), that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling.*

³ From: *Spirit-Filled Believer's Topical Bible (The), Reference Edition*, Copyright © 1992 by Harrison House, P.O. Box 35035, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74153, USA. p.103

1 Tim 2:8 *I desire therefore that the men [and women] pray (proseuchomai:G4336) everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;*^{NKJV}

The Greek word here (*that appears 87 times in the New Testament*) is always used of 'prayer to God'; It is a prayer of supplication that 'removes all formality and stiffness'.¹

According to the *Spirit-Filled BTB*, this word is "used to describe prayer not as a structured or legalistic obligation, but as a warm and genuine conversation with the Lord; [It adds that...] A strong element of worship is included in this prayer word."²

So, here is a very interesting type of informal prayer, that approaches God in an extremely worshipful and warm way.

That brings us to the Ninth, and final Greek word for 'prayer' (parakaleo:G3870, pronounced 'par-ak-al-eh-o'), and the way that most people pray (and understand prayer to be), as brought out in Matthew chapter 8, and verse 5 (and reading through to verse 6), where it says...

Mat 8:5 *Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading (parakaleo:G3870) with Him,*

Mat 8:6 *saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralysed, dreadfully tormented."*^{NKJV}

The Greek word here (*used 106 times in the New Testament*) has three definitions, and is so general and varied in its use that it makes it extremely difficult to try and narrow it down to any singular style, or manner, or even type of prayer.

Therefore, in this instance, we will simply let the definitions speak for themselves, and leave it at that.

The First of the three definitions that describe this type of prayer is translated 39 times as either 'beseech, entreat, desire, or pray', and actually means 'to ask, call, or summon to one's side for help (as we've just seen); and sometimes even as an added urgent support'.

That aspect of the word is brought out in what Jesus says in Matthew chapter 26, when He talks about the help that He can call for in time of trouble, and says in verse 53...

Mat 26:53 *"Or do you think that I cannot now pray (parakaleo:G3870) to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?"*^{NKJV}

¹ *Spirit-Filled Believer's Topical Bible (The), Reference Edition*, Copyright © 1992 by Harrison House, P.O. Box 35035, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74153, USA. p.106

² *Spirit-Filled Believer's Topical Bible (The), Reference Edition*, Copyright © 1992 by Harrison House, P.O. Box 35035, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74153, USA. p.106-7

In the *literal text*, it is even *more forceful* with Him actually saying: “*If I but call (or ‘summon’), thousands of angels will come alongside to help and support me.”¹*

Notice that this *type of prayer* is *bold and powerful*; And the individual praying, is *not afraid to call on God for help, fully expecting Him to come to their rescue*, whenever he or she calls.

But that’s not all; The *Second of the three meanings* that is associated with this *Greek word* (*parakaleo:G3870*), actually means ‘*to exhort*’ (...that is, *to counsel, motivate, and encourage to do good*²) as brought out in 1st Timothy 2:1, where the apostle Paul says...

1 Tim 2:1 *Therefore I exhort (parakaleo:G3870 – that is, counsel, motivate, exhort and encourage...) first of all that supplications (4th word - deesis:G1162), prayers (6th word - proseuche:G4335), intercessions (1st word - enteuxis:G1783), and giving of thanks be made for all men,*

1 Tim 2:2 *for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.*^{NKJV}

And finally, the *Third* meaning associated with this *Greek word* (*parakaleo:G3870*) is ‘*to comfort*’ and is what’s used in Matthew chapter 5, in the *Sermon On The Mount*, when Jesus (*while teaching the Beatitudes*) says in verse 4...

Mat 5:4 *Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted (parakaleo:G3870).*^{NKJV}

So, just in this single Greek word for ‘*prayer*’, we see that it carries the meanings: ‘*To ask, call, or summon to one’s side for help*’; *To counsel, motivate, and encourage to do good*; *And finally, to be comforted (consoled, encouraged, and strengthened)*; *All of which speaks for itself as to the ‘type of prayer’ this is, and why it is the most commonly used of all.*

Now, as mentioned before, as *colourful* and *multi-faceted* as prayer may be, in the end, ‘*prayer*’ is simply ‘*communion with God*’ (*and the primary definition we will be using in this series*), and is *best described* in Genesis 5:24, where it simply says that...

Gen 5:24b *...Enoch walked (or ‘communed’) with God; and he was not, for God took him.*^{NKJV}

What an *incredible end* to his *life on earth*; And something we will look at in *more detail* in the very next section entitled: ‘*Why Prayer Is Important*’.

¹ *Spirit-Filled Believer’s Topical Bible (The), Reference Edition, Copyright © 1992 by Harrison House, P.O. Box 35035, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74153, USA. p.105*

² *Webster’s American Dictionary of the English Language © 1828 Noah Webster at www.webstersdictionary1828.com*

For now, however, I would like to leave you with Hebrews 4:16, which says...

Heb 4:16 *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*^{NKJV}

What this Scripture tells us (*among other things*) is that, 'any kind of prayer' is acceptable to God; As long as we come to Him in faith and sincerity of heart.

CHAPTER 2



Why Prayer Is Important

🔗 REASONS WHY WE SHOULD PRAY [LSN 3]

Having looked at '*What Prayer Is*' and the different ways people have prayed, let's go on to look next at, 'Why Prayer Is Important.'

Let's begin by answering the question, "Why pray?" and then go on to look at examples of prayer in the Old and New Testaments.

Now, one of the reasons this question comes up is because they take what Jesus said in Matthew chapter 6, verses 31 and 32 out of context, and wonder why they need to pray if God already knows everything?" Remember again, that's where He said...

Mat 6:31 *"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'"*

Mat 6:32 *"For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things."^{NKJV}*

Of course, it's true that God knows everything; However, that doesn't mean we don't pray, In this very chapter, we find in verses 6 through 11, Jesus saying...

Mat 6:6 *"But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly."*

Mat 6:7 *"And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words."*

Mat 6:8 *"Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. [Nevertheless, He does go on to encourage us to pray, and says in verses 9 onwards...]*

Mat 6:9 *"In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.*

Mat 6:10 *Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.*

Mat 6:11 *Give us this day our daily bread. (...And so on...)^{NKJV}*

In other words, it is important that we do ask, and why Jesus will go as far as to say in Matthew chapter 7, verses 7 and 8 (which is a part of the same Sermon On The Mount that Matthew 6 belongs to)...

Mat 7:7 *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.*

Mat 7:8 *"For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."^{NKJV}*

In other words, if you don't ask, seek, and knock, it won't be given, found, or opened to you.

Asking, seeking, and knocking forces you to go to God, and at least, spend some time with Him.

And that is what God is looking for, and what I believe is the most important reason for prayer: Spending time fellowshiping with the Lord.

Even Jesus Himself says in Revelation 3:20 ...

Rev 3:20 *"Behold, I stand at the door (of your heart) and knock. If anyone hears My voice (...My longing to commune with you...) and opens the door, I will come in to him (or 'her') and dine with him (or 'her'), and he (or 'she') with Me."^{NKJV}*

Notice that God the Son actually seeks to fellowship with us; And that is true of all three members of the Godhead, why Jesus says in Matthew 22, verses 37 and 38...

Mat 22:37b *"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."*

Mat 22:38 *"This is the first and great commandment."^{NKJV}*

[LSN 4]

Even the apostle James says, in James 4:8...

James 4:8 *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.*^{NKJV}

Notice that this is something that *we initiate*; *We* need to love God; We need to 'draw near to Him'; We need to 'open' the door of our heart and life to Him.

Jesus showed us how to do this in prayer when He said "Our Father"; It's loving and personal, and why it says in Luke 6:12...

Luke 6:12 *Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.*^{NKJV}

He did that, *not* because He '*had to*', but because *He truly wanted to*; It was '*the Son talking to His Father*'; Something He *greatly treasured* and *eagerly looked forward to*.

Barry Chant in his book, '*Praying In The Spirit*', explains that: "*Prayer is more than vocalizing needs... [it is] fellowship between a loving Father and His children. When we pray, we draw near to God. Like small children, we sneak up to our Father and cling to Him, deriving strength, reassurance, and warmth just from being with Him.*"¹

Remember that **Psalm 16:11** says, "*In Your presence is fullness of joy*;", and Nehemiah 8:10 goes on to say...

Neh 8:10b ... *for the joy of the LORD is your strength.*"^{NKJV}

Accordingly, in his book '*Prayer*', Norwegian theologian, Ole Hallesby writes: "*God has designed prayer as a means of intimate and joyous fellowship between God and man.*"²

In fact, David put it best when he said in Psalm 68 and verse 3 (*from the New Living Translation*)...

Psa 68:3 *But let the godly rejoice. Let them be glad in God's presence. Let them be filled with joy.*^{NLT}

In her book, '*Prayer, Conversing With God*', Rosalind Rinker writes: "*Prayer is the expression of the human heart in conversation with God... prayer is a dialogue between two persons who love each other.*"³

And *this love originated with God*, with the apostle John saying in 1st John 4:19...

1 John 4:19 *We love Him because He first loved us.*^{NKJV}

¹ Barry Chant, *Praying In The Spirit*, copyright © 2002 Barry Chant, Sovereign World Ltd, PO Box 777, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 OZS, England. p.11

² Ole Hallesby, *Prayer* (IVF, 1948), p.10

³ Rosalind Rinker, *Prayer: Conversing with God* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1959), p.23

This verse is a call to fellowship; And if we love God, we would love to pray, because we would love to be in His presence; A presence that is filled with His love, His joy, and His peace.

And so, the question ‘*Why pray?*’ becomes almost redundant, and the question, ‘*Why not pray?*’ seems to be more relevant.

Prayer is a privilege. Especially when God says, in Jeremiah 33:3...

Jer 33:3 ‘Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.’^{NKJV}

Beyond this, the apostle Paul gives us a mandate in Ephesians 6:18, which clearly states (from the New Living Translation)...

Eph 6:18 Pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all Christians everywhere.^{NLT}

As we do this, it will surely lead to a truly effective, productive, fruitful, and powerful prayer life.

🌀 A DIVINE PERSPECTIVE THROUGH PRAYER

To continue, as an extension to ‘*Why Pray?*’, let’s go on to look at why prayer is important.

One of the reasons is that prayer, that is communing with God, often gives us, what I like to call, ‘Divine Perspective’.

These are things that go beyond what we could ask, think, or even imagine, as was the case with David, who, while spending time fellowshipping with God in prayer, not only gained some tremendous revelation into God’s incredible power and majesty, but also our original, privileged, position, with him writing in Psalm 8, beginning in verses 1 through 4...

Psa 8:1a,b (A psalm of David.) O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.^{NIV}

Psa 8:2 *Out of the mouth of babes and ('sucklings' or) nursing infants You have ordained strength (and 'praise'¹), Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and [still] the avenger. ^{NKJV mod.}*

Psa 8:3 *When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,*

Psa 8:4 *what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?^{NIV}*

And the answer that he receives to this question (in his prayer time with God) is staggering, as he goes on to say in verses 5 through 9 (from the New Living Translation)...

Psa 8:5 *For you made us only a little lower than God, and you crowned us with glory and honour.*

Psa 8:6 *You put us in charge of everything you made, giving us authority over all things--*

Psa 8:7 *the sheep and the cattle and all the wild animals,*

Psa 8:8 *the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea, and everything that swims the ocean currents.*

Psa 8:9 *O LORD, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth!^{NKJV}*

[LSN 5]

While we are in the Old Testament, there's also Daniel, who received visions about the future, while in prayer, with it saying in Daniel chapter 9, verses 21 through 27 (from the New Living Translation)...

Dan 9:21 *As I was praying, Gabriel (...this is the angel Gabriel, who would later visit Mary²), whom I had seen in the earlier vision, came swiftly to me at the time of the evening sacrifice.*

Dan 9:22 *He explained to me, "Daniel, I have come here to give you insight and understanding.*

Dan 9:23 *The moment you began praying, a command was given. I am here to tell you what it was, for God loves you very much. Now listen, so you can understand the meaning of your vision.*

Dan 9:24 *"A period of seventy sets of seven has been decreed for your people and your holy city to put down rebellion, to bring an end to sin, to atone for guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to confirm the prophetic vision, and to anoint the Most Holy Place.*

Dan 9:25 *Now listen and understand! Seven sets of seven plus sixty-two sets of seven will pass from the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One*

¹ **Mat 21:16** [Jesus said] *"have you never read, "'From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise'?"^{NIV}*

² **Luke 1:26-27a** *In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary.^{NLT}*

comes (...Daniel was actually told when Christ would come to this Earth!). Jerusalem will be rebuilt with streets and strong defences, despite the perilous times.

Dan 9:26 "After this period of sixty-two sets of seven, the Anointed One will be killed, appearing to have accomplished nothing (...and here is the prophecy of Christ's death, and what people of the time would think... that He had accomplished nothing, and why they were so sad...), and a ruler will arise whose armies will destroy the city and the Temple. The end will come with a flood, and war and its miseries are decreed from that time to the very end.

Dan 9:27 He (...this is the antichrist...) will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. Then as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the end that has been decreed is poured out on this defiler."^{NLT}

Here again, Daniel, while in prayer, receives divine insight into things to come, and is told of what would ultimately happen to the people he loved so dearly, the Jewish nation.

This is not surprising, because Jesus Himself said in John chapter 16 and verse 13...

John 16:13 "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."^{NKJV}

Added to this, Isaiah 45:11 also says...

Isa 45:11 Thus says the LORD, The Holy One of Israel, and his Maker: "Ask Me of things to come concerning My sons; And concerning the work of My hands, you command Me."^{NKJV}

Turning to the New Testament next, we find yet another example of the way prayer opens our eyes to God's perspective on things (again, what I call 'divine perspective'), and in this case, with regard to what we can eat in this new dispensation of grace, and by extension, who we can associate with; With it saying there, in Acts chapter 10, verses 9 through 16...

Acts 10:9 The next day as Cornelius's messengers were nearing the city, Peter went up to the flat roof to pray. It was about noon,

Acts 10:10 and he was hungry. But while lunch was being prepared, he fell into a trance.

Acts 10:11 He saw the sky open, and something like a large sheet was let down by its four corners.

Acts 10:12 In the sheet were all sorts of animals, reptiles, and birds.

Acts 10:13 Then a voice said to him, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat them."

Acts 10:14 "Never, Lord," Peter declared. "I have never in all my life eaten anything forbidden by our Jewish laws."

Acts 10:15 The voice spoke again, "If God says something is acceptable, don't say it isn't."

Acts 10:16 The same vision was repeated three times. Then the sheet was pulled up again to heaven.^{NKJV}

Of course, the apostle Paul received some *extraordinary*, and *unique* 'divine insight and perspective' in his time of *prayer* (...especially since we know from *Colossians 1:13*, and *Ephesians 6:18*, that he 'prayed always, at all times, and on every occasion'), and wrote in *Ephesians* chapter 2, verses 4 through 7...

Eph 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

Eph 2:5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

Eph 2:6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

Eph 2:7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.^{NKJV}

Not only this, but he also wrote in *Romans* chapter 8, verses 16 through 18...

Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God (...which can only come when we are in a 'prayerful state'...),

Rom 8:17 and if children, then heirs; heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

Rom 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.^{NKJV}

This is *the kind of divine perspective* that can only come through *prayer*, as we *spend time with God and His Word* on a regular basis.

§ FORGIVENESS THROUGH PRAYER

Continuing on, another *crucial area* that *requires prayer* is '*forgiveness*.'

The reason being that, it is only in prayer that we are able to go to God and ask Him for forgiveness.

It is something we should not put off; David explains in Psalm 32, where he writes, in verses 1 through 7...

Psa 32:1 Oh, what joy for those whose rebellion (...that is, sin against God...) is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight!

Psa 32:2 Yes, what joy for those whose record the LORD has cleared of sin, whose lives are lived in complete honesty! (Sounds like 1st John 1:9 which we will look at next!)

Psa 32:3 When I refused to confess my sin, I was weak and miserable, and I groaned all day long.

Psa 32:4 Day and night Your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat.

Psa 32:5 Finally, I confessed all my sins to You and stopped trying to hide them. I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the LORD." And You forgave me! All my guilt is gone.

Psa 32:6 Therefore, let all the godly confess their rebellion to You while there is time, that they may not drown in the floodwaters of judgment.

Psa 32:7 For You are my hiding place; You protect me from trouble. You surround me with songs of victory.^{NLT}

Notice that all this only happens when you go to God in prayer, and you decide to confess your sins to Him, and why the apostle John says in 1st John 1:9...

1 John 1:9 If we (...as an act of our will...) confess (...in prayer to God...) our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.^{NKJV}

This prayer is what allows you to miraculously, become perfectly righteous, and sinless, before God!

It is one of the most important things you'll ever learn to do in your Christian walk.

Even the apostle James understood its importance and wrote in James 5:16...

James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another (...not criticise each other...), that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man (or woman) avails much.^{KJV mod.}

What we see from this again, is that, it is only through prayer and confession that we are able to appropriate the promises of God in our lives, and everything that Christ did for us on the Cross; In fact, the apostle Paul says in Colossians chapter 1, verses 13 and 14...

Col 1:13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

Col 1:14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.^{NKJV}

In the Book of Hebrews, we see a beautiful picture of what actually happens in Heaven when we do confess and acknowledge our sins; It says in Hebrews chapter 10, verses 21 and 22...

Heb 10:21 And since we have a great High Priest (...[may I add] 'who we confess our sins to', and...) who rules over God's people,

Heb 10:22 let us go right into the presence of God, with true hearts fully trusting him. For our evil consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.^{NLT}

As for the pure 'water' mentioned here, it is a reference to the Word of God, as brought out in Ephesians chapter 5, verses 26 and 27, where the apostle Paul writes...

Eph 5:26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her (the Church) with the washing of water by the word,

Eph 5:27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.^{NKJV}

So, here we see the crucial place of prayer in maintaining our relationship with God, and again, yet another reason why prayer is so important, and why again, we must make prayer a regular part of our lives.

🔗 DISCOVERING GOD'S SPECIFIC WILL

Moving on, another reason why prayer is vitally important, and that is: it is only through prayer that we can discover, and walk in, God's specific will for our lives.

That is not to be confused with God's general will, which is to be found in His Word; Of course, knowing God's Word is vitally important in determining whether or not the

instructions you are receiving are coming from God; Because God will always speak to you in line with His Word (never contrary to it).

Knowing God's specific will for your life is so very important because of what the apostle Paul says in Ephesians chapter 5, verses 15 through 17, and that is...

Eph 5:15 See then that you walk circumspectly (that is, diligently and carefully), not as fools but as wise,

Eph 5:16 *redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*

Eph 5:17 *Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.* ^{NKJV}

According to these verses, it is 'foolish' and 'unwise' to not know what God's will for your life is.

In the book of James, the apostle James gives us a little insight into how we are to live our lives according to the will of God, when he says in James chapter 4, verses 13 through 15...

James 4:13 *Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit";*

James 4:14 *whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.*

James 4:15 *Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."* ^{NKJV}

Obviously, this is something that you can only find out through prayer.

And just in case you're worried about 'hearing' the Lord, remember that Jesus said in John chapter 10 and verse 27...

John 10:27 *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."* ^{NKJV}

So often, God's supernatural guidance is so 'natural', that most of us don't even realise that, because we prayed, He is now honouring our prayers and doing exactly what is promised in Psalm 37, verses 23 and 24 (from the New Living Translation), and that is...

Psa 37:23 *The steps of the godly are directed by the LORD. He delights in every detail of their lives.*

Psa 37:24 *Though they stumble, they will not fall, for the LORD holds them by the hand.* ^{NLT}

This can only happen when you live 'prayerfully', keeping your ear to God all through the day, and do as Proverbs chapter 3, verses 5 and 6 say, and that is...

Prov 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;

Prov 3:6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. ^{NKJV}

For you to be able to 'acknowledge Him in all your ways', and for Him to be able to continually 'direct your paths' requires you to live a 'prayerful life'.

This is what leads us to receiving the promises of God, as brought out in Hebrews chapter 10, verses 35 and 36, where the writer of Hebrews says...

Heb 10:35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.

Heb 10:36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: ^{NKJV}

Before we move on from here, there is a Scripture in Acts chapter 13 that brings out an exceptional method of seeking God's will, with verse 2 saying...

Acts 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ^{NKJV}

Notice something very significant here, and that is, this all happened while 'they ministered to the Lord', not while they were 'looking to be ministered to by the Lord'.

This is an incredible truth; One that very few have engaged in and experienced the incredible power and the presence that results from it!

§ THERE IS NO TIME OR DISTANCE IN PRAYER

Another reason why prayer is important is because that's sometimes the only thing we can do for others, when distance separates us, and we are helpless to do anything else.

On many occasions the apostle Paul pleaded with various churches to pray for him and his team (*1st Thes. 5:25*), for doors to open (*Col. 4:3*), for words to be given to him (*Eph. 6:19*), and for the Gospel to spread rapidly (*2nd Thes. 3:1*) [to name just a few].

This is what pleases God, when we pray for others, especially those in authority, with the apostle Paul saying in 1st Timothy chapter 2, verses 1 through 4...

1 Tim 2:1 *I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. As you make your requests, plead for God's mercy upon them, and give thanks.*

1 Tim 2:2 *Pray this way for kings and all others who are in authority, so that we can live in peace and quietness, in godliness and dignity.*

1 Tim 2:3 *This is good and pleases God our Saviour,*

1 Tim 2:4 *for he wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.^{NLT}*

There are many more reasons why we should pray, and why prayer is important, and believe with all my heart that if we pray in this way, less and less things would go wrong in our lives, as God leads and guides us in His perfect will, and thus, keeps us from falling victim to the enemy's plans.

To continue, what I would like to do now is look at another aspect of the importance of prayer, and this time, take us on a journey through the Old Testament and into the New, and not only look at the birth of prayer, and the instruction to pray; But also some of the incredible things that happened as a result of prayer.

§ IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Let's begin our journey in Genesis chapter 4. There we find, what is believed to be, the very first instant of prayer mentioned in the Bible. It says there, in verses 25 and 26...

Gen 4:25 *And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, "For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed."*

Gen 4:26 *And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. [And following the birth of Enosh, it says...] Then men began to call (qara') on the name of the LORD.^{NKJV}*

Many believe that this is where prayer began; And as mentioned before, it follows the birth of Enosh (to the godly line of Seth), when man finally begin to respond to the call of God, and so, 'began to call on the name of the Lord', and started to commune with God once again.

Before we go any further, it is important to note that there are some who think that the word ‘call’ should be translated ‘profane’, stating that the flood of Noah came precisely because many did ‘profane’ the Lord.

However, when we take into account that the this Hebrew word has three different meanings, and even though the third (and last) meaning is ‘to profane or to defile’ (the first being, ‘to pierce or wound, either physically unto death, or figuratively unto despair’; and the second being, ‘to play the pipe’), still, in the causative form of this verb, it actually means ‘to begin’ as brought out in *Genesis 4:26*.

In relation to this, Dr. Joseph R. Nally, Jr writes: “*First, I believe the more correct interpretation of Genesis 4:26 would be to use the term 'begin' as opposed to 'profane.'* ...*If one looks at some of the ancient Jewish writings (the Targums of Onkelos and Jonathan) they translate the term as 'profane.'* I believe Adam Clarke also has a side note on this issue in his commentary. However, the LXX uses epikaleisthai from, kalew which means 'call.' Certain families did ‘call’ upon the Lord; a progression of ‘calling’ happened. However, the flood came because many ‘profaned’ the Lord. So, either definition could work, and neither damages the overall meaning of Scripture. I, however, lean toward 'begin' as opposed to 'profane;’ as Seth's line (in the context of the verse) is seen as the seed of the woman as opposed to the seed of the serpent - Genesis 3:15. Seth's line would be more prone to begin 'calling' as opposed to 'profaning.’”¹

He goes on to say: “*The ‘covenant family’ by making its petition, and voicing its praise ‘in the name of the Lord’, glorified God, not man (Gen. 4:26-28). This practice later distinguished Israel from all other nations (Gen. 12:8; 13:4, etc.). Thus, Moses' original audience would rightly have identified themselves with Seth and his descendents. In addition, I see a correlation, between this, and The Law; (‘the Law’ being) ‘You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain’ (as stated in Exodus 20:7) and (and ‘this’ being) ‘calling’ on the ‘name of the Lord’ (as stated in Genesis 4:26).*”²

Besides all this, and continuing on, by taking Genesis 4:26 for what it says, which was again...

Gen 4:26b Then men began to call (*qara*) on the name of the LORD.^{NKJV}

In his commentary, Hebrew Scholar Allen P. Ross explains that ‘...the verb ‘qara’ (pronounced ‘kaw-raw’:H7121) for ‘call’ can [also] be used for naming, reading, proclaiming, summoning, and praying. Usage of this expression in the Pentateuch

¹ From: <https://thirdmill.org/answers/answers.asp/file/40425>

² From: <https://thirdmill.org/answers/answers.asp/file/40425>

supports the idea of proclaiming more than praying... [The idea...] is that people began to make proclamation of the Lord by name."¹

Accordingly, this same word is used in Genesis chapter 12 verses 7 and 8, where it says...

Gen 12:7 *Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.*

Gen 12:8 *And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the LORD and called (qara') on the name of the LORD.^{NKJV}*

Accordingly, *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* says that 'calling on the name of the Lord' goes far "beyond the mere act of praying, to lay the foundation for all true prayer: acknowledgment of the divine name."²

We see this brought out when Jesus was teaching people to pray in the *Sermon On The Mount*, in Matthew 6:9, and said there...

Mat 6:9 *"In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name."^{NKJV}*

And of all who did this, there was one who truly stood apart from the rest; And that was Enoch; With Genesis chapter 5, verses 21 through 24 saying that...

Gen 5:21 *Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah.*

Gen 5:22 *After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God (which translates to 'prayer') three hundred years, and had sons and daughters.*

Gen 5:23 *So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years.*

Gen 5:24 *And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.^{NKJV}*

In other words, Enoch communed with God to such an extent, that the day came when, instead of dying (which is what's mentioned over and over again in Genesis 5), he was translated out of here.

That's actually brought out in Hebrews chapter 11, and verse 5, where it says...

¹ Allen P. Ross, *Creation & Blessing – A Guide To The Study And Exposition Of Genesis*, Baker Book House Company © 1988, p.126

² *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, **Volume Three: K-P**, © 1986 Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 255 Jefferson Ave. S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan. 49503. p.932

Heb 11:5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. ^{KJV mod.}

Now, if we were to continue on to verse 6, we would find out what about his 'faith' pleased God, and why God 'translated him', with it saying there...

Heb 11:6 But 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 diligently seek Him. ^{KJV mod.}

When we combine Genesis 5 and Hebrews 11, what we get is one of the simplest, and most profound definitions of 'prayer', and what 'pleases God', and that is: By faith, walking with God (...communing with God, being 'in step' with Him, and following after His perfect will), and diligently seeking God (...with a view of being 'rewarded' by having your all prayers answered¹).

Now, to continue on, as much as it would be wonderful to look at all the extraordinary events that took place in the Old Testament as a result of prayer², for the sake of time, we will limit our study to some of the more unusual and outstanding incidents that not only show us the different things that we can pray for, but also what prayer can actually do, and why it is so very important in the life of the believer.

Let's begin in Joshua chapter 10, when Joshua goes to the aid of Gibeon, which was being attacked by five Amorite kings and their armies; And following the Lord's instructions to Joshua to 'not be afraid', because He would 'give them the victory', it goes on to say in verses 12 through 14...

Josh 10:12 Then Joshua spoke to the LORD (or 'Joshua prayed') in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon; And Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon."

Josh 10:13 So the sun stood still, And the moon stopped, Till the people had revenge Upon their enemies. Is this not written in the Book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day.

Josh 10:14 And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the LORD heeded the voice of a man; for the LORD fought for Israel. ^{NKJV}

¹ **1 John 5:14-15** Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ^[15] And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. ^{NKJV}

² Gen. 20:17 – Abraham prayed for Abimelec's wives and slaves to bear children; Gen. 18:16-33 – Abraham intercedes for Sodom & Gomorrah; Gen. 24:12-14 – Abraham's servant prayed for guidance in finding a wife for Isaac; Num.14:13-19 – Moses intercedes for Israel and stops God from destroying them in the desert; Judges 1:1 – Judges opens with a prayer for guidance; 1 Sam. 1:10 – Hannah's vow and prayer for a child; 1 Kings 3:5-9 – Solomon's prayer for wisdom; 1 Kings 17:19-22 – Elijah's prayer to bring a boy back to life and so on.

Here, we not only see the crucial part that 'prayer' played in the course of events, but also that, in this instance, 'prayer' (partly defined as 'communion with God') was Joshua speaking to the Lord, and then declaring what was needed to finish the job at hand (...something we need to learn to do ourselves).

Now, another unusual and exceptional occurrence of prayer, and its need, is found in 2nd Kings chapter 6, where it says, beginning in verse 8 (and reading through to verse 23)...

2 Ki 6:8 Now the king of Syria was making war against Israel; and he consulted with his servants, saying, "My camp will be in such and such a place."

2 Ki 6:9 And the man of God sent to the king of Israel, saying, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there."

2 Ki 6:10 Then the king of Israel sent someone to the place of which the man of God had told him. Thus he warned him, and he was watchful there, not just once or twice.

2 Ki 6:11 Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was greatly troubled by this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?"

2 Ki 6:12 And one of his servants said, "None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom."

2 Ki 6:13 So he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and get him." And it was told him, saying, "Surely he is in Dothan."

2 Ki 6:14 Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city.

2 Ki 6:15 And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"

2 Ki 6:16 So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

2 Ki 6:17 And Elisha **prayed**, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw (into the spirit realm). And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

2 Ki 6:18 So when the Syrians came down to him, Elisha **prayed to the LORD**, and said, "Strike this people, I pray, with (natural) blindness." And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha. ^{NKJV}

2 Ki 6:19 Now Elisha said to them, "This is not the way, nor is this the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek." But he led them to Samaria.

2 Ki 6:20 So it was, when they had come to Samaria, that Elisha said, "LORD, open the eyes of these men, that they may see." And the LORD opened their eyes, and they saw; and there they were, inside Samaria!

2 Ki 6:21 Now when the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, "My father, shall I kill them? Shall I kill them?"

2 Ki 6:22 But he answered, "You shall not kill them. Would you kill those whom you have taken captive with your sword and your bow? Set food and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master."

2 Ki 6:23 Then he prepared a great feast for them; and after they ate and drank, he sent them away and they went to their master. So the bands of Syrian raiders came no more into the land of Israel. ^{NKJV}

So, notice again that, in this instance, Elisha not only 'prayed' for his servant's spiritual eyes to be opened to the supernatural, but also for the entire army's physical eyes to be blinded to what was going on for a specific amount of time; And then, sometime later, for all of them to be opened once again.

All this not only shows us how powerful and important prayer is, but also how 'prayer seems to be absent of all the usual religious trimmings, being used out in the 'real world' to dramatically change the course of events.

What's more, it is also important that we understand how 'prayer' not only established God's will in the earth, but also the way it was accomplished through a 'man of prayer', who handled the situation with great wisdom and compassion (...which can only come, I believe, through time spent walking and communing with God).

Continuing on to 2nd Kings chapter 19, we see another tremendous example of 'the power and importance of prayer', when the nation of Israel is, once again, being threatened with war, this time by the Assyrians (as opposed to the Syrians before), and it says in verses 15 through 19 (from the New Living Translation)...

2 Ki 19:15 And Hezekiah prayed this prayer before the LORD: "O LORD, God of Israel, you are enthroned between the mighty cherubim! You alone are God of all the kingdoms of the earth. You alone created the heavens and the earth.

2 Ki 19:16 Listen to me, O LORD, and hear! Open your eyes, O LORD, and see! Listen to Sennacherib's words of defiance against the living God.

2 Ki 19:17 "It is true, LORD, that the kings of Assyria have destroyed all these nations, just as the message says.

2 Ki 19:18 And they have thrown the gods of these nations into the fire and burned them. But of course the Assyrians could destroy them! They were not gods at all--only idols of wood and stone shaped by human hands.

2 Ki 19:19 Now, O LORD our God, rescue us from his power; then all the kingdoms of the earth will know that you alone, O LORD, are God."^{NLT}

And, as a result of this incredible prayer, it goes on to say in verses 32 through 37 (again, from the New Living Translation)...

2 Ki 19:32 "And this is what the LORD says about the king of Assyria: His armies will not enter Jerusalem to shoot their arrows. They will not march outside its gates with their shields and build banks of earth against its walls.

2 Ki 19:33 The king will return to his own country by the road on which he came. He will not enter this city, says the LORD.

2 Ki 19:34 For my own honour and for the sake of my servant David, I will defend it."

2 Ki 19:35 That night the angel of the LORD went out to the Assyrian camp and killed 185,000 Assyrian troops. When the surviving Assyrians woke up the next morning, they found corpses everywhere.

2 Ki 19:36 Then King Sennacherib of Assyria broke camp and returned to his own land. He went home to his capital of Nineveh and stayed there. (But that's not where it ends; Almost as a footnote, to show that this king didn't go unpunished for his action against God and His people, it goes on to say in the very next verse...)

2 Ki 19:37 One day while he was worshiping in the temple of his god Nisroch, his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer killed him with their swords. They then escaped to the land of Ararat, and another son, Esarhaddon, became the next king of Assyria.^{NLT}

Here we see, once again, the absolute need for prayer, and the incredible outcome that resulted; With an entire army being defeated by 'the angel of the Lord', while God's people simply did as the Lord instructed, and which is best brought out in Psalm 46 and verse 10, where it says...

Psa 46:10a Be still, and know that I am God;^{NKJV}

Not long after this, when Hezekiah became deathly ill, it says in **2nd Kings 20 and verse 2** that 'he he turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD' and as a result, something incredible happened, with 2nd Kings chapter 20 and verse 5 going on to say that God said to Isaiah...

2 Ki 20:5 "Go back to Hezekiah, the leader of my people. Tell him, 'This is what the LORD, the God of your ancestor David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears. I will heal you, and three days from now you will get out of bed and go to the Temple of the LORD.

2 Ki 20:6 I will add fifteen years to your life, and I will rescue you and this city from the king of Assyria. I will do this to defend my honour and for the sake of my servant David."^{NLT}

And when Hezekiah asked Isaiah for a sign from God to confirm what was said, it goes on to say in verses 9 through 11...

2 Ki 20:9 Isaiah replied, "This is the sign that the LORD will give you to prove he will do as he promised. Would you like the shadow on the sundial to go forward ten steps or backward ten steps?"

2 Ki 20:10 "The shadow always moves forward," Hezekiah replied. "Make it go backward instead."

2 Ki 20:11 So Isaiah asked the LORD to do this (...here now we have the prayer of Isaiah), and He [God] caused the shadow to move ten steps backward on the sundial of Ahaz!^{NLT}

So, here again we see the importance of prayer, this time in extending the life of Hezekiah, and also the prayer of faith of Isaiah, in asking the Lord to make the shadow on the sundial to move backwards ten steps (...whatever miraculous way that was accomplished!).

The list goes on and on, with Daniel praying and receiving dreams, visions, angelic visitations, and revelations about the end times; And, of course, all the Old Testament prophets seeing miracle after miracle come to pass in their lives, and the peoples' lives through prayer; Proving again how incredibly important prayer was (and still is).

In fact, that's why we see so much said about prayer in the Old Testament, beginning with Psalm 55 and verse 17, where David says...

Psa 55:17 Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice.^{NKJV}

And why God Himself says to Jeremiah, in Jeremiah chapter 29, verses 12 and 13 ...

Jer 29:12 "Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

Jer 29:13 'And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.^{NASB}

Among other things, this is most definitely 'a call to diligently seek God and walk with Him,' that involves both: Prayer that speaks (...that is communicates with God); And, prayer that listens (...that is, receives communications from Him).

They are both equally important, and must be equally developed in our life.

🔗 IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER IN THE LIFE OF JESUS

Now, as we move forward into *the Gospels*, and *the time of Christ*, *the focus* here is more about *how important prayer was to the Lord*, and *what He taught about prayer to His disciples and the masses*.

Let's begin in Luke 18:1, by looking *first*, at *what Jesus thought about prayer*, and *its importance*, with it saying there...

Luke 18:1 *And He [Jesus] spoke a parable unto them to this end, that men [and women] ought always to pray, and not to faint (or 'not lose heart',^{NKJV}, or 'not lose hope',^{NCV}, or 'not give up',^{NIV});*^{KJV}

Just in this verse, Jesus let's us know that *the primary reason for any failures we may have in our life*, is usually the result of *failing to pray* (...that is again, *failing to seek God, commune with Him, and walk with Him – receiving strength and wisdom from Him as needed*).

That's clearly brought out in Luke 21:36, where Jesus let's us know, not only *how incredibly important prayer is*, but also what the result of *not having a consistent prayer life is*, by saying there...

Luke 21:36 *"Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."*^{NKJV}

When we look at the life of Christ, we find that *it is marked by prayer*. Beginning with Luke chapter 3 and verse 21, when He went to John to be *baptised* (...which marked *the beginning of His public ministry*), it says there...

Luke 3:21 *When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized (by John the Baptist); and while He (Jesus) prayed, the heaven was opened.*^{NKJV}

And this *commitment to prayer* (or 'walking, seeking, and communing with God') *continued on throughout His ministry*, with Luke chapter 5 and verse 16 saying...

Luke 5:16 *But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places (or 'the wilderness',^{NKJV}) and prayed.*^{NIV}

This fact is brought out *over and over again in the Gospels*; For example, in Matthew 14:23, it tells us that...

Mat 14:23a *And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray.*^{NKJV}

This is repeated again in Mark 6:46, where it says...

Mark 6:46 *And when He had sent them away, He departed to the mountain to pray.*^{NKJV}

But not only did He pray after ministering to the multitudes, but before as well, with Mark 1:35 saying...

Mark 1:35 *Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.*^{NKJV}

And as for how long He prayed, we have one instance recorded in Luke 6:12 where it says...

Luke 6:12 *Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.*^{NKJV}

In fact, Jesus' prayer life was so outstanding, that it says in Luke 11:1...

Luke 11:1 *Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."*^{NKJV}

That's how you let other's know about the importance of prayer; Not just by what you say, but by what you do.

And what's astounding is what Hebrews 7:25 says about what Jesus is doing right now in Heaven, and that is...

Heb 7:25 *Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.*^{NKJV}

From everything we've seen, it is more than obvious that Jesus truly understood the importance of prayer, and why He taught so much about it in the Gospels.

For example, He said in Matthew chapter 5, verses 44 and 45, regarding those who want to do you harm...

Mat 5:44 *"But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,*

Mat 5:45 *"that you may be sons of your Father in heaven;"*^{NKJV}

The reason Jesus says to do this is so that God can get involved, and He will then take care of the situation His way (which will be in 'love', and therefore, nothing less than perfect).

Added to this, He also taught in Mark chapter 11, verses 24 and 25 ...

Mark 11:24 *"Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."*

Mark 11:25 *"And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive [them], that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses."*^{NKJV}

This prayer, even though it excludes nothing from being asked; It equally expects everything to be forgiven ('if you have anything against anyone'), without exception.

So, just in these verses, we see how very important of prayer is, in the way that you deal with your enemies; Deal with yourself (in forgiving others); And receive from God.

§ IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

When we come to the New Testament, the importance of prayer is seen in the command to pray, beginning in James 5:13, where the apostle James, writing to the church (locally and abroad) says...

James 5:13 *Is anyone among you suffering (or 'in trouble'^{NIV})? Let him pray.*^{NKJV}

And added to this, in Colossians 4:2, the apostle Paul encourages us to...

Col 4:2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;^{NKJV}

In the New Living Translation, it puts it so well when it says...

Col 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.^{NLT}

But this is not the only place that the apostle Paul instructs us to pray; He says in **1st Thessalonians 5:17**, "Pray without ceasing".

And in **Romans 12:12**, "Always be prayerful" (Or as other translations put it: 'Persevere in prayer'^{NRSV}; Be 'devoted to prayer'^{NASB}, Be 'faithful in prayer'^{NIV}; Continue to be 'instant and steadfast in prayer'^{KJV/NKJV}).

Also, in Philippians 4:6 he says...

Phil 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;^{NKJV}

Further to all this, there's of course, Ephesians 6:18 where he says...

Eph 6:18a Praying always ('at all times' ^{NLT}) with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit...^{NKJV}

Now this doesn't mean that you are to be religiously praying every minute of every day; But it does mean that we are always in communion with God, and 'prayerfully' considering all things.

Added to this, there's also the apostle Peter who says in 1st Peter 4:7...

1 Pet 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand: therefore be sober, and watch unto prayer (or 'be earnest and disciplined in your prayers' ^{NLT}).^{KJV mod.}

Prayer was extremely important to the early church; And it can be seen in such Scriptures as Acts 1:14, where it says...

Acts 1:14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication (or as the New Living Translation puts it: "They all met together continually for prayer") with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.^{NKJV}

And, of course, Acts 2:42 where it says...

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.^{NKJV}

Notice here that 'they continued steadfastly...in prayers'; This was part of the reason why the early church succeeded; And even when Peter was put in jail for preaching the Gospel, it says in Acts 12:5 that...

Acts 12:5b ...constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.^{NKJV}

And, of course, we know that as a result of their prayers, an angel was sent to set Peter free that very night!

But this was not the only time God freed someone from being wrongfully imprisoned; In Acts chapter 16, when Paul and Silas were arrested and thrown in prison for delivering

a girl possessed with a spirit of divination (*Acts 16:16-24*), instead of complaining or protesting, it says in verses 25 and 26...

Acts 16:25 But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God (...meaning that they had been doing this for quite some time; and also, they weren't doing this for themselves, to make themselves feel better; It says that they were praying and singing hymns to God...), and the prisoners were listening to them. (And as a result of this, it goes on to say in verse 26...)

Acts 16:26 Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.^{NKJV}

Here again we see the importance of prayer, not only in communing with God, but also in understanding that our fight isn't with people as such, but what's behind them, and why the apostle Paul would go on to say in Ephesians chapter 6 and verse 12...

Eph 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.^{NKJV}

The early church understood this all too well, and why prayer to them was considered 'essential'; Especially if anything of great significance was ever going to take place (and get done), and why it said in Acts chapter 6, verses 2 through 5...

Acts 6:2 Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables.

Acts 6:3 "Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;

Acts 6:4 "but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

Acts 6:5a And the saying pleased the whole multitude.^{NKJV}

So much more could be said about the importance of prayer, such as the means through which Paul received his sight (in Acts 9:11-12, Acts 9:17-18);

And Peter brought a child back to life (in Acts 9:40);

And Cornelius got his whole household saved (in Acts 10:4, Acts 10:44-48),

And Saul (Paul) and Barnabas were chosen for the ministry (Acts 13:1-3);

And even the way that Paul healed everyone in Malta (in Acts 28:8-9).

Needless to say, the benefits of prayer (and its importance), are endless, and the reason why we are taking the time to study this topic; Especially since it is the only way that we will ever gain any real dominance over the enemy; And put a stop to the source of all our problems.

CHAPTER 3



Prayer Essentials

§ THE FIRST ESSENTIAL – THE WILL OF GOD

Now that we understand ‘*What Prayer Is*’, and *Why Prayer Is Important*, let’s go on to look at what’s needed in order to pray effectively.

And the first of these ‘*Prayer Essentials*’ (as I call them), is to Determine God’s Will.

It’s true that, *in the past*, the first step has been to: ‘Decide what you want’; And even though *that’s true to a certain extent* (...that you do need to know what you going to God for; Whether it’s a financial need, or healing, or wisdom, and so on), I would suggest that regardless of what *you think you need*, the first step should actually be to ‘Find out from God what to ask for’ (...Or, pray about what you should be praying for), and get some godly insight and perspective first, before asking God for anything.

And just to make sure that nothing gets in the way, first and foremost, do as the apostle John says in 1st John 1:9, and that is...

1 John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*^{NKJV}

And once you’ve done this, then the way is clear for you to go to James 1:5, and talk to God about your problem or situation, and get His wisdom and insight on it, so that you can pray in line with God’s will, right from the very start, and not waste any time at all; That’s where James says...

James 1:5 *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach (or 'without finding fault'^{NIV}), and it will be given to him.^{NKJV}*

While we usually use this Scripture for those situations in our life where we don't know what to do, and desperately need God's wisdom and guidance; That's not it's main purpose.

Its main purpose is for anyone who recognises that God is so much smarter and wiser than they are, and decides to go to Him, and 'commune with Him', about everything in their life, both great and small, and get His perspective on things.

And in doing so, determine His will for every situation and circumstance in their life, and never be in the dark about anything, ever again; That is actually what God desires for each and every one of us, and why the apostle Paul encourages us in Ephesians 5:17, and says there...

Eph 5:17 *Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.^{NKJV}*

This is the key to having all your prayers answered, and why the apostle John says in 1st John chapter 5, verses 14 and 15...

1 John 5:14 *Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.*

1 John 5:15 *And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask (...again, according to His will), we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.^{NKJV}*

In his commentary, Thomas F. Johnson says that: "prayers prayed according to God's will are prayers heard;" And "prayers heard are prayers answered."¹

Even in the case of Mark 11:24, remember that Jesus was speaking to His disciples; Those who had given up everything up to follow Him²; And why He says, not just to them, but anyone who is willing to do the same...

Mark 11:24 *"Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask (similar to 'whatever we ask' in 1st John 5:15) when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."^{NKJV}*

In other words, this for those who are seeking, and following after, God's will for their life (...and would never even think to 'ask' for anything outside of His will), Jesus says,

¹ Thomas F. Johnson, *1, 2, and 3 John*, New International Biblical Commentary. © 1993 Hendrickson Publishers, Inc. P.O. Box 3473, Peabody, Massachusetts, 01961-3473, p.134

² **Mat 19:27** *Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?"^{NKJV}*

“whatever things you ask, when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them”.

The reason we know this to be true is because of what He said in John chapter 15 and verse 7, and that is...

John 15:7 “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you.”^{NASB}

In his commentary, Leon Morris says: “When believers abide in Christ and Christ’s words abide in them, they live as close to Christ as well may be. Then their prayers will be prayers that are in accord with God’s will and they will be fully answered.”¹ (Which is the essence of 1st John 5, verses 14 and 15.)

Added to this, William Hendriksen writes: “It stands to reason that a person who abides in Christ and in whose heart Christ’s utterances ... are in complete control, will ask nothing that is contrary to Christ’s will, for he [or she] will always ask in the spirit of, “Not my will but thine be done,” and in complete harmony with all that Christ has revealed concerning himself (...and why he [or she] will always ask “in his name”). Hence, it is not too hard to understand that such a person will receive whatever he [or she] asks.”²

And the reason that God answers those prayers is brought out in what Jesus goes on to say in John 15:8, and that is...

John 15:8 Herein is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit;^{KJV mod.}

In other words, whenever we ask (or pray for) anything that is in line with God’s will, three very special things happen: First, our prayers answered; Second, God is glorified; And Third, we bear ‘much’ fruit.

Looking at this from a slightly different angle, there is something else that is implied here, and that is, what you ask for, and the fruit you bear, have to be things that actually glorify God.

Therefore, it stands to reason that, if you ask for things that are outside of God’s will for you (from wrong or selfish motives), God will not answer those prayers.

¹ Leon Morris, ‘The Gospel According To John’, Copyright © 1988 by Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 255 Jefferson Ave. S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503 p.596

² William Hendriksen, *New Testament Commentary – Exposition of the Gospel According to John*, © Copyright 1953 by William Hendriksen, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Michigan. 49516. p.302

That's what the apostle James brings out in James chapter 4, when he says in verses 1 through 3...

James 4:1 *What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?*

James 4:2 *You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God.*

James 4:3 *When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives (or 'amiss',^{KJV} – meaning, outside of God's will), that you may spend what you get on your pleasures (or as the King James says, 'consume it upon your lusts').^{NIV}*

In other words, all those Christians who are 'asking' for things that are outside of God's will (...those who are selfish, self-centred, and covetous), the apostle James says that, regardless of how they may try to persuade God, they will not receive what they are asking, and praying for.

In fact, in its commentary, *The Spirit Filled Life Bible* says that: "Immature faith tries to manipulate God. It looks for spiritual shortcuts and formulas guaranteed to produce an answer to any request. It regards prayer as a weapon we use to force God to make good His promises. But true prayer is not a human effort at persuading God or forcing our will on Him. True prayer is founded upon finding and coming into agreement with God's will (1st John 5:14). We ask according to His will, then we stand in faith, confident that God hears us and that what we ask for is already ours (1st John 5:15)."¹

Added to this, Simon J. Kistemaker also writes: "...when the believer prays to God in the name of Jesus, he must not only believe that God will hear and answer his prayer. He must also ask himself whether his request will... be in harmony with God's will (Matt. 6:9-10). [The reason is that] ...God refuses to listen to men who eagerly pursue selfish pleasures. Greed is idolatry and that is an abomination in the sight of God. God does not listen to prayers that come from a heart filled with selfish motives. Covetousness and selfishness are insults to God."²

That's the reason Psalm 34, verses 14 through 17 says...

Psa 34:14 *Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.*

Psa 34:15 *The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their cry.*

¹ *Spirit Filled Life Bible (NKJV). A Personal Study Bible Unveiling All God's Fullness In All God's Word.* General Editor Jack W. Hayford, Litt.D. Copyright © 1991 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. P.O. Box 141000, Nashville, Tennessee 37214-1000. p.1934

² Simon J. Kistemaker, *New Testament Commentary – James, Epistles Of John, Peter and Jude*, Baker Books (Grand Rapids, Michigan), A Division of Baker Book House Co, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49516, July 2002, James, p.133

Psa 34:16 *The face of the LORD is against evildoers, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.*

Psa 34:17 *When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears, and rescues them from all their troubles.*^{NRSV}

Of course, this doesn't mean that God is against us enjoying life, and living it to the full; But He is against us asking for (and pursuing) anything that's harmful or destructive to us; Or those around us.

In his commentary, R. Kent Hughes asks: “Is James saying Christians are never to passionately desire pleasure? The answer is a resounding “No!” It is OK to enjoy a day in the sun, the pleasures of sightseeing, a run in the country, a fine meal at your favourite restaurant, a barbecue... the pleasures of tennis or golf or a roller-coaster ride, a good book or concert. The Christian life is not a life of negation, but of affirmation and enjoyment.”¹

In fact, in his brilliant book, “*The Screwtape Letters*”, C.S. Lewis explains this so well when he has an imaginary senior devil saying to a junior devil (*who is in training*): “Never forget that when we are dealing with any pleasure in its healthy and normal satisfying form, we are, in a sense, on the Enemy's [that is, God's] ground. I know we have won many a soul through pleasure. At the same time, it is His invention, not ours. He made the pleasures: all our research so far has not enabled us to produce one. All we can do is to encourage the humans to take the pleasures which our Enemy has produced, at times, or in ways, or in degrees, which He has forbidden. Hence we always try to work away from the natural condition of any pleasure to that in which it is least natural. An ever increasing craving for an ever diminishing pleasure is the formula.”²

With all this in mind, what we understand is that, whenever we seek after God's will for our life, we are actually seeking after the very best life possible; One that is blessed; That produces fruit; And that glorifies God; It is the way God planned for our life to be like, and why the apostle Paul says in Ephesians 2:10...

Eph 2:10 *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*^{NKJV}

In other words, God has so much He wants to do, for us, in us, and through us; And it all begins with us 'asking according to His will', not ours; And when we do, the apostle John promises us again, in 1st John chapter 5, verses 14 and 15...

¹ R. Kent Hughes, *James – Faith The Works*, Copyright © 1991 by R. Kent Hughes, Published by Crossways Books, A division of Good News Publishers, 1300 Crescent Street, Wheaton, Illinois. 60187. p.170

² C.S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters and Screwtape Proposes a Toast* (London: Geoffrey Bles, 1961). p.50

1 John 5:14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

1 John 5:15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked (or 'desired'^{KJV}) of Him.^{NKJV}

We will actually look at the prayer aspect of 'determining God's will' when we get to the section on 'Kinds Of Prayer', and we look specifically at 'the prayer of submission'.

🔗 THE SECOND ESSENTIAL – THE WORD OF GOD

So, now that we understand the importance of God's will in prayer, let's go on to look at the two things that are necessary to determine God's will, and that is, the Spirit of God and the Word of God.

The reason that both are important is because the Spirit of God uses the Word of God to lead and direct us in our prayers; Which let's us know that the Word of God is of the utmost importance, if we are ever going to be led by Spirit (and pray according to God's will).

There are two Scriptures that bear this out; The first is in John chapter 16 and verse 13, where Jesus says to His disciples...

John 16:13a However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth,^{NKJV}

And the way that we know that 'truth' here is actually referring to 'the Word of God' is by what He goes on say in John chapter 17, and verse 17, when praying to the Father about His disciples, and that is...

John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.^{NKJV}

Of course, this doesn't mean that the Spirit will only ever lead through Scripture (...because there is no chapter and verse for which job you should choose, or which car you should buy, and so on, all of which you need to be Spirit-led in); However, it is a fact that, the more of God's Word you know, the more discerning you will be about what thoughts are coming from God, the devil, and just you; And therefore, the more accurately you will be able to be led by the Spirit.

We see an excellent example of this in Matthew chapter 4, when the devil tries to misuse God's Word, and says in verse 6...

Mat 4:6b *"If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"*^{NIV}

And unlike most Christians who would have said, "That's right! That is what the Word says!" and jumped; Jesus, on the other hand, knew enough about the Word to answer him and say, in Matthew 4:7...

Mat 4:7b *"It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"*^{NIV}

Generally speaking, not many Christians know enough of the Word of God to say 'It is written', let alone "It is also written"; But if we are going to be led by the Spirit, and determine God's will for our life, we must get to this place as well.

Jesus truly understood the importance of the Word of God, and why he said in Matthew 4:4...

Mat 4:4b *"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."*^{NKJV}

It is the Word of God that keeps us on track, lets us know what's right and wrong, and helps us govern every area of our life, and why the apostle Paul says in 2nd Timothy chapter 3, verses 16 and 17 ...

2 Tim 3:16 *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,*

2 Tim 3:17 *that the man [or woman] of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*^{NKJV}

The New Living Translation simplifies it all and says that...

2 Tim 3:16 *All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right.*

2 Tim 3:17 *It is God's way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do.*^{NLT}

In fact, it is because the Word of God is so important to our life and well-being that God decided to set so many gifts in the church to help us grow in it, with the apostle Paul saying in Ephesians chapter 4, verses 11 through 15...

Eph 4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers (...all whose job is to teach you the rightly divided Word¹...),

Eph 4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

Eph 4:13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Eph 4:14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

Eph 4:15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head; Christ;^{NKJV}

Everything we've seen let's us know that without the Word of God, we would have great difficulty being led by the Spirit, and discerning God's voice; And if both of these are compromised, then it follows that we will not be able to determine God's will, and never know if God heard our prayers; And according to 1st John 5, there's no way to know if anything we 'ask' would ever come to pass.

But not only is God's Word essential to us hearing from God and determining God's will, but it is also what all our prayers should be based on, especially since Jeremiah 1:12 said...

Jer 1:12 Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well, for I am watching over My word to perform it."^{NASB}

We see an excellent example of how we are to base our prayers on God's Word in 2nd Chronicles chapter 20, when king Jehoshaphat is facing a very terrible, and frightful situation, and it says, beginning in verse 1...

2 Chr 20:1 It happened after this that the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and others with them besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat.

It is interesting to note that the Moabites and the Ammonites were the descendents of Lot, Abraham's nephew, who followed Abraham against God's wishes, according to Genesis chapter 12, verse 1 and 4, which said...

Gen 12:1 Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.

Gen 12:4a So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him.^{NKJV}

¹ 2 Tim 2:15 Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.^{KJV mod.}

It was Abraham's responsibility to stop Lot from following him; Especially after receiving instructions from God Himself to leave his family behind (for reasons that become very clear later on¹).

And because he didn't, we now have the Moabites, Ammonites, and others from Syria plotting to crush Judah, with 2nd Chronicles chapter 20, verses 2 and 3 going on to say...

2 Chr 20:2 *Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, "A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Syria; and they are in Hazazon Tamar" (which is En Gedi).*

2 Chr 20:3 *And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.*^{NKJV}

Notice that Jehoshaphat's first response to fear was to "set himself to seek the LORD" (...not seek advice from his military advisors).

And what he was essentially saying was, "Lord, I don't know what to do, but I'm counting on You."² And in doing so, he turned this situation into an interaction between himself and God;

In addition to this, and to show God his seriousness, it says that he also "proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah."

The Full Life Study Bible says, "Seeking the Lord can be intensified through fasting. Fasting should regularly accompany prayer and the believer's desire that God's will be done."³

Added to this, the *Spirit Filled Study Bible* says that, "Fasting is not a tool by which one manipulates God to accomplish something. Fasting is simply an outward indication of an inward sincerity, evidence of the urgency we feel when praying for special needs."⁴

¹ **Gen 19:36-38** *Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father. The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab; he is the father of the Moabites to this day. And the younger, she also bore a son and called his name Ben-Ammi; he is the father of the people of Ammon to this day.*^{NKJV}

² *Spirit Filled Life Bible (NKJV). A Personal Study Bible Unveiling All God's Fullness In All God's Word. General Editor Jack W. Hayford, Litt.D. Copyright © 1991 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. P.O. Box 141000, Nashville, Tennessee 37214-1000. p.632*

³ *The Full Life Study Bible – King James Version. Copyright © 1992 by Life Publishers International. Published by Zondervan Publishing House. Grand Rapids, Michigan 49530, U.S.A. p.671*

⁴ *Spirit Filled Life Bible (NKJV). A Personal Study Bible Unveiling All God's Fullness In All God's Word. General Editor Jack W. Hayford, Litt.D. Copyright © 1991 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. P.O. Box 141000, Nashville, Tennessee 37214-1000. p.632*

And since the king decided to humble himself and 'seek the Lord,' as is often the case, as the leader goes, so do the followers, with verse 4 going on to say...

2 Chr 20:4 So Judah gathered together to ask help from the LORD; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD. ^{NKJV}

Just the fact that people made the time to come from all the cities tells us that this fast was not for just a meal or two, but for a significant amount of time.

Further to this, it also tells us that Jehoshaphat must have taken his time preparing this prayer, which brings us to a very significant point, and that is, the greater the need, the more time and effort should be taken to prepare your prayer.

This not only allows you time to pray and find Scriptures, but it also allows you time to build your faith up to where it is ready to move all the mountains that are in your way.

Always remember this: Your level of diligence in spending time with God, preparing your prayer, and praying it through will determine how much peace, strength and assurance you have when trouble and opposition comes your way.

So, take your time, get it right, and make sure that you have no regrets later on.

Now, returning to 2nd Chronicles 20, following a time of prayer and fasting, verses 5 and 6 go on to say...

2 Chr 20:5 Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court,

2 Chr 20:6 and said: "O LORD God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You?" ^{NKJV}

Here in verse 6, we see the first evidence that Jehoshaphat, in fact, consulted the Scriptures because he is actually quoting king David, who according to 1st Chronicles chapter 29, verses 11 and 12, said...

1 Chr 29:11 Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, The power and the glory, The victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, And You are exalted as head over all.

1 Chr 29:12a Both riches and honour come from You, And You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; ^{NKJV}

This is typical of what happens when you read and meditate upon the Scriptures. You will often find that certain parts begin to stand out, and it is those Scriptures that the Holy Spirit will use to help you fashion your prayer to what you need for the situation.

Returning to 2nd Chronicles chapter 20, Jehoshaphat goes on to pray in verse 7...

2 Chr 20:7 *"Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?"^{NKJV}*

This verse actually contains certain elements from Genesis chapter 17, where God was speaking to Abraham and said in verses 5 through 8...

Gen 17:5 *"No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations.*

Gen 17:6 *"I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.*

Gen 17:7 *"And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.*

Gen 17:8 *"Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."^{NKJV}*

For Jehoshaphat to have quoted this in 2nd Chronicles 20 and verse 7, means that he must have been reading these Scriptures as well, and found something else that stood out above the rest that gave him a second Scripture upon which to base his prayer on.

Continuing on in 2nd Chronicles chapter 20, verses 8 and 9 go on to say...

2 Chr 20:8 *"And they dwell in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying,*

2 Chr 20:9 *'If disaster comes upon us; sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine; we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name is in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.'^{NKJV}*

Verse 9 is actually a paraphrase of what Solomon had prayed to God in 2nd Chronicles chapter 6, verses 20 and 35, where he said...

2 Chr 6:20 *"that Your eyes may be open toward this temple ...where You said You would put Your name...*

2 Chr 6:35 *...hear from heaven ... and maintain their cause."^{NKJV}*

So, just as Solomon was definite that in the place where God put His Name, He would surely 'hear from Heaven' and 'maintain their cause' (or save them), Jehoshaphat too was sure and says to God, "Your Name is in this temple" and "You will hear and save".

This is the third Scripture upon which Jehoshaphat based his prayer, and it is only after this that he finally gets to the problem they are actually facing and says in 2nd Chronicles chapter 20, verses 10 and 11...

2 Chr 20:10 *"And now, here are the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir; whom You would not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them and did not destroy them;*

2 Chr 20:11 *"here they are, rewarding us by coming to throw us out of Your possession which You have given us to inherit."^{NKJV}*

This last phrase is extremely significant, and would have been the key to their victory, and all because Jehoshaphat decided to commune with God instead of wasting his time trying to come up with a battle plan.

In fact, it was because of his time in the Word that he was sure, that since God had promised this as their inheritance, nobody had a right to take it away from them.

So, this is what a prayer looks like when it is based on God's Word instead of the problem, and why Jehoshaphat goes on to say in 2nd Chronicles 20:12...

2 Chr 20:12 *"O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You."^{NKJV}*

And with that, Jehoshaphat concludes the prayer, and it says in verse 13...

2 Chr 20:13 *Now all Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children, stood before the LORD."^{NKJV}*

Notice here that, not only is Jehoshaphat standing before the Lord (from verse 5), but all Judah are standing as well: And all their eyes are upon the Lord, waiting on Him.

What is extraordinary about all this is that, king Jehoshaphat could very well have just gone to the Scriptures, found Deuteronomy 7:2, and insisted that God help them "conquer" their enemies, and "completely destroy them".¹

¹ **Deu 7:2** *When the LORD your God hands these nations over to you and you conquer them, you must completely destroy them. Make no treaties with them and show them no mercy."^{NLT}*

But the only problem with that was, it was the complete opposite to what God had willed for that particular situation.

Therefore, it goes on to say in 2nd Chronicles chapter 20, verses 15 through 18, that ‘the Spirit of the Lord’ spoke to them and said...

2 Chr 20:15b ...*"Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: 'Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's.*

2 Chr 20:16 *'Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel.*

2 Chr 20:17 *'You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD is with you."*

2 Chr 20:18 *And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before the LORD, worshipping the LORD.*^{NKJV}

Now, for the sake of time, jump down to verse 22, where it goes on to say...

2 Chr 20:22 *At the moment they began to sing and give praise, the LORD caused the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir to start fighting among themselves.*^{NLT}

The Spirit Filled Study Bible says that, “God is enthroned in the praises of His People. Whenever and wherever God’s people praise Him, He reigns among them and does miraculous things on their behalf.”¹

And so, it goes on to say in 2nd Chronicles 20:23...

2 Chr 20:23 *The armies of Moab and Ammon turned against their allies from Mount Seir and killed every one of them. After they had finished off the army of Seir, they turned on each other.*^{NLT}

In his commentary on these verses, John MacArthur writes: “Similar to God’s intervention in Gideon’s day (Judges 7:15-23), God caused confusion among the enemy, who mistakenly turned upon themselves and slaughtered one another. Some think this may have been done by angels who appeared and set off this uncontrolled and deadly panic. The destruction was complete before Jehoshaphat and his army ever met the enemy.”²

¹ Spirit Filled Life Bible (NKJV). A Personal Study Bible Unveiling All God’s Fullness In All God’s Word. General Editor Jack W. Hayford, Litt.D. Copyright © 1991 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. P.O. Box 141000, Nashville, Tennessee 37214-1000. p.633

² John MacArthur, *The MacArthur Bible Commentary*, copyright © 2005 by John MacArthur, Published in Nashville, Tennessee by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Nashville, Dallas, Mexico City, Rio De Janeiro, Beijing. p.507

And so, it says in 2nd Chronicles 20, verses 24 and 25...

2 Chr 20:24 *So when the army of Judah arrived at the lookout point in the wilderness, there were dead bodies lying on the ground for as far as they could see. Not a single one of the enemy had escaped.*

2 Chr 20:25 *King Jehoshaphat and his men went out to gather the plunder. They found vast amounts of equipment, clothing, and other valuables--more than they could carry. There was so much plunder that it took them three days just to collect it all!^{NLT}*

And as for the final result of all this, it says in verses 29 and 30...

2 Chr 20:29 *When the surrounding kingdoms heard that the LORD himself had fought against the enemies of Israel, the fear of God came over them.*

2 Chr 20:30 *So Jehoshaphat's kingdom was at peace, for his God had given him rest on every side.*^{NLT}

What an amazing end to such a terrifying problem: Total victory and a kingdom that was, once again, at peace.

And all because king Jehoshaphat decided to humbly 'seek the Lord' first, and trust Him to totally deliver them, which He did, in a miraculous way, right out of the hand of the enemy.

Always remember that, it is God's Word, that not only helps you to hear God and determine His will, but also gives you the surest foundation to base your prayers on, with God Himself saying in Isaiah 55:11...

Isa 55:11 *So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*^{NKJV}

§ THE THIRD ESSENTIAL - FAITH

Now, once you have spent time in God's Word, determined God's will (through the leading of the Spirit), and found Scriptures to base your prayer on (and stand on), the next step is to pray in faith.

The apostle James brings this concept out in his writings, when he says in James chapter 5, verses 14 and 15...

James 5:14 *Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.*

James 5:15 *And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.* ^{NKJV}

Notice that it is not just prayer, but ‘the prayer of faith’ (...faith in God and His Word) that is needed, for the sick to be ‘saved’, and for the Lord to raise him (or her) up.

In fact, Jesus said it best in Mark chapter 11 and verse 24, right after the fig-tree incident...

Mark 11:24 *"Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them." ^{NKJV}*

Praying in faith means that: When you pray you must believe that you receive; And you must believe that you receive when you pray; It's a closed loop; Only then will you ‘have’ what you ‘asked’ for.

Of course, if you struggling with something, and going through a difficult emotional time for whatever reason, then you need to know Hebrews chapter 4, verses 15 and 16, where the writer of Hebrews, who defined faith in Hebrews 11:1, also says...

Heb 4:15 *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities (and as the New Living Translation says: ‘understands our weaknesses’); ^{KJV}*

Heb 4:16 *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." ^{NKJV}*

Notice here that there is not one mention of faith because God knows how difficult it is for people who are hurting to have faith.

Therefore, He simply asks them to come to Him, not to ‘fight the good fight of faith’, but to ‘obtain mercy’ and ‘find grace to help in time of need.’

However, under ‘normal circumstances,’ God expects us to have faith, because Hebrews chapter 11 and verse 6 clearly says that...

Heb 11:6 *...without faith it is impossible to please God, for he who comes to God must believe that He is (that is, that ‘He exists’; But not only that...), and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." ^{NKJV mod.}*

Notice that, just in this verse, we see not only the importance of 'faith', but also the importance of 'diligently' seeking God, which obviously includes His will for our life, which is actually what this is talking about, since the previous verse actually says that...

Heb 11:5 *By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.*^{KJV}

And the way that He 'pleased God' is brought out in Genesis 5:24 where it said...

Gen 5:24 *And Enoch walked with God (or as the New Living Translation puts it: "He enjoyed a close relationship with God throughout his life"): and he was not; for God took him.*^{KJV}

Enoch lived a prayerful ('walked with God'), faith-filled life ("By faith Enoch was translated"); And, of course, his 'reward' was 'translation!'

Remember again that 'prayer' is simply 'communion with God'; Nothing more, nothing less; And while we 'walk with', or 'commune with', God; Then our prayers will reflect this, and be not only in line with God will, but full of faith, and full of authority as well.

☞ THE FOURTH ESSENTIAL – THE NAME OF JESUS

This brings us to the fourth essential of prayer, and that is 'the Name of Jesus'.

In other words, once we have prayed in faith, according to God's will, it is essential that we conclude the prayer 'in the Name of Jesus'.

To understand why, we will look first at what the Scriptures have to say about 'the Name of Jesus', and then go on and look at what Jesus Himself said about using His Name.

Beginning in Hebrews chapter 1, verses 1 through 4, the writer of Hebrews says there...

Heb 1:1 *God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,*

Heb 1:2 *has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;*

Heb 1:3 *who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*

Heb 1:4 *having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.*^{NKJV}

Notice in these verses, among other things that, it was Jesus who paid for our sins, and through it all has, by inheritance, obtained a more excellent name than all the angels (including our nemesis, Lucifer, now satan)., and why it goes on to say in Ephesians chapter 1, verses 20 through 23...

Eph 1:20 *which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,*

Eph 1:21 *far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.*

Eph 1:22 *And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,*

Eph 1:23 *which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*^{NKJV}

Similar to this is what the apostle Paul writes in Colossians chapter 1, verses 16 through 18, and that is...

Col 1:16 *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through [by] Him and for Him.*

Col 1:17 *And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.*

Col 1:18 *And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the pre-eminence.*^{NKJV}

In other words, Jesus, and by extension, the Name of Jesus, is far above all the ruling demonic powers that are in existence today, and therefore, above every name that is named, and why Ephesians 1:22 says that God “put all things under His feet”, and Colossians 1:18 says that “in all things He may have the pre-eminence.”

And if all this wasn't sufficient enough to understand why we are to pray all our prayers “in the Name of Jesus”, there's Philippians chapter 2, verses 9 through 11, where the apostle Paul says...

Phil 2:9 *Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,*

Phil 2:10 *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,*

Phil 2:11 *and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*^{NKJV}

This is the power and authority that accompanies every prayer that is prayed in faith, "in the Name of Jesus", and why it is essential that we conclude all our prayers in this way.

In fact, Revelation chapter 5 and verse 12 says...

Rev 5:11 *Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,*

Rev 5:12 *saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honour and glory and blessing!"*

Rev 5:13 *And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honour and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"*

Rev 5:14 *Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.*^{NKJV}

And to show us that Christ truly does have the final say on everything, He says in Revelation 22:13...

Rev 22:13 *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."*^{NKJV}

In other words, there is nothing superior to Christ, and when we pray in His Name, we are praying at the highest level possible! There is nothing greater!

Now, in addition to this, and the second reason why we are to pray in His Name, is brought out in John chapter 14, where Jesus Himself says in verses 12 and 13...

John 14:12 *Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.*

John 14:13 *And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*^{NKJV}

So, not only will we do “greater works” than Jesus, who walked on water, turned water in wine, fed thousands with 5 loaves and 2 fishes, cast out demons, healed the sick, and raised the dead, but He also says that, “whatever you ask in My name, that I will do”.

Further to this, we also see the power that’s in His Name, when spoken by a believer, in Mark chapter 16, verses 17 and 18, where Jesus Himself says...

Mark 16:17 *And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; (...and may I add, “In my name” ...) they shall speak with new tongues;*

Mark 16:18 *(...and “In my name” ...)They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; (...and “In my name” ...) they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.* ^{KJV}

But not only is ‘the Name of Jesus’ used to operate in the power of God, but it is also the means by which we receive all our personal needs, with Jesus Himself saying in John chapter 16, verses 23 and 24...

John 16:23 *And in that day (referring to the day that Jesus goes to the cross, He says...) you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.*

John 16:24 *Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.* ^{NKJV}

Notice that in Jesus’ own words, we are to go to the Father; Not in our name, or for Jesus sake; But ‘in the Name of Jesus,’ and ‘ask’ Him for ‘whatever’ we have need of, and Jesus says, “He will give [it] you”; There’s no question.

☞ THE FIFTH ESSENTIAL – PATIENCE & PERSEVERANCE

This brings us to the fifth essential of prayer, and that is ‘patience and perseverance’.

This is where Christians have the most trouble.

The reason being that, they just can’t understand why, after establishing God’s will and praying in faith (in the Name of Jesus), the manifestation doesn’t come immediately.

That’s the reason why the writer of Hebrews says, in Hebrews chapter 10, verses 35 and 36...

Heb 10:35 *Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.*

Heb 10:36 *For you have need of ('patience'^{KJV}) endurance ('perseverance'^{NIV}), so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:^{NKJV}*

The fact of the matter is that, most things we pray for, generally need time to work and manifest and why the writer of Hebrews also says in Hebrews 6:12...

Heb 6:12 *We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.*^{NIV}

Even Jesus, in His teaching on 'the Parable of the Sower and the Seed', says in Luke chapter 8 and verse 15...

Luke 8:15 *"But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience ('perseverance'^{NASB}, and 'endurance'^{NRSV}).^{NKJV}*

And we know that a part of 'bearing fruit' is 'answered prayer' from what Jesus says in John chapter 15, verses 7 and 8, and that is...

John 15:7 *"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.*

John 15:8 *"By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples."^{NKJV}*

Continuing on, further to Luke 8:15, there is also the incident recorded in **Mark chapter 11**, where Jesus cursed the fig tree in verse 14, saying to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again", and it wasn't until the next morning that any change to the fig tree was actually visible, with verse 20 saying...

Mark 11:20 *Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.*^{NKJV}

Here we see that, even Jesus understood patience, and if He had to wait on things, then so will we.

But even beyond this (...what I call 'the battle of the time-lapse'...), there is also something called 'due season', as brought out in Galatians 6:9, where the apostle Paul writes...

Gal 6:9 *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not ('do not lose heart'^{NKJV} or 'do not give up'^{NIV}).^{KJV mod.}*

Here we find another reason for patience and perseverance, after we've prayed in faith and done the will of God; And that is, 'due season', or what we might also call "God's timing".

Ecclesiastes chapter 3 and verse 1 says...

Eccl 3:1 To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven.^{NKJV}

The New American Standard Bible simply says...

Eccl 3:1a There is an appointed time for everything.^{NASB}

In other words, there are going to be some things that will not come to pass until it reaches its 'appointed time'; And if you try to rush it, all you're going to do is get in harm's way and have to deal with all the problems that arise from it (...which may actually 'cost you time' in the end).

This goes back to what Hebrews chapter 10, verses 35 and 36 said again, and that is...

Heb 10:35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.

Heb 10:36 For you have need of ('patience',^{KJV}) endurance ('perseverance',^{NIV}), so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:^{NKJV}

§ THE SIXTH ESSENTIAL – CONFESSION & CONVERSATION

This brings us to the sixth thing that is essential to prayer, and that is somewhat related to the previous quality, and that is, our confession and conversation following prayer.

Once again, we turn to the Book of Hebrews, this time to Hebrews chapter 10 and verse 23, where the writer of Hebrews says...

Heb 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.^{NKJV}

In other words, once we have done everything we know to do, and are waiting patiently for the manifestation, it's extremely important to, as this verse puts it, 'hold fast' to our confession, and may I also add, conversation.

The reason being that, once we have prayed, the only thing that can stop it now is our confession and conversation; And why Proverbs 18:21 says that...

Prov 18:21a Death and life are in the power of the tongue... ^{NKJV}

That's why the devil will do everything in his power to pressure us (through adverse circumstances, or a bad report) to say something contrary to what we prayed, and why the apostle Paul says in 2nd Corinthians 5:7...

2 Cor 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight. ^{NKJV}

We see an example of how things can go horribly wrong when we don't do this, in the life of Job, in Job chapter 1, right after informing us of his considerable possessions, and the children he had, with verses 4 and 5 going on to say...

Job 1:4 And his (seven) sons went and feasted in their houses, every one his day (or on his 'birthday' ^{-NLT}); and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink (and 'to celebrate' ^{-NLT}) with them.

Job 1:5 And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified (or 'purified' ^{N:T}) them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually. ^{KJV mod.}

In other words, instead of praying for them in a positive and encouraging way, and believing and confessing the very best over them, Job did the exact opposite, and 'said', in fact, "It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts", and then forced them to be purified.

It is important to remember at this time, what Jesus said in Luke 6:45, and that is...

Luke 6:45 "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. ^{NKJV}

And when you speak things from your heart, Jesus effectively says in Mark 11:23...

Mark 11:23 "For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says... and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says." ^{NKJV}

And, of course, that's exactly what happened; Job lost everything; And he reveals the source of all his troubles in Job 3:25, when he says...

Job 3:25 For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me. ^{KJV}

In total contrast to this was Abraham; Who did the exact opposite, and got everything he desired; With Romans chapter 4, verses 17 through 21 stating...

Rom 4:17 *(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickens the dead, and calls those things which be not as though they were.*

Rom 4:18 *Who against hope believed in hope (exactly opposite to Job), that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.*

Rom 4:19 *And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:*

Rom 4:20 *He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;*

Rom 4:21 *And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.*

Rom 4:22 *And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.* ^{KJV mod.}

And that being the case (...that Abraham was 'righteous' for what he did), then it must follow that Job must have been considered 'unrighteous' for what he did (among various other things); And why his life turned out so badly.

It is so important that we make every effort to keep ourselves in the Word (and may I add, the rightly divided Word) after we have prayed; And do as Proverbs chapter 4, verses 20 through 23 says, and that is...

Prov 4:20 *My son, attend to my words; incline your ear unto my sayings.*

Prov 4:21 *Let them not depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart.*

Prov 4:22 *For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.*

Prov 4:23 *Keep your heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.* ^{KJV}

It is only as we do this that our hearts will remain positive, and full of faith ¹, and our confession and conversation will continually reinforce our prayers (...and not, in any way, take away from them).

¹ **Rom 10:17** *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* ^{NKJV}

§ THE SEVENTH ESSENTIAL – WALKING IN LOVE

That brings us to *the seventh (and final) essential of prayer*, and that is, *walking in love and forgiveness*.

Jesus brings this out *very clearly* in Mark chapter 11, verses 25 and 26, when He says there...

Mark 11:25 *"And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him (or her), that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses."*

Mark 11:26 *"But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."*^{NKJV}

In other words, no matter how *accurately* you pray, and no matter how much *faith* you may think you have, if you are *not walking in love*, then *nothing is going to work*, and why the apostle Paul says in 1st Corinthians 13:2...

1 Cor 13:2b *... and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.*^{NKJV}

The phrase "*I am nothing*" is *in reference to God*; And if that's the case, then it's obvious that *your prayers are definitely not going to get answered*.

The apostle Paul put it *so well*, when he said in Galatians 5:6...

Gal 5:6b *The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.*^{NIV}

Love and forgiveness is *not an option*; it is *a command*; And why Jesus said in Matthew chapter 22, verses 37 through 40...

Mat 22:37b *"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."*

Mat 22:38 *"This is the first and great commandment."*

Mat 22:39 *"And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'"*

Mat 22:40 *"On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."*^{NKJV}

It is *only as we walk in love* will we be *in harmony with God*, and *can expect our prayers to be answered*, especially since the apostle John says in 1st John chapter 4, verses 8 and 16...

1 John 4:8 *He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

1 John 4:16 *And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.*^{NKJV}

What all this shows us is that, walking in love and forgiveness is to be a way of life, not just something we do when we approach God in prayer; That's why it says in Matthew 18:21...

Mat 18:21 *Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"*^{NKJV}

Notice, first of all, that Peter already knows that he must forgive his brother who has sinned against him, and, as William Hendriksen puts it, "he must take the initiative in bringing about complete reconciliation; but [...the all important question is...] how often must he reveal this merciful attitude, this disposition of sweet reasonableness? Must he forgive 'up to seven times?'"¹

It is possible that Peter had this number in mind because of what Jesus said in Luke 17:4, and that is...

Luke 17:4 *"And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him."*^{NKJV}

Now remember, according to what Jesus said in *Mark 11:25* ("if you have anything against anyone, forgive him"), we know that regardless of whether or not someone asks you to forgive them, you must still do so.

The only difference is that, when a person does ask for forgiveness, it clears the way for fellowship to be restored.

Now, returning to Matthew chapter 18, following Peter's very generous offer of forgiving his brother "Up to seven times", it goes on to say in verse 22...

Mat 18:22 *Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven (that's four hundred and ninety² times!)"*^{NKJV}

As William Hendriksen so aptly points out, Jesus is letting Peter (and the other disciples) know that "the spirit of genuine forgiveness recognises no boundaries. It is a state of heart, not a matter of calculation."¹

¹ William Hendriksen, *Exposition of the Gospel According to Matthew*, © Copyright 1973 by William Hendriksen, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Michigan. 49516. p.704

² Why 490 times? In *Leviticus 25:3-4*, God instructed His people to allow the land to rest every seven years. And for 490 years, the people disobeyed Him. That was 70 Sabbaths they failed to keep. Their sin resulted in them being taken into captivity for 490 years at which time the land was allowed to rest. God was longsuffering with Israel for 490 years. All this was prophesied in *Jeremiah 29:10* and discovered by Daniel in *Daniel 9:2*. That's why 490.

The fact of the matter is that, it has always been in our power to forgive others for the wrongs committed against us. It is something only we can do. And God expects it of us, especially since Romans 5:5 says that...

Rom 5:5 ...the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.^{NKJV}

Therefore, the only reason a true Christian (one 'born from above') would not forgive is because they didn't want to.

It is a decision we must make, if we want to have our prayers answered, and live a blessed life.

Always remember, True prayer is loving, generous and unselfish.

So, just as a quick review; What we've discovered in this study is that, in order for our prayers to be answered, the following seven things are absolutely essential:

First , our prayers must be in line with God's will;

Second, our prayers must in harmony with God's Word;

Third, our prayers must be prayed in faith;

Fourth, our prayers must be prayed 'in the Name of Jesus';

Fifth, our prayers must be given time to work (...requiring patience and perseverance);

Sixth, our prayers must be reinforced with the right confession and conversation;

And Seventh, our prayers must not be hindered by unforgiveness.

¹ William Hendriksen, *Exposition of the Gospel According to Matthew*, © Copyright 1973 by William Hendriksen, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Michigan. 49516. p.704

CHAPTER 4



Kinds Of Prayer I

(Submission, Dedication, Consecration & Commitment)

§ THE COMMAND TO ‘PRAY ALWAYS...’

So, now that we’ve looked at *‘What Prayer Is’*, *‘Why Prayer Is Important’*, and the *‘Essentials Of Prayer’*, let’s go on to look at the *‘Different Kinds Of Prayer’* that there are, and *the specific rules that govern each of them*.

In his Epistle to the Ephesians, the apostle Paul *puts it so well*, when he says, in Ephesians chapter 6, and verse 18...

Eph 6:18 *Praying always with all prayer (or ‘all kinds of prayer’^{NIV}) and supplication in the Spirit (or ‘in the power of the Holy Spirit’^{NLT}), being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints;^{NKJV}*

In the *literal text* it actually says: “*With all prayer and petition, pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints.*”¹

Here the apostle Paul introduces us to *the frequency of prayer* (*‘Praying always’*), *the variety of prayer* (*‘with all kinds of prayer’*), *the power of prayer* (*‘in the power of the Holy Spirit’*), *the manner of prayer* (*‘being alert and watchful...with all perseverance’*), and finally, *the objects of prayer* (*‘for all the saints’*).²

¹ John F. MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, Ephesians*, copyright © 1986 by The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, p.378

² John F. MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, Ephesians*, copyright © 1986 by The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, p.378

Let's begin with 'the frequency of prayer' where the apostle Paul says again in Ephesians 6:18...

Eph 6:18a Praying always (or literally, 'pray at all times')... ^{NKJV}

In Paul's day, the Jews had several set times for prayer. In Psalm 55, verses 16 and 17, it says...

Psa 55:16 As for me, I will call upon God, And the LORD shall save me.

Psa 55:17 Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice. ^{NKJV}

But now, with the arrival of the new birth, the New Covenant, and the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, there came a new dimension to prayer that had never existed before.

Jesus Himself introduced it in Luke chapter 21 and verse 36, when He said...

Luke 21:36 "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man." ^{NKJV}

The Bible records numerous accounts of Jesus praying at 'all times' of the day: For example, it says in Mark 1:35...

Mark 1:35 Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed. ^{NKJV}

Also, in this same Gospel, in Mark chapter 6 and verse 46, it says there that after ministering to the multitude all day, the implication is that, when it was evening, He sent them away...

Mark 6:46 And when He had sent them away, He departed to the mountain to pray. ^{NKJV}

Further to this, we also told of at least one occasion when Jesus prayed all night (...when He was about to choose His disciples); That's brought out in the Gospel of Luke, where it in Luke chapter 6, and verse 12...

Luke 6:12 Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. ^{NKJV}

Added to all this, we find a general statement of Christ's prayer life, in Luke chapter 5 and verse 16, where it says...

Luke 5:16 So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed. ^{NKJV}

That's the reason it said again in Luke 18:1...

Luke 18:1 *And he (...that is, Jesus...) spoke a parable unto them to this end, that men (and women) ought always to pray, and not to faint ('lose heart',^{NKJV}, or 'give up',^{NLT}) ^{KJV mod.}*

From this it is apparent that prayer (that is, communing with God) was a major reason for Christ's success, and something that the early church picked up on and practiced, with Acts chapter 2, verses 41 and 42 saying...

Acts 2:41 *Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.*

Acts 2:42 *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*^{NKJV}

Moving forward, in writing to the church at Rome, the apostle Paul, who was himself a great man of prayer, says to them in Romans 12:12...

Rom 12:12 *Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.*^{NRSV}

To 'persevere' and 'continue steadfastly' are essentially the same thing. They all point to developing a prayer habit (...to where you persevere and continue steadfastly in prayer).

It is only then that you will get to the place where you automatically do as the apostle Paul says Philippians chapter 4 and verse 6, and that is...

Phil 4:6 *Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything.*^{NLT}

This was the apostle Paul's solution to every single problem in his life! And that is: Pray!

But in order to get to this place requires devotion and a right heart attitude towards God, and why he (Paul) admonishes us in Colossians 4:2 to ...

Col 4:2 *Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart (or as the New American Standard Bible says: 'keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving').*^{NLT}

This is the key to New Testament prayer, and what motivates us to do as the apostle says in 1st Thessalonians 5:17, and that is to...

1 Th 5:17 *Pray without ceasing.*^{KJV}

In other words, unlike the Jews of Paul's day, who prayed at specific times, we, as the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, are to 'pray without ceasing', communing with God all the time, because of the relationship we now have with Him as a result of the new birth¹.

The apostle Paul writing to Timothy reveals what his prayer life was like when he said in 2nd Timothy 1:3...

2 Tim 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day^{NKJV}

In other words, the apostle Paul isn't asking us to do anything that he wasn't already doing himself.

He knew that there was never going to be a time when prayer was not needed; And never going to be a time when God would not hear our prayers; And that's why he says again, in Ephesians 6:18, to "Pray always."

Now, just to be clear, "praying always" does not mean that we are to pray 'formally' (or even noticeably) everywhere we go.

But what it does mean is that we are to, as John MacArthur puts it, "live in continual God consciousness, where everything we see and experience becomes a kind of prayer, lived in deep awareness of, and surrender to, our heavenly Father."²

MacArthur goes on to explain that: "To obey this exhortation means that, when we are tempted, we hold the temptation before God and ask for His help.

"When we experience something good and beautiful, we immediately thank the Lord for it.

"When we see evil around us, we pray that God will make it right and be willing to be used of Him to that end.

"When we meet someone who does not know Christ, we pray for God to draw that person to Himself and to use us to be a faithful witness.

"When we encounter trouble, we turn to God as our Deliverer.

"In other words, our life becomes a continually ascending prayer, a perpetual communing with our heavenly Father.

"To 'pray at all times' is to constantly set our minds 'on the things above, not on the things that are on earth' (Colossians 3:2)."³

¹ **1 John 3:2** Beloved, now we are children of God:^{NKJV}

² John F. MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, Ephesians*, copyright © 1986 by The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, p.380

³ John F. MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, Ephesians*, copyright © 1986 by The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, p.380

In light of this, we can understand why Biblical Scholar D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones said that:
“Our ultimate position as Christians is tested by the character of our prayer life.”¹

Because, there is no greater expression or experience of fellowship with the Father than ‘prayer.’

§ ‘...WITH ALL KINDS OF PRAYER’

Returning to Ephesians 6:18, the apostle Paul goes on to ‘the variety of prayer’ and says there...

Eph 6:18a *Praying always with all prayer (or ‘all kinds of prayer’^{NIV}) and supplication...*^{NKJV}

This not only makes reference to ‘the different kinds of prayer’ (such as the prayer of petition, the prayer of agreement, the prayer of binding and losing, and so on), which we will be looking at in some detail in this section, but also ‘the different occasions of prayer’.

To explain the latter, John MacArthur writes: “Scriptural precept and allowance suggest we may pray publicly or privately; in loud cries, in soft whispers, or silently; deliberately and planned or spontaneously; while sitting, standing, kneeling, or even lying down; at home or in church; while working or while travelling; with hands folded or raised; with eyes open or closed; with heads bowed or erect. [He continues...]

“The New Testament, like the Old, mentions many forms, circumstances, and postures for prayer, but prescribes none.

“Jesus prayed while standing, while sitting, while kneeling, and quite probably in other positions as well. We can pray wherever we are and in whatever situation we are in.... For the faithful, Spirit-filled Christian, every place becomes a place of prayer.”²

Now, following this, the apostle Paul goes on to ‘the power of prayer’ and says again in Ephesians 6:18...

Eph 6:18a,c *Praying always...in the (‘power of’) Spirit...*^{NKJV}

¹ D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *The Christian Soldier: An Exposition of Ephesians 6:10-13*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1976 as quoted by John F. MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, Ephesians*, copyright © 1986 by The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, p.379

² John F. MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, Ephesians*, copyright © 1986 by The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, p.379

The phrase 'in the power of the Holy Spirit,' points to the way the Holy Spirit both, leads us and empowers us in our prayer time, into whatever kinds of prayer that are needed to get the job done; Which includes, of course, praying in tongues.

That's why the apostle Paul says in Ephesians chapter 5, and the latter half of verse 18...

Eph 5:18b ...be filled with the Spirit ^{NKJV}

Now, since we will be looking at 'praying in tongues' in greater detail towards the end of this chapter (...as one of the 'kinds of prayers' we are to engage in), we will move on to the next aspect of prayer.

Returning again to Ephesians 6:18, the apostle Paul now goes on to 'the manner of prayer', and says there...

Eph 6:18b ... being watchful (literally, 'stay alert' ^{NLT}) to this end with all perseverance and supplication... ^{NKJV}

Since we've already looked at the 'persevering' aspect of prayer in the last chapter, we will be only looking at what it means to be "watchful" and "stay alert", since Jesus Himself encouraged His disciples to do the same in Matthew 26:41, when He said...

Mat 26:41 "Watch and pray (or literally, 'Keep alert and pray' ^{NLT}), lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ^{NKJV}

Added to this, Jesus also said in Mark chapter 13 and verse 33 to simply...

Mark 13:33 "Take heed ('Be on guard! Be alert!' ^{NIV}), watch and pray;" ^{NKJV}

Now, even though the Lord was making reference to His Second coming in this verse, it is still prudent that we keep a close watch on what's going on both, in us (in relation to 'temptation' according to Matthew 26:41), and around us, so that we can learn to pray more purposefully, and accurately, in our prayer time.

That means: Firstly, that 'praying in the Spirit' is not just praying in tongues, but as the Spirit leads; And, Secondly, that we need to think about specific people, and be sensitive to their problems and needs when we 'pray in the Spirit' regarding them.

That way, when those particular prayers are answered, we can thank and praise God specifically for them (...which is crucial that we do, because it keeps the door open for God to continue to bless us).

Some of the things that we can 'watch and pray' for are: Victory over temptation; Forgiveness and cleansing of sins; For unbelievers to come to Christ; For believers to mature in the Lord, and also have victory over 'all the power of the enemy.'

That brings us to the last part of Ephesians 6:18, where the apostle Paul goes on to deal with 'the objects of prayer', and concludes by saying there...

Eph 6:18a,d *Praying always... for all the saints*; ^{NKJV}

The purpose for praying for all the saints is brought out in Ephesians 6:11, where the apostle Paul says...

Eph 6:11 *Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil*. ^{NKJV}

The phrase "the wiles of the devil" makes reference to the "methodical, militaristic, well planned schemes"¹ that the devil uses against the Body of Christ to destroy it, and why Paul says in verse 18 that we are to "pray always... with all perseverance... for all the saints."

Praying for God's people isn't always easy; Especially when they are openly disobedient and rebellious towards God.

The prophet Samuel experienced this first-hand and dealt with it magnificently in 1st Samuel chapter 12, with verses 20 through 25 saying...

1 Sam 12:20 *Then Samuel said to the people, "Do not fear. You have done all this wickedness; yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart."*

1 Sam 12:21 *"And do not turn aside; for then you would go after empty things which cannot profit or deliver, for they are nothing.*

1 Sam 12:22 *"For the LORD will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you His people.*

1 Sam 12:23 *"Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way.*

1 Sam 12:24 *"Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.*

1 Sam 12:25 *"But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king."^{NKJV}*

¹ Dave Roberson, *The Prison Is In The Mind – Tape 1: Don't Underestimate Your Enemy* – Tape 1, Time index: 15 min

Notice again in 1st Samuel 12:23, where Samuel reveals something astounding when he says there: “far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you.”

In other words, ‘praying for all the saints’ is not only righteous before God, but also a tremendous ‘privilege and honour’ that will not only have eternal consequences, but eternal blessings as well.

The apostle Paul had tremendous insight into the great need for prayer, for new believers especially, and wrote in Galatians chapter 4 and verse 19...

Gal 4:19 *My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you...*^{KJV}

The New Living Translation puts it this way...

Gal 4:19 *But oh, my dear children! I feel as if I am going through labour pains for you again, and they will continue until Christ is fully developed in your lives.*^{NLT}

By saying that he travailed in birth ‘again,’ the apostle Paul lets us know that he not only prayed and travailed for people to get saved, but that he also went on to travail ‘again’ for them to reach maturity.

And that’s what we must do as well; Because that’s the only way that they will ever get to the place where they will be able to defeat the enemy themselves, and go on to live effective, productive, fruitful lives.

§ THE PRAYER OF SUBMISSION

Now that we’ve looked at the variety, frequency, power, manner, and objects of prayer, let’s go on to the first of ‘the kinds of prayer’ we will be looking at, and that is ‘the prayer of submission’.

As we do, it is important that we understand that, even though we will be looking at individual kinds of prayer and the rules that govern them, it is extremely rare that we’ll ever only engage in one kind of prayer, but will often ‘flow in and out of different kinds of prayer as the Spirit leads’.

Also, from this point on, we will be defining (when ever possible), the word associated with the 'kind of prayer' we will be looking at (...for example, here it would be 'submission'), just so we have some idea of what is actually being spoken of, as opposed to what we think it might mean.

The definitions we'll be using will be taken from the 1828 Edition of Webster's Dictionary, by Noah Webster; A devoted Christian; Who truly loved the Lord; And who believed and stated that: "Education is useless without the Bible".

It is no surprise then, that his dictionary contains over six thousand Bible references and is one of the only mainstream dictionaries to use Bible references to demonstrate the meaning of words, and why many believe that it to be "an essential tool for anyone studying the Bible".¹

Accordingly, let's begin by looking at the first 'kind of prayer', and that is 'the prayer of submission'.

Webster defines 'submission' as, "the act of yielding to power or authority; surrender of the person and power to the 'control' or 'government' of Another"; It is also "a yielding of one's will to the will of a Superior, without murmuring".²

Besides these definitions, Noah Webster himself believes that: "Entire and cheerful submission to the will of God is a Christian duty of prime excellence."³

Meaning that, 'the prayer of submission' is one of the most important 'kinds of prayer' we can pray.

And even though we touched on this when we looked at 'the first essential of prayer' (which was 'understanding the importance of determining God's will'), we will now go on to look at it from an actual 'prayer' point of view.

One of the best descriptions and definitions of 'the prayer of submission' is found in 2nd Chronicles chapter 30 and verse 8, when king Hezekiah was planning to celebrate the Passover of the Lord, and sent letters throughout all Israel and Judah, saying to them...

2 Chr 30:8a,c Do not be stubborn ... [but] submit yourselves to the LORD. ^{NLT mod.}

This is in perfect harmony with the definition of 'submission'; Even though it begins with 'the negative' of 'not being stubborn' (or 'un-yielding'), but then going on to 'the

¹ Webster's American Dictionary of the English Language © 1828 Noah Webster at www.webstersdictionary1828.com

² Webster's American Dictionary of the English Language © 1828 Noah Webster at www.webstersdictionary1828.com

³ Webster's American Dictionary of the English Language © 1828 Noah Webster at www.webstersdictionary1828.com

positive of 'submitting yourself to the Lord' (or 'yielding' and 'surrendering' yourself to Him).

And when we do this, not only does it open the door to God's wisdom, guidance and counsel, but it also allows God to do 'mighty things' in us, through us, and for us.

We see an outstanding example of this in 2nd Chronicles chapter 32, when the king of Assyria (*who had defeated all his enemies previous to this*), decided to come against king Hezekiah and it said in 2nd Chronicles chapter 32, verses 20 and 21 that...

2 Chr 32:20 *King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz cried out in prayer to heaven about this.*

2 Chr 32:21 *And the LORD sent an angel, who annihilated all the fighting men and the leaders and officers in the camp of the Assyrian king. So he withdrew to his own land in disgrace. And when he went into the temple of his god, some of his sons cut him down with the sword.*^{NIV}

This is what happens when you decide to draw near to God, and submit to His will, and why the apostle James says in James 4:7...

James 4:7 *Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

James 4:8a *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.*^{NKJV}

It is only as we submit to God, will we gain power over the enemy, and experience supernatural victories in our lives.

In fact, the apostle Peter wrote in 1st Peter chapter 5, verses 5 through 7...

1 Pet 5:5 *Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."*

1 Pet 5:6 *Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,*

1 Pet 5:7 *casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*

When we 'humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God' we are submitting our will to His, and letting Him know that we are willing to be used by Him, to go anywhere, and do anything He wants us to do.

This was the exact opposite to what the rich business men in James' congregation were doing, and why he says to them in James chapter 4, verse 13 through 15...

James 4:13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit";

James 4:14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

James 4:15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."

James 4:16 But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.^{NKJV}

The *sin* that these business men are committing have nothing to do with being prosperous and self-sufficient, because the apostle Paul says in 1st Thessalonians chapter 4, verses 11 and 12...

1 Th 4:11 Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you,

1 Th 4:12 so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.^{NIV}

So, what we understand is that the sin being committed in James chapter 4, is what's brought out in verse 16, when the apostle James says, "All such boasting is evil".

Boasting is pride on display.

It is what distances us from God and His blessings, and why Deuteronomy chapter 8, verses 17 and 18 says...

Deu 8:17 Do not say to yourself, "My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth."

Deu 8:18a But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth...^{NRSV}

In other words, it has always been God's desire that you do prosper and always have the upper hand, and why it even goes on to say in Deuteronomy 28:13...

Deu 28:13 "And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them."^{NKJV}

And just in case you're tempted to try and do it the world's way, always remember that it comes with a price, with the apostle Paul saying in 1st Timothy 6:10...

1 Tim 6:10 *For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.* ^{NKJV}

However, when we submit ourselves to God, and decide to do things His way, it says in Proverbs 10:22...

Prov 10:22 *The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it.* ^{NKJV}

That should be our motive for praying the prayer of submission; Because being in the very centre of God's will is not only the safest place to be, but the most prosperous as well.

And for anyone that may be struggling with praying 'the prayer of submission'; What you might need to do is to pray Philippians 2:13 over yourself; That's where the apostle Paul says...

Phil 2:13b ... God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey him and the power to do what pleases him. ^{NLT}

As you do this, you will find that, in time, God will give you, both, 'the will, and the way' to do it.

Jesus Himself certainly needed this, at the Garden of Gethsemane, when, just before He was arrested and taken to be crucified, He prayed in Luke 22:42...

Luke 22:42b *"Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."* ^{NKJV}

This is the highest form of submission that there is, and the greatest prayer you can ever pray to God.

It is what opens the door to the miraculous, supernatural, and impossible in our lives, and why again, it is the best place to start in prayer.

Now, from a practical standpoint, here is an example of a 'prayer of submission' you can pray, whether on its own, at the beginning of a prayer session, or even as part of a prayer that requires submission to God before anything more can be prayed over the situation or circumstance:

Dear Heavenly Father, I choose now to willingly submit every area of my life to You, and say out loud, "I belong to You, and only You."

Accordingly Father, I'll go where You want me to go.

I'll do whatever You want me to do.

It is You God that is working in me, giving me the desire to obey You and the power to do what pleases You.

You have a great plan for my life, one that involves health, peace, prosperity, provision and a joy-filled life.

Therefore Father, what You want and desire for my life, is the same thing that I want and desire for my life.

Not my will, but your will for my life every day, Father.

Not my own way, not the way of the flesh, but the way of the Spirit.

Father, in all things I pray, “Your will, Your plan, and Your way.”

In Jesus Name. Amen.

There is another prayer that I would like to include in this section as we conclude this ‘*kind of prayer*’, that is quite well known, and is, in a way, a kind of ‘*prayer of submission*’ in itself, that says:

“Lord, grant me the courage to change the things I can, the serenity to accept the things I can’t, and the wisdom to know the difference.”

Added to this there’s also the famous prayer by Francis (*of Assisi*) that says:

“Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.

“Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

“O divine Master, grant that I may seek, not so much to be consoled, as to console; not so much to be understood, as to understand; not so much to be loved, as to love.

“For it is in the giving that we receive; it is in pardonning that we are pardoned; it is in the dying that we awaken to eternal life.”¹

Of course, at the end of the day, simple prayers are the best prayers.

There is a story of a young minister who, trying to impress his new congregation, began his opening prayer with words like, “*Almighty, omnipotent, omniscient Creator and Lord of the Universe... What we call Thee?*”

And an old saint in the front row interjected: “*Call Him ‘Father’, sonny!*” (*Which is what Jesus told us to do in Luke 11:2, and that is, “When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven...”*)

¹ From: Barry Chant, *Praying In The Spirit*, copyright © 2002 Barry Chant, Sovereign World Ltd, PO Box 777, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 OZS, England. p.42-43

§ THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND CONSECRATION

Moving on, the next '*kind of prayer*' that we'll look at, is the one often *confused* with *the prayer of submission*, and that is '*the prayer of dedication and consecration*'.

First, '*consecration*' is defined as: "*the act of devoting and dedicating a person or thing to the service, and worship, of God.*"¹

Next, '*dedication*' is defined as: "*the act of consecrating to a Divine Being; Or to a sacred use.*"²

So, while '*the prayer of submission*' is prayed when you *submit your 'will' and your 'ways' to God*, '*the prayer of dedication and consecration*' is prayed when you decide to *devote and set aside all you 'are', and 'have', to Him (such as your life, you car, your home, your finances, your children, and so on)*.

Of course, churches have been known to *dedicate and consecrate* their *sanctuaries* and *buildings* to the Lord; And some of them, even their *offices* and *vehicles* as well.

One of *the best, and most famous examples* of '*the prayer of dedication and consecration*' is found in the Book of 1st Samuel chapter 1, and verse 11, where we find a woman named Hannah (*who couldn't have children*) crying out to the Lord and saying to Him...

1 Sam 1:11b ... "*O LORD Almighty, if you will look down upon my sorrow and answer my prayer and give me a son, then I will give him back to you. He will be yours for his entire lifetime, and as a sign that he has been dedicated to the LORD, his hair will never be cut.*"^{NLT}

As a result her *prayer and promise to God*, Hannah had a son and named him '*Samuel*' (*from the Hebrew expression "heard of God"*³). And it says in 1st Samuel chapter 3, verses 19 and 20...

1 Sam 3:19 *As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him, and everything Samuel said was wise and helpful.*

1 Sam 3:20 *All the people of Israel from one end of the land to the other knew that Samuel was confirmed as a prophet of the LORD.*^{NLT}

In fact, Samuel went on to be called by God to fill many different roles such as: *prophet, priest, judge, counsellor, and God's man* at a *turning point in the history of Israel*.¹

¹ Webster's American Dictionary of the English Language © 1828 Noah Webster at www.webstersdictionary1828.com

² Webster's American Dictionary of the English Language © 1828 Noah Webster at www.webstersdictionary1828.com

³ Quick Verse Life Application Bible – Electronic Edition – People and Places: Samuel

But it was all because Hannah kept her promise and dedicated Samuel to the Lord.

There was yet another, very famous child, that was dedicated to God in Luke chapter 2, where it says in verses 21 through 23...

Luke 2:21 *Eight days later, when the baby was circumcised, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel even before he was conceived.*

Luke 2:22 *Then it was time for the purification offering, as required by the law of Moses after the birth of a child; so his parents took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.*

Luke 2:23 *The law of the Lord says, "If a woman's first child is a boy, he must be dedicated to the Lord."^{NLT}*

The Full Life Study Bible says: "As Joseph and Mary presented Jesus to the Lord, so all parents should sincerely consecrate their children to the Lord. They should pray constantly that from the beginning to the end of each child's life, he or she will be found in the Lord's will, serving and glorifying God with complete devotion."²

Now, besides dedicating your child to the Lord, as mentioned earlier, you can also dedicate 'things' to the Lord as well: Such as a building; We see an example of this in 1st Kings chapter 8, verses 62 and 63, where it is written...

1 Ki 8:62 *Then the king (that is, king Solomon) and all Israel with him offered sacrifices before the LORD.*

1 Ki 8:63 *And Solomon offered a sacrifice of peace offerings, which he offered to the LORD, twenty-two thousand bulls and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the children of Israel dedicated the house of the LORD.*^{NKJV}

The way that God responded to this is brought out in 1st Kings chapter 9 and verse 3, where it says...

1 Ki 9:3 *And the LORD said to him: "I have heard your prayer and your supplication that you have made before Me; I have consecrated this house which you have built to put My name there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually."*^{NKJV}

Now, besides the dedication and consecration of children and buildings, what God is most impressed with is when we, of our own free will, dedicate and consecrate ourselves to serving Him, like the Christians at Macedonia did. It says in 2nd Corinthians 8:5...

¹ When Israel went from being ruled by Judges to Kings

² The Full Life Study Bible – King James Version. Copyright © 1992 by Life Publishers International. Published by Zondervan Publishing House. Grand Rapids, Michigan 49530, U.S.A. p.1525

2 Cor 8:5 *Best of all, they went beyond our highest hopes, for their first action was to dedicate themselves to the Lord and to us for whatever directions God might give them.*^{NLT}

These believers chose to ‘set apart’ all they were (their gifts and talents), and all they had to God. It wasn’t easy; and why the apostle Paul said in 2nd Corinthians chapter 8, verses 2 and 3...

2 Cor 8:2 *Though they have been going through much trouble and hard times, their wonderful joy and deep poverty have overflowed in rich generosity.*

2 Cor 8:3 *For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford but far more. And they did it of their own free will.*^{NLT}

That’s true dedication; And what is desperately needed today by both God, and the Body of Christ.

Now, when it come to actually praying the prayer of dedication and consecration, it is a very simple prayer that goes something like this: “Lord, I dedicate and consecrate my time, my talents, my finances, and all that I have to You from this day forward, in Jesus’ Name. Amen.”

It’s easy to pray, but hard to do.

§ THE PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Next, we come to ‘the prayer of commitment’.

Webster defines ‘commitment’ as “the act of pledging or engaging.”¹

This particular prayer can be used to ‘commit’ almost anything to the Lord.

For example, we see David committing his life to God for safe keeping in Psalm 31:5, with him saying (and praying) there...

Psa 31:5 *Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.*^{NKJV}

¹ Webster’s American Dictionary of the English Language © 1828 Noah Webster at www.webstersdictionary1828.com

Biblical Scholar John Phillips, in his commentary writes: “*David did not ascend the throne by subtlety and strength but by surrender: ‘Into Your hand I commit my spirit.’*”

“*Because he was such a surrendered man, such a submissive man, God saw to it that he ascended to the throne – and by power. But not his own power!*”

“*God had long ago promised David he would be king and God redeemed His promise. He put David on the throne: ‘You have redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.’ It was God’s power that preserved David during his fugitive years and God’s redeeming power that raised him to the throne.*”¹

Committing your life to God is the highest form of faith there is. David did it, and so did Jesus, when He was on the Cross, with Luke 23:46 saying...

Luke 23:46 *Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”*^{NIV}

Commitment can only come from submission and dedication, and why William Hendriksen, in his commentary on this verse says, “*The very fact that Jesus uttered this word ‘with a loud voice’ shows that he willingly, voluntarily laid down his life.*”²

He had committed to this long before He went to the Cross, with Matthew chapter 16 and verse 21 saying...

Mat 16:21 *From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that he had to go to Jerusalem, and he told them what would happen to him there. He would suffer at the hands of the leaders and the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, and he would be raised on the third day.*^{NLT}

In short, Jesus had such great faith in God, that He voluntarily gave Himself up to be crucified³, believing that God would raise Him up on the third day (...now that’s real commitment).

Next, there is ‘the prayer of commitment’ in which you commit everything you do to the Lord, as described in Psalm 37:5, which says...

Psa 37:5 Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.^{NKJV}

¹ John Phillips, *Exploring The Psalms – Volume One*, A Publication of Loizeaux Brothers, Inc., Neptune, New Jersey, © 1988 John Phillips, p.234

² William Hendriksen, *Exposition of the Gospel According to Luke*, © Copyright 1978 by William Hendriksen, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Michigan. 49516. p.1036

³ **John 10:18** *No one can take my life from me. I lay down my life voluntarily. For I have the right to lay it down when I want to and also the power to take it again. For my Father has given me this command.*^{NLT}

John Phillips explains that the word “commit” is an interesting one; It literally means “to roll over”; Therefore, he says that “We should take our great burdens and roll them over on [the Lord].”¹

That’s exactly that the apostle Peter says we should do, in 1st Peter 5:7, where he says...

1 Pet 5:7 Give all your worries (anxieties) and cares to God, for he cares about what happens to you.^{NLT}

The most important thing about praying this prayer is that, once you “commit” something to the Lord, you must decide and determine to leave it with Him; Otherwise it will not work.

Now, added to committing your life and ways to God, you can also commit all your works to God, with Proverbs 16:3 saying...

Prov 16:3 Commit your works to the LORD, And your thoughts will be established.^{NKJV}

Once again, John Phillips writes: “The word translated ‘thoughts’ here is translated ‘preparations’ in Proverbs 16:1 and means ‘plans.’ We are instructed by the wise man to submit our plans to the Lord; otherwise the best-laid plans can go astray.

“Too often we make plans, plunge into a course of action, and as an after-thought ask God to bless what we are doing.

“We [then] belatedly find out He is not in our plans at all. However, when we consult God from the beginning, He establishes our thoughts – that is, He leads us in the way He has planned. [And, of course...] His way is always best.”²

We see a vivid example of this in the way the apostle Paul, even though he engaged in a high degree of careful planning for all his missionary journeys, always looked for guidance from the Holy Spirit; It says (for example), in Acts chapter 16, verses 6 through 10...

Acts 16:6 Next Paul and Silas travelled through the area of Phrygia and Galatia, because the Holy Spirit had told them not to go into the province of Asia at that time.

Acts 16:7 Then coming to the borders of Mysia, they headed for the province of Bithynia, but again the Spirit of Jesus did not let them go.

Acts 16:8 So instead, they went on through Mysia to the city of Troas.

¹ John Phillips, *Exploring The Psalms – Volume One*, A Publication of Loizeaux Brothers, Inc., Neptune, New Jersey, © 1988 John Phillips, p.280

² John Phillips, *Exploring Proverbs – Volume One*, A Publication of Loizeaux Brothers, Inc., Neptune, New Jersey, © 1995 John Phillips, p.468

Acts 16:9 That night Paul had a vision. He saw a man from Macedonia in northern Greece, pleading with him, "Come over here and help us."

Acts 16:10 So we decided to leave for Macedonia at once, for we could only conclude that God was calling us to preach the Good News there.^{NLT}

This is what it means to 'commit your works to the Lord,' regardless of the plans you might have made; It is a commitment to only doing those things that will please God.

And what's great about this is that, when ever you decide to pray 'the prayer of commitment', you actually make the Lord responsible for everything you do, as well as, how it all turns out.

It is a prayer well worth praying, and a commitment well worth making, and keeping.

Here is an example of a simple 'prayer of commitment' that you can pray if you wish; And add to over time:

"Dear Heavenly Father, I commit my life, my ways, and my works to You.

"I need You to help me honour this commitment to You, so I can be an example to everyone around me, of what a truly committed life is.

"More than anything else, Father, I commit myself to building Your kingdom, Your way, and in Your time.

"I pray that, as I do, You will bless all the works of my hand, guide me in all Your ways, and keep me safe from all harm, In Jesus Name. Amen."

Once again, this is only 'a place to start.'

You can go on to pray different kinds of prayers of commitment such as 'to walk in God's wisdom and His perfect will'; To 'watch what you say'; To 'live free from worry', and so on.

The possibilities are endless; And the blessings are limitless.

CHAPTER 5



Kinds Of Prayer II

(Supplication, Petition, Sanctification)

§ THE PRAYER OF SUPPLICATION

Now, having covered *the very personal prayers of submission, commitment, consecration and dedication*, let's go on look at *the two most common 'kinds of prayer'* that there are: *'The prayer of Petition'*, and *'The prayer of Supplication'*.

Most people pray this way *instinctively*, and why *most of the Hebrew and Greek words for 'prayer'* generally refer to *one of these two kinds of prayer (and sometimes even both)*.

The apostle Paul makes reference to *both these kinds of prayers*, when he says in Philippian chapter 4, verses 6 and 7...

Phil 4:6 *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;*

Phil 4:7 *and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*^{NKJV}

Now, of the two prayers, *'petition'* and *'supplication'*, we will begin with *'the prayer of supplication,'* for the simple reason that *'the prayer of petition'* is partly *defined* as *"a solemn or formal supplication."*¹

¹ Webster's American Dictionary of the English Language © 1828 Noah Webster at www.webstersdictionary1828.com

Therefore, once we understand what 'the prayer of supplication' is, we will be able to better understand what 'the prayer of petition' actually is.

To begin with, Webster's Dictionary defines 'the prayer of supplication' as: "a humble and earnest prayer or request."¹

It is the 'kind of prayer' we often pray when we are facing great difficulties in our life, and why the apostle Paul says again, in Philippians 4:6...

Phil 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer² and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;^{NKJV}

Now, because the nature of 'supplication' (being 'a humble and earnest prayer'), it has often been described as 'a deep, heart-felt cry of the soul and spirit' that is based primarily on 'the spirit behind the Scriptures' than the actual Scripture verses themselves.

We see an excellent example this 'kind of prayer' in Luke 23:34, where Jesus, when He was crucified, prays to the Father and says...

Luke 23:34b "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."^{NKJV}

Here is one of the shortest. and most 'humble and earnest prayers' in all the Bible; And happens to be one of the best examples of 'the prayer of supplication.'

It is best defined in what James (the half-brother of Jesus) says in James 5:16 (from the Amplified Bible), and that is...

James 5:16b The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man³ makes tremendous power available – dynamic in its working.^{AMP}

In its commentary, *The Spirit Filled Life Bible* says that "Although a literal translation of the Greek phrase is awkward, and different versions vary in their translations, the basic idea is that of a supplication 'having energy.' Effective prayer is characterised by earnestness, fervency, and energy..."⁴

¹ Webster's American Dictionary of the English Language © 1828 Noah Webster at www.webstersdictionary1828.com

² The Greek word 'proseuche:G4335 – "a general feeling of devotion to the Lord, emphasising the power of the One to Whom we are praying"

³ Remember that all you need to do to be 'righteous' is to confess (or acknowledge) your sins before God, and according to **1st John 1:9**, we are promised that God is "...faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness", automatically making us "righteous".

⁴ *Spirit Filled Life Bible (NKJV). A Personal Study Bible Unveiling All God's Fullness In All God's Word.* General Editor Jack W. Hayford, Litt.D. Copyright © 1991 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. P.O. Box 141000, Nashville, Tennessee 37214-1000. p.1901

What's interesting about this particular 'kind of prayer' is that you can pray 'continually' in faith, and still be in the perfect will of God; And what's more, this verse lets us know that it is a prayer where 'tremendous power is released and made available – dynamic in its working' for whatever miracle is required.

Even the apostle Paul believed in praying continually and said, in Ephesians chapter 6 and verse 18...

Eph 6:18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints;^{NKJV}

Now, when it comes to an actual 'prayer of supplication', We have a tremendous example of it in Psalm 28, when king David was facing one of the greatest challenges of his life, with the country being torn apart by Civil War, and his own son Absalom betraying him, and in the midst of all this, with a heavy heart, he begins in verse 1 by praying...

Psa 28:1 To You I will cry, O LORD my Rock: Do not be silent to me, Lest, if You are silent to me, I become like those who go down to the pit.^{NKJV}

The word "LORD" in the Hebrew is "Jehovah", meaning that David was crying out to 'the Great God JEHOVAH.' and literally says to Him:

"Even though everything around me is falling apart, and the throne I was promised (and which was meant to be permanent) is disappearing before my very eyes, I know there's one thing that will never change, and that is You, O LORD my Rock."

The term "O Lord my Rock" is a direct reference to Jesus Christ, Who never changes, and why Hebrews 13:8 says...

Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.^{NKJV}

That's the revelation that we all need when we are going through hard times, and that is, God is steadfast and true, and He will never ever let us down.

As for the term "the pit", it is actually making reference to a tomb or a grave, with David literally saying, "God, if you don't speak to me, I'm as good as dead!"¹

From this we understand that David is desperate to hear from God, and he is not afraid to tell Him.

¹ John Phillips, *Exploring The Psalms – Volume One*, A Publication of Loizeaux Brothers, Inc., Neptune, New Jersey, © 1988 John Phillips, p.212

This is by *no means* a ‘*bad confession*’, because *being honest and open before God* is a ‘*must*’ if you are going to get your *prayers answered* (...of course, this is *totally different from telling everyone your problems; that would be a ‘bad confession’*).

Now, as to *how you are to approach God*; That’s brought out in verse 2, where David goes on to say...

Psa 28:2 *Hear the voice of my supplications When I cry to You, When I lift up my hands toward Your holy sanctuary (which was in Jerusalem; and which was in the hands of the enemy at this time).* ^{NKJV}

Here, David *clearly identifies* what *kind of prayer* he is engaged in, when he says, “*hear the voice of my supplications*” which was *accompanied by raised hands*, and *crying to God*.

This is the *nature of supplication*; It is *humble, earnest, and passionate*; Especially for *the things of God* (...notice that David *yearning and longing for the Lord’s ‘holy sanctuary’*).

He continues to *plead his case* and goes on to say in verses 3 and 4...

Psa 28:3 *Do not take me away (lit. ‘drag me away’ like a condemned criminal to be executed¹) with the wicked (...those driven by sin...) And with the workers of iniquity (...those who are lawless and without honour), Who speak peace to their neighbours, But (...they are ‘morally depraved’ and...) evil is in their hearts.* ^{NKJV}

Psa 28:4 *Give them according to their deeds, And according to the wickedness of their endeavours; Give them according to the work of their hands; Render to them what they deserve.* ^{NKJV}

In fact, in the *New International Version*, Psalm 28:4 reads...

Psa 28:4 *Repay them for their deeds and for their evil work; repay them for what their hands have done and bring back upon them what they deserve.* ^{NIV}

This, of course, is the law of Galatians 6:7, which says...

Gal 6:7 *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.* ^{NKJV}

David then goes on to pray in Psalm 28 and verse 5...

¹ John Phillips, *Exploring The Psalms – Volume One*, A Publication of Loizeaux Brothers, Inc., Neptune, New Jersey, © 1988 John Phillips, p.213

Psa 28:5 Because they do not regard the works of the LORD, Nor the operation of His hands, He shall destroy them And not build them up.^{NKJV}

Again, the *New International Version* says...

Psa 28:5 Since they show no regard for the works of the LORD and what his hands have done, he will tear them down and never build them up again.^{NIV}

David was a warrior, both in the natural realm and the spiritual realm.

He knew what it took to fight and win a natural war, and so, he put the same effort when he went to war in the spirit.

And it was all based on the fact that God said that He would avenge him according to Deuteronomy 32:43, which is what the apostle quotes when he says in Romans 12:19...

Rom 12:19 Dear friends, never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God. For it is written, "I will take vengeance (or as the KJV puts it, 'Vengeance is mine'); I will repay those who deserve it," says the Lord.^{NLT}

And it is with this assurance, after having just poured out his heart to God, that David now goes on to say in Psalm 28:6...

Psa 28:6 Blessed be the LORD, Because He has heard the voice of my supplications!^{NKJV}

Notice that David, for a second time, identifies this as 'the prayer of supplication', and with the confidence that he has been 'heard', proceeds to 'Bless the Lord', and then goes on to say in verses 7 and 8...

Psa 28:7 The LORD is my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart greatly rejoices, And with my song I will praise Him.

Psa 28:8 The LORD is their strength, And He is the saving refuge of His anointed.^{NKJV}

Notice here that, long before the manifestation has come, David proclaims strength, faith, and victory; And goes on to intercede for the nation; And commits the care of it to God's keeping; And says in the last verse (*Psalm 28:9*)...

Psa 28:9 Save Your people, And bless Your inheritance; Shepherd them also, And bear them up forever.^{NKJV}

What an incredibly powerful ending, to an incredibly powerful prayer.

So, here we see an outstanding example of ‘the prayer of supplication’ and the power that accompanies it, as it rises from the heart and reaches the throne of God; and opens the door for God to move in all kinds of miraculous ways; and stop the devil in his tracks; and give you ‘the victory that overcomes the world’ every single time.

It is with this in mind that the apostle Paul writes in 1st Timothy 2:1...

1 Tim 2:1 *Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men...^{NKJV}*

🔗 THE PRAYER OF PETITION

Now that we have some idea of what ‘the prayer of supplication’ is, we can go on to look at ‘the prayer of petition’ which is, in part, defined as, “a formal request or supplication; Verbal or written (...meaning that even ‘the paper’ containing ‘the supplication’ is referred to as a ‘petition’).”

As mentioned before, this is another very common ‘kind of prayer’ that people pray, and what the apostle John talks about in 1st John chapter 5, where he writes in verses 14 and 15...

1 John 5:14 *Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.*

1 John 5:15 *And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.^{NKJV}*

The ‘prayer of petition’ is fully defined as: “a request, supplication, or prayer; It is chiefly a solemn or formal supplication; a prayer addressed by a person to [a] Supreme Being [like God] for something needed or desired.”¹

Notice that there are certain aspects of this ‘kind of prayer’ that are very similar to ‘the prayer of supplication’ (such as “a request ... for something needed or desired”); And which is clearly brought out in 1st Samuel chapter 1, verses 12 through 20, where it says...

1 Sam 1:12 *And it happened, as she [that is, Hannah] continued praying before the LORD, that Eli watched her mouth.*

¹ From: *Webster’s American Dictionary of the English Language* © 1828 Noah Webster at www.webstersdictionary1828.com

1 Sam 1:13 Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk.

1 Sam 1:14 So Eli said to her, "How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you!"

1 Sam 1:15 And Hannah answered and said, "No, my lord, I am a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.

1 Sam 1:16 "Do not consider your maidservant a wicked woman, for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief I have spoken until now."

1 Sam 1:17 Then Eli answered and said, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him."

1 Sam 1:18 And she said, "Let your maidservant find favour in your sight." So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

1 Sam 1:19 Then they rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD, and returned and came to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her.

1 Sam 1:20 So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, "Because I have asked for him from the LORD."^{NKJV}

So, this fits in perfectly with the part of the definition that states that it is "a prayer addressed to a Supreme Being for something needed or desired."

In other words, 'the prayer of petition' can be as simple as going to God, and asking or requesting something of Him.

But that's where the similarity between 'the prayer of petition' and 'the prayer of supplication' ends, With the other part of the definition stating that it is "a formal request or supplication, verbal or written."

We saw an excellent example of this 'kind of prayer' in 'Prayer Essentials', when we looked at 'The Second Prayer Essential – The Word of God', and saw the way king Jehoshaphat researched the Scriptures, and through the leading of the Spirit, developed an outstanding 'formal' prayer, that was totally based on the Scriptures; And which is brought out in 2nd Chronicles chapter 20, beginning in verses 5 and 6, where it says...

2 Chr 20:5 Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court,

2 Chr 20:6 and said: "O LORD God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You? ^{NKJV}

Remember again that this was taken from 1st Chronicles chapter 29, verses 11 and 12, where king David prayed...

1 Chr 29:11 Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, The power and the glory, The victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, And You are exalted as head over all.

1 Chr 29:12a Both riches and honour come from You, And You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; ^{NKJV}

Next, king Jehoshaphat goes on to pray in 2nd Chronicles chapter 20, and verse 7...

2 Chr 20:7 "Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?" ^{NKJV}

Again, this was taken from what Genesis chapter 17, where God spoke to Abraham and said to him in verses 5 through 8...

Gen 17:5 "No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations.

Gen 17:6 "I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.

Gen 17:7 "And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.

Gen 17:8 "Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God." ^{NKJV}

Continuing on to 2nd Chronicles chapter 20, verses 8 and 9, Jehoshaphat goes on to pray...

2 Chr 20:8 "And they dwell in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying,

2 Chr 20:9 'If disaster comes upon us; sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine; we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name is in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.' ^{NKJV}

Here again, Jehoshaphat paraphrases what Solomon had prayed in 2nd Chronicles chapter 6, verses 20 and 35, and that is...

2 Chr 6:20 *"that Your eyes may be open toward this temple ...where You said You would put Your name..."*

2 Chr 6:35 *...hear from heaven ... and maintain their cause.* ^{NKJV}

So again, here, just as Solomon was definite that in the place where God put His Name, He would surely 'hear from Heaven' and 'maintain their cause' (or save them), Jehoshaphat too was sure and says to God, "Your Name is in this temple" and "You will hear and save".

This is the third Scripture upon which Jehoshaphat based his prayer, and once again, clearly shows us what a formal 'petition' that is prayed to God actually looks like.

Of course, this prayer resulted in God, not only giving them specific instructions on what to do, but also fighting for them, with 2nd Chronicles chapter 20 and verse 23 reporting that...

2 Chr 20:23 *The armies of Moab and Ammon turned against their allies from Mount Seir and killed every one of them. After they had finished off the army of Seir, they turned on each other.* ^{NLT}

What an incredible end to such a dreadful situation.

So, from 1st Samuel chapter 1, and 2nd Chronicles chapter 20, we see that 'the prayer of petition' can either be very simple (containing no Scriptures at all), or quite elaborate (involving time and research, and containing several Scriptures), and why it is considered to be one of the most commonly used prayers there are.

Now, beyond the simple 'prayer of petition' that only requires you to have a general knowledge of the Word of God in order to pray, there's the formal 'prayer of petition' involving several Scriptures, that can be a little daunting; And why I given you an example of one, just so that you have some idea of what it should look like.

This particular prayer of petition is for healing:

Dear Heavenly Father, in the Name of Jesus, I pray and confess Your Word concerning healing. I know Father, that Your Word will not return to You void, but will accomplish what it says it will. (Isaiah 55:11)

Therefore, I believe in the Name of Jesus that I am healed according to 1st Peter 2:24 that says that Jesus "Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness; by whose stripes you were healed."

It also says in Matthew 8:17, "that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses."

Therefore, with great confidence I say on the authority of the Scriptures that I am redeemed from the curse of sickness and I refuse to tolerate its symptoms any longer.

Satan, I speak to you in the Name of Jesus and say that you and all your legions are bound from operating against me (Matthew 16:19). I am the property of almighty God and dwell in the secret place of the most High God where I remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty, whose power no foe can withstand (Psalm 91:1).

Father, I now stand immovable and fixed in full assurance that, not only does the angel of the Lord encamp around about me and delivers me from all the work of the enemy (Psalm 34:7), but that I have been healed and restored to full and complete health right now, in the mighty Name of Jesus, Amen.

Of course, you can pray this prayer for another by simply replacing “I” and “me” with their name, and either “he” or “she” when necessary.

This kind of ‘petition’ generally takes a little bit more time and preparation, but well worth it, because it not only helps us stay strong, and remind us of what we have prayed and are believed for, but also gives us the assurance that, since we’ve done everything the apostle John said to do in 1st John chapter 5, verses 14 and 15, we can expect to have the same result; That’s again where the apostle John wrote...

1 John 5:14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

1 John 5:15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.^{NKJV}

§ THE PRAYER OF SANCTIFICATION

Now, following ‘the prayer of petition and supplication’, there is one other prayer that we should be praying regularly (...at least as many times as we eat during the day), and that is ‘the prayer of sanctification’.

The word ‘sanctification’ means ‘the act of making holy.’¹

There two main areas of ‘sanctification’; One has to do with what God did for us in Christ to ‘make us holy’, which has nothing to do with ‘the prayer of sanctification’, and the other is what the apostle Paul talks about in 1st Timothy chapter 4, verses 4 and 5, where he says...

¹ Webster’s American Dictionary of the English Language © 1828 Noah Webster at www.webstersdictionary1828.com

1 Tim 4:4 *For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving*;

1 Tim 4:5 *for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer (enteuxis:G1783).^{NKJV}*

In the *literal translation*, verse 5 says that *everything is sanctified*, “...by praying words of Scripture over the food.”¹

This, of course, is ‘*the prayer of sanctification*’, and also where the concept of ‘*saying grace*’ came from, with the *Spirit-Filled Believer’s Topical Bible* saying that ‘*Early-day believers offered up praise verses before eating their meals*’.²

The truth of the matter is, in today’s world, *there’s no telling where the food you eat has come from, nor where the hands that prepared it have been.*

Therefore, as long as we *acknowledge God*, and *give Him thanks for whatever is put in front of us*, *God will bless it to our bodies*, and even *bring us healing through it*. That’s actually what is brought out in Exodus chapter 23, where it says in verse 25...

Exo 23:25 *So you shall serve the LORD your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And [He says] “I will take sickness away from the midst of you.”^{NKJV mod.}*

Therefore, *it is in your best interest to always pray over your food (in faith)*, not just to *thank God for it*, but also to *sanctify it*, and cause it to be ‘*health and healing to all your body and all your flesh*’ (... “*in Jesus’ Name*” of course).

We see *Jesus praying over the food* in Matthew chapter 14 and verse 19, with it saying there...

Mat 14:19 *Then he told the people to sit down on the grass. And he took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and asked God's blessing on the food. Breaking the loaves into pieces, he gave some of the bread and fish to each disciple, and the disciples gave them to the people.*

Mat 14:20 *They all ate as much as they wanted, and they picked up twelve baskets of leftovers.*

Mat 14:21 *About five thousand men had eaten from those five loaves, in addition to all the women and children!^{NLT}*

¹ *Spirit-Filled Believer’s Topical Bible (The), Reference Edition*, Copyright © 1992 by Harrison House, P.O. Box 35035, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74153, USA. p.109

² *Spirit-Filled Believer’s Topical Bible (The), Reference Edition*, Copyright © 1992 by Harrison House, P.O. Box 35035, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74153, USA. p.109

Notice here that this act of 'sanctification' not only cleansed the food, but multiplied it as well, to where they all ate as much as they wanted, and had twelve baskets full of leftovers!

Now, regardless of all this (...and as wonderful as it is), 'the prayer of sanctification' is ultimately God's gift to us, to counteract, and 'make holy', all that was spoiled, polluted, and damaged by the curse, and should be prayed every time we sit down to eat (so-to-speak).

Here's a very brief example of a prayer you can pray over your food: "Heavenly Father, we thank you for this food; We pray that it is blessed and sanctified; health, healing, and medicine to all our body and all our flesh, in Jesus Name. Amen."

CHAPTER 6



Kinds Of Prayer III (Praise, Thanksgiving, & Worship)

§ THE PRAYER OF PRAISE

Having dealt with *three of the most common prayers*, let's go on to look at three prayers that are *not so familiar to us*, and they are 'the prayer of praise', 'the prayer of worship', and 'the prayer of thanksgiving.'

Remember again that 'prayer' was *defined primarily as 'communing with God'*, which means that it's *not* just about God ministering to you (talking to you, , but *you ministering to Him as well*; And that's where *these particular set of prayers* come in.

We see an example of this in the book of Acts, in Acts chapter 13 and verse 2, where it says...

Acts 13:2a *As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said...* ^{NKJV}

Notice that *they aren't asking for anything*; They're just *ministering to the Lord*; And the result was that *God spoke to them* ("...*the Holy Spirit said...*").

When ever we decide to *minister to the Lord*, that's when the ground shakes, and *the impossible* begins to take place; We see an example of this in Acts chapter 16, when Paul and Silas are *beaten and thrown into prison for preaching the Gospel*, and it says in verses 25 and 26...

Acts 16:25 *And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.*

Acts 16:26 *And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.*^{NKJV}

Further to this, there is also the incident recorded in the Old Testament, where King Jehoshaphat was under attack by three armies ('the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir'), and it says in 2nd Chronicles chapter 20, verses 21 through 25...

2 Chr 20:21 *After consulting the leaders of the people, the king appointed singers to walk ahead of the army, singing to the LORD and praising him for his holy splendour. This is what they sang: "Give thanks to the LORD; His faithful love (or 'mercy'^{NKJV}, or 'lovingkindness',^{NASB}, or 'steadfast love',^{NRSV}) endures forever!"*

2 Chr 20:22 *At the moment they began to sing and give praise, the LORD caused the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir to start fighting among themselves.*

2 Chr 20:23 *The armies of Moab and Ammon turned against their allies from Mount Seir and killed every one of them. After they had finished off the army of Seir, they turned on each other.*

2 Chr 20:24 *So when the army of Judah arrived at the lookout point in the wilderness, there were dead bodies lying on the ground for as far as they could see. Not a single one of the enemy had escaped.*

2 Chr 20:25 *King Jehoshaphat and his men went out to gather the plunder. They found vast amounts of equipment, clothing, and other valuables--more than they could carry. There was so much plunder that it took them three days just to collect it all!*

2 Chr 20:26 *On the fourth day they gathered in the Valley of Blessing, which got its name that day because the people praised and thanked the LORD there. It is still called the Valley of Blessing today.*

2 Chr 20:27 *Then they returned to Jerusalem, with Jehoshaphat leading them, full of joy that the LORD had given them victory over their enemies.*

2 Chr 20:28 *They marched into Jerusalem to the music of harps, lyres, and trumpets and proceeded to the Temple of the LORD.*

2 Chr 20:29 *When the surrounding kingdoms heard that the LORD himself had fought against the enemies of Israel, the fear of God came over them.*

2 Chr 20:30 *So Jehoshaphat's kingdom was at peace, for his God had given him rest on every side.*^{NLT}

Here again is 'the prayer of praise' in operation, and it has nothing to do with 'asking' God for anything; But everything to do with ministering to Him.

This is something that we need to get back to if we want to see miracles take place in our church services, and our personal lives.

Now, as to what 'the prayer of praise' is; It is defined as: "glorifying, magnifying, and honouring, on account of perfections or excellent works"¹; It, therefore, gives glory, honour, and praise to the King of Glory; It is recognising God for who He is, and praises and magnifies His very nature.

We see an excellent example of a 'prayer of praise' in Daniel chapter 2, where it says in Daniel chapter 2, verses 19 through 23...

Dan 2:19 That night the secret was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven,

Dan 2:20 saying, [and here is 'the prayer of praise':] "Praise the name of God forever and ever, for He alone has all wisdom and power.

Dan 2:21 He determines the course of world events; He removes kings and sets others on the throne. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars.

Dan 2:22 He reveals deep and mysterious things and knows what lies hidden in darkness, though He Himself is surrounded by light.

Dan 2:23 I thank and praise You, God of my ancestors, for You have given me wisdom and strength. You have told me what we asked of you and revealed to us what the king demanded."^{NLT}

Of course, there are 'prayers of praise' all through the Bible; One example is in Psalm 66, verses 1 through 5, where it says...

Psa 66:1 Shout joyful praises to God, all the earth!

Psa 66:2 Sing about the glory of his name!² Tell the world how glorious he is.

Psa 66:3 Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! Your enemies cringe before your mighty power.

Psa 66:4 Everything on earth will worship you; they will sing your praises, shouting your name in glorious songs." ...

Psa 66:5 Come and see what our God has done, what awesome miracles he does for his people!^{NKJV}

¹ Excerpts From: *Webster's American Dictionary of the English Language* © 1828 Noah Webster at www.webstersdictionary1828.com

² This is similar to **1st Chronicles 29:13** which says, "Now therefore, our God, We thank You And praise Your glorious name."^{NKJV}

Another example is Psalm 150; It is an entire Psalm of praise! It says...

Psa 150:1 Praise the LORD! Praise God in his heavenly dwelling; praise him in his mighty heaven!

Psa 150:2 Praise him for his mighty works; praise his unequalled greatness!

Psa 150:3 Praise him with a blast of the trumpet; praise him with the lyre and harp!

Psa 150:4 Praise him with the tambourine and dancing; praise him with stringed instruments and flutes!

Psa 150:5 Praise him with a clash of cymbals; praise him with loud clanging cymbals.

Psa 150:6 Let everything that lives sing praises to the LORD! Praise the LORD!^{NLT}

Notice all the things we can praise God 'for', and 'with'. The list is never ending.

Praising God is both a gift and a privilege that we have been given, not only to defeat the enemy¹, but to loose bondages (physical and spiritual), and experience unsurpassed victory in our life,

To conclude, here is a short example of a 'prayer of praise':

Heavenly Father, I praise Your Name forever! I shout joyful praises to You, for You are glorious, and magnificent; a God of miracles, wonder, and might!

I praise You for Your mighty works; For Your acts of kindness, and mercy, and love.

I praise You for Your power; And for Your exceeding, and unequalled greatness!

I will praise You among the nations; I will sing joyful praises to Your name;

And most of all I praise You, for the Father You are to me!

🌀 THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

This now brings us to 'the prayer of thanksgiving', which often accompanies our petitions and supplications, and why the apostle Paul says in...

¹ *Psa 8:2 Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings [or 'infants' ^{NIV}] hast thou ordained strength [or 'praise' ^{NIV}] because of [Your] enemies, that [You] might still the enemy and the avenger.*^{KJV mod.}

Phil 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

It is a close relation go praise, because it has the same joyful spirit behind it, even though it may not be as expressive because of its nature and primary function, and that is to show appreciation, and be grateful.

It is defined as being: “a public celebration of divine goodness”¹, and is yet another way that we can ‘commune with God’; Thanking Him for ‘every good and perfect gift’ in our lives (from James 1:17²).

In his commentary, William Hendriksen, says that “Paul begins nearly every one of his epistles with an outpouring of thanksgiving to God. Throughout his writings he again and again insists on the necessity of giving thanks. Prayer without thanksgiving is like a bird without wings...”³, it cannot rise to the heights it was destined and designed to.

We see an example of Paul ‘giving thanks’ at the beginning of an Epistle, in Colossians chapter 1, verses 3 and 4, where he writes...

Col 1:3 We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

Col 1:4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints;^{NKJV}

Also in Philippian chapter 1, in verses 3 through 6, the apostle Paul again begins with thanks to God and says...

Phil 1:3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,

Phil 1:4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy,

Phil 1:5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,

Phil 1:6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;^{NKJV}

Notice that in these verses we not only see the apostle Paul ‘giving thanks’, but also what he’s giving thanks for; Things such as ‘their fellowship in the Gospel’, their ‘faith in Christ Jesus’, their ‘love for all the saints’, and so on.

¹ Webster’s American Dictionary of the English Language © 1828 Noah Webster at www.webstersdictionary1828.com

² **James 1:17** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.^{NKJV}

³ William Hendriksen, ‘Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon’, Baker Books, Grand Rapids, Michigan. 49516. July 2002 **Philippians** p.196

The 'prayer of thanksgiving' should dominate our lives and thinking, and why the apostle Paul says in Colossians chapter 2 and verse 7...

Col 2:7b Let your lives overflow with thanksgiving for all he has done.^{NLT}

As someone once put it ¹, "Thanksgiving is the track on which faith carries it's mighty load."²

The reason being, while you are thanking God, it is difficult, if not impossible, for the devil to try and discourage you or get you to give up on your faith in God, and why the apostle Paul says in Ephesians chapter 5, verses 18 through 21...

Eph 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Eph 5:19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

Eph 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;^{KJV mod.}

In his commentary, F.F. Bruce says that: "...a grateful remembrance of past blessings is a safeguard against anxiety for the future."³

David was well aware of that and so wrote in Psalm 103, verses 2 through 5...

Psa 103:2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: (and then goes on to list them...)

Psa 103:3 Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases,

Psa 103:4 Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with loving-kindness and tender mercies,

Psa 103:5 Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.^{NKJV}

Ralph P. Martin writes, "Thanksgiving is an important accompaniment of true prayer. The recalling of God's goodness and mercy will save us from the many pitfalls which await the ungrateful soul, e.g. over-concern with our immediate problems, forgetfulness of God's gracious dealings with us in the past, disregard of the needs of others that are less fortunate than we are [...and so on...]."⁴

¹ Charles Nieman, *Lessons On Prayer*

² Charles Nieman, *Lessons On Prayer*, Lesson # 17 / 26

³ F.F. Bruce, *Philippians*, New International Biblical Commentary, © 1983, 1989 By Frederick Fyvie Bruce, Hendrickson Publishers, Inc. P.O. Box 3473, Peabody, Massachusetts 01961-3473. p.143

⁴ Ralph P. Martin, *Philippians*, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries, Volume 11, Inter-Varsity Press, Norton Street, Nottingham NG7 3HR, England, & P.O. Box 1400, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515, USA, p.176

That's why the apostle Paul says in 1st Thessalonians 5:18...

1 Th 5:18 *In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*^{KJV}

As Gordon D. Fee so eloquently put it, Paul "...could not imagine Christian life that was not a constant outpouring of gratitude to God."¹

William Hendriksen adds: "Gratitude is that which completes the circle whereby blessings that drop down into the hearts and lives of believers return to the Giver in the form of unending, loving, and spontaneous adoration."²

What a beautiful picture of 'the prayer of thanksgiving' this is, and why Hebrews chapter 13 and verse 15 says...

Heb 13:15 *Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.*^{NKJV}

We see an outstanding example of this in the incident with the ten lepers that Jesus 'cleansed' in Luke chapter 17, where it said, in verses 11 through 19...

Luke 17:11 *Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.*

Luke 17:12 *Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off.*

Luke 17:13 *And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"*

Luke 17:14 *So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed (Gk. 'katharizo' – 'to cleanse; purify'³).*

Luke 17:15 *And one of them, when he saw that he was healed (Gk. 'iaomai' – 'cured'⁴), returned, and with a loud voice glorified God,*

Luke 17:16 *and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.*

¹ Gordon D. Fee, *Paul's Letter To The Philippians*, © 1995 Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 255 Jefferson Ave. S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503. p.409

² William Hendriksen, '*Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon*', Baker Books, Grand Rapids, Michigan. 49516. July 2002 **Ephesians** p.241

³ *QuickVerse – Strong's Exhaustive Concordance Of The Bible*: © copyrighted 1980, 1986 and assigned to World Bible Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved (Software Version)

⁴ *QuickVerse – Strong's Exhaustive Concordance Of The Bible*: © copyrighted 1980, 1986 and assigned to World Bible Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved (Software Version)

Luke 17:17 So Jesus answered and said, "*Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?*"

Luke 17:18 "*Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?*"

Luke 17:19 And He said to him, "*Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well (Gk. 'sozo' – 'heal and make whole'¹)."*^{NKJV}

Notice here that even though the nine were 'cleansed' of their leprosy (...although they weren't completely healed of the damage it had done to their bodies), the one who returned to 'give thanks' (vs.16) was, on the other hand, completely healed and made 'whole' again (vs.19), to where you couldn't tell that he ever had leprosy!

This is the power of thanksgiving, and the blessing that accompany it.

For anyone interested, here is an example of a 'prayer of thanksgiving' that you can pray:

Thank You Heavenly Father, for rescuing me from the kingdom of darkness and translating me into the Kingdom of Your dear Son; Thank You for Your angels; for protecting and looking after me where ever I go.

Thank You for Your favour; for opening doors that no man can close, and for closing doors that I shouldn't go through; Thank You for supplying all my needs according to Your riches in glory; And for reserving a priceless inheritance for me, that will last forever.

Thank You for Your unending love; Thank You for Your patience, forgiveness, and divine grace; Thank You for Your many blessings; For all Your 'good and perfect gifts' that overflow in my life, and that I am so very grateful for!

And most of all, I thank You Father, for the Cross of Jesus Christ; Thank You for adopting me into Your family; And calling me Your child!

Thank You for seating me at your right hand, giving me an inheritance, giving me your armour, giving me a future and a destiny, and making me more than a conqueror!

Thank You also for making me an heir of God, and a joint heir with Jesus Christ!

Thank You for everything You've done for me; Everything your currently doing for me; And everything your are planning to do for me in the future; And, most of all, for always being there!

In Jesus Name. Amen.

¹ QuickVerse – Strong's Exhaustive Concordance Of The Bible: © copyrighted 1980, 1986 and assigned to World Bible Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved (Software Version)

🎵 THE PRAYER OF WORSHIP

Now just as praise has to do with God's majestic attributes, and thanksgiving had to do with what God had done for us and doing for us (past and present), 'the prayer of worship' has to do with devotion, intimacy, and fellowship (not to be confused with 'relationship'¹), and is defined as "adoration, supreme respect, and honouring with extravagant love and extreme submission."²

The posture of worship is brought out in several Scriptures; First, in 2nd Chronicles chapter 29 and verse 30, it says...

2 Chr 29:30 *Moreover King Hezekiah and the leaders commanded the Levites to sing praise to the LORD with the words of David and of Asaph the seer. So they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshiped.*^{NKJV}

Next, in Psalm 96 and verse 6, it says...

Psa 95:6 *Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.*^{NKJV}

Further to the physical aspect of worship, there is also the spiritual aspect, with Jesus saying in John chapter 4, verses 23 and 24...

John 4:23 *"But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.*

John 4:24 *"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*^{NKJV}

This is the place where there is honesty and transparency; A place where sin is exposed, dealt with (involving heart-felt repentance), and then forgotten³.

It is a place of cleansing, restoration, and perfection; With the apostle John saying in 1st John 1:9...

1 John 1:9 *If we confess [or lit. 'acknowledge'] our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness [and therefore, putting us in a place of 'perfect righteousness' before God].*^{NKJV}

¹ Relationship is what you came into when you gave your life to Christ. At that point in time, God became your Father and you became His child. You were now related.

² Excerpts from: *Webster's American Dictionary of the English Language* © 1828 Noah Webster at www.webstersdictionary1828.com

³ **Jer 31:34b** *For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.*^{NKJV}

Now, as to what we are to 'worship' God for, it says in Psalm 29 and verse 2...

Psa 29:2 Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.^{NKJV}

All of heaven knows what true worship is; And they are not ashamed to worship God with all of their might; And why it says in Revelation chapter 4, verses 9 through 11...

Rev 4:9 Whenever the living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,

Rev 4:10 the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

Rev 4:11 "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honour and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."^{NKJV}

This is what the early church understood and what it meant when it said in Acts chapter 13 and verse 2...

Acts 13:2 While they were *worshipping the Lord and fasting* (or as the New King James says, '*As they ministered to the Lord and fasted,*'^{NKJV}), the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."^{NIV}

In worship, there are no requests made to God; All the focus is on God, and God alone (not our problems), and why Psalm 96:9 says...

Psa 96:9a Worship the LORD in all his holy splendour. Let all the earth tremble before him.^{NLT}

It is only when we realise that the whole earth should be trembling before Him, that we finally understand what the Psalmist meant in Psalm 46, verses 10 and 11...

Psa 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!

Psa 46:11a The LORD of hosts is with us;^{NKJV}

The early church knew how to praise and worship God correctly. They understood fully where their strength and success came from. It says in Luke chapter 24, verses 51 through 53...

Luke 24:51 Now it came to pass, while He (Jesus) blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven.

Luke 24:52 And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,

Luke 24:53 and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen. ^{NKJV}

What a great way to end a gospel, and perhaps, even describe our life before God!

adoration, supreme respect, and honouring with extravagant love and extreme submission

To conclude, here is a short example of a 'prayer of worship':

Lord God Almighty, I bow before You and worship You, in spirit and in truth.

For You are worthy to receive glory and honour.

For You created all things; And it is by Your will that everything, everywhere, exists!

My life will always centre around You; And I will always love You, with all my heart.

Lord, I worship You and adore You; For You are my God; And there is none like You!

CHAPTER 7



Kinds Of Prayer IV

(Binding & Loosing, Agreement, United Prayer)

§ THE PRAYER OF BINDING & LOOSING

Now we come to *the less frequently used prayers*; And they are ‘*the prayer of Binding & Loosing*’, ‘*the prayer of agreement*’, and ‘*united prayer*’.

We will begin with ‘*the prayer of binding and loosing*’ as brought out in Matthew chapter 16, and verse 19, where Jesus says...

Mat 16:19 *"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."^{NKJV}*

The ‘*keys of the kingdom*’ are a representation of *God’s delegated authority to the church*.

And according the *Spirit Filled Life Bible*, “*Jesus is passing on to His church His authority or control to bind and to loose on earth. The Greek construction behind ‘will be bound’ and ‘will be loosed’ indicates that Jesus is the One who has activated the provisions through His Cross; the church is then charged with implementation of what He has released through His life, death, and resurrection.”¹*

¹ *Spirit Filled Life Bible (NKJV). A Personal Study Bible Unveiling All God’s Fullness In All God’s Word.* General Editor Jack W. Hayford, Litt.D. Copyright © 1991 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. P.O. Box 141000, Nashville, Tennessee 37214-1000. p.1436

Therefore, whenever things get 'out of control,' it is up to us to 'take control' in the name of Jesus, and 'bind' whatever needs to be bound, and 'loose' whatever needs to be loosed, and to further emphasise this, He repeats it again Matthew 18:18 and says...

Mat 18:18 "Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."^{NKJV}

What's interesting about this verse (as opposed to Matthew 16:19) is that it follows immediately from church discipline, and how to reconcile with, and bring restoration to, a sinning brother or sister in verses 15 through 17, where Jesus says...

Mat 18:15 "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother."

Mat 18:16 "But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'"

Mat 18:17 "And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector."^{NKJV}

Without going into too much detail about the process of discipline and restoration outlined here, notice in verses 16 and 17 the number of times the sinning brother or sister refuses to listen to or receive what is being said.

And so, Jesus effectively says, "Once you have exhausted every natural avenue available to you, don't stop. There is still the spirit realm and prayer." And as to what you need to pray for, He says in verse 18...

Mat 18:18 "Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."^{NKJV}

In other words, when someone is this stubborn, and literally "wills" not to change (**vs.16: 'he will not hear'**), then you need to attack the situation spiritually, through the prayer of binding and loosing.

It might be that there is a spirit influencing this brother or sister to such a degree that they are no longer thinking straight, or are 'in their right mind.'

That's when you need to 'bind' those spiritual influences around them, and command that devil to turn them 'loose' (thus, binding and loosing), 'in the Name of Jesus.'

So, much of the time, what we try to do is deal with the situation at hand in the natural while allowing all the spiritual influences to keep on opposing and counteracting everything we are doing.

That's why Jesus said in Mark chapter 3, and verse 27...

Mark 3:27 *"No one can enter a strong man's house (referring to the devil) and plunder his goods, unless he first 'binds' the strong man. And then he will plunder his house."*^{NKJV}

When ever we attack a problem spiritually, we are plundering satan's kingdom; And therefore, before we do, Jesus says that we must first 'bind' the devil and all his influences, and then we will be free to do God's Work.

And to help us identify what we are fighting against, and more importantly, what we must do to protect ourselves, the apostle Paul says in Ephesians chapter 6, verses 11 through 13...

Eph 6:11 *Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

Eph 6:12 *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

Eph 6:13 *Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*^{NKJV}

In these verses, not only does the apostle Paul identify the evil we must oppose, but he also tells us to put on the whole armour of God (in verses 11 and 13) before we ever begin to do anything of this nature because of the retaliation that always follows.

But once you've got your armour on, then it's time to take authority and "bind" whatever needs to be bound, and "loose" whatever needs to be loosed, and in doing so, give the devil 'no place' whatsoever.¹

That's exactly what Jesus did with the woman that was bent over for eighteen years. He took authority over the spirit of infirmity and set her free. The incident is brought out in Luke chapter 13, verses 11 through 13, where it says...

Luke 13:11 *And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up.*

Luke 13:12 *But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are 'loosed' from your infirmity."*

Luke 13:13 *And (only after He had spoken to the infirmity it says that...) He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.*

¹ **Eph 4:27** *Neither give place to the devil.*^{KJV}

What this verse shows us is that some healings need a spirit to be cast out first, before you can lay hands on them and pray for their healing.

In other words, in some situations (...that have underlying spiritual forces attached to them), 'the prayer of binding and loosing' needs to precede all other prayers, so that the enemy is 'bound' from the very beginning from interfering with your prayers; And Heaven is 'loosed' and free to bring to pass, every single thing that is being prayed for.

Now, just a place to start, here is a sample prayer on 'Binding & Loosing' that you can pray:

Dear Heavenly Father, as Your son/daughter, I thank You for giving me the keys of the Kingdom; And whatever I bind on earth is bound in heaven, and whatever I loose on earth is loosed in heaven.

Therefore, in the Name of Jesus, I take authority over satan and all of his demons right now, and bind, and render helpless, all the principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world, spiritual wickedness in high places from operating in every situation; I bind all sickness and disease released against my mind and body; And I bind everything that would distract me, and get in the way of me fulfilling my destiny in God;

Also, I loose myself from every assignment of witchcraft, sorcery, divination, generational curses, hereditary spirits, demonic influences and bondages of any kind; I loose myself from every spoken curse and negative word spoken against my life; I loose my mind, will, and emotions from every assignment and spirit of darkness, in the Name of Jesus; I loose my finances from every spirit of poverty, debt, and lack; And I loose the angels of God to carry out God's perfect will, plans and purposes in my life, in Jesus Name, Amen.

§ THE PRAYER OF AGREEMENT

Now, returning to Matthew chapter 18, immediately following 'the prayer of binding and loosing', Jesus goes on to introduce another kind of prayer in the very next verse, and that is the prayer of agreement.¹ He says in Matthew chapter 18, verses 19 and 20...

Mat 18:19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask (meaning that you must be specific in your request), it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

Mat 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.^{KJV}

¹ This is thought to have come from **Deuteronomy 32:30** which says, "How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?", but I'm not totally convinced of that.

The 'prayer of agreement' requires two or more people that are in 'complete agreement,' and 'of like faith,' in order to work.

Firstly, 'complete agreement' means that both individuals have a clear understanding of what's being prayed for and agree that it is 'in God's will' and what is actually needed.

If there is any doubt about either of these two things, this prayer will not work.

Next, with regard to 'like faith', it means that both individuals are sufficiently developed in their faith and trust in God to believe and receive what is being agreed upon.

This doesn't mean that they have to be equally developed in faith in every area, just in what they are both believing and agreeing for at the time.

And unlike all the other kinds of prayers, the prayer of agreement is most likely the shortest prayer you will ever pray.

It generally follows a statement of faith such as, "I believe that this sickness is not unto death" with the other person simply saying, "I agree. In Jesus Name. Amen!"

That's all there is to this prayer; It is short, simple, and extremely powerful when prayed in faith.

That's why Jesus says in the latter half of verse 19...

Mat 18:19b ... it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. ^{KJV}

In his commentary on this verse, Leon Morris writes: "Jesus is saying that the agreement of even two of his followers ...will bring great results. ... God is always ready to hear the united prayers of even two of His little ones."¹

Added to this, *The Full Life Study Bible* says that, "There is great authority in corporate and agreeing prayer. The reason is that where two or three are gathered together in faith and commitment to Christ, He is in their midst (v. 20). His presence will impart faith, strength, direction, grace and consolation."²

¹ Leon Morris, '*The Gospel According To Matthew*', Copyright © 1992 by Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 255 Jefferson Ave. S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503 p.470

² *The Full Life Study Bible – King James Version.* Copyright © 1992 by Life Publishers International. Published by Zondervan Publishing House. Grand Rapids, Michigan 49530, U.S.A. p.1442

That's the power of 'the prayer of agreement.'

Now, before we move on, there is one other application to this prayer that is a little unusual, and seldom used. It requires verse 18 to be included in it, and when we read it all together, we have Jesus saying...

Mat 18:18 "Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Mat 18:19 "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven."

Mat 18:20 "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."^{NKJV}

There are times when someone may be demon possessed and behaving in a most unreasonable, and perhaps even violent manner (...which would explain why in the previous three verses, Jesus talks about a person who refuses to reconcile and has to be treated like an unbeliever).

In situations like this, you might need the assistance of another person or two, in order to have an abundance of 'like faith' available to overcome, bind, and eventually cast out any evil spirits that may be operating in the wilfully stubborn persons life.

Now, not all stubborn, wilful people are demon-possessed; In most cases, sadly, that's just how they are. (So, don't embarrass yourself trying to cast out something that isn't there.)

But on the rare occasion that there is something sinister and evil behind what's going on, it is best not to handle it alone, but have at least one or two other people that are in agreement with you pray together (and with the Lord in your midst), cast the thing out.

That was one of the reasons that it said in Mark chapter 6 and verse 7...

Mark 6:7 And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits."^{NKJV}

And as to the result of sending them out in two's, it goes on to say in verse 13...

Mark 6:13 And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them."^{NKJV}

This shows us another powerful application of the prayer of agreement, and that is to heal the sick. That's one of the truths brought out in James chapter 5, verses 14 and 15, where it says...

James 5:14 *Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders (plural) of the church, and let them (again, plural) pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.*

James 5:15 *And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.^{NKJV}*

Here again we see the elders of the church praying together in faith, and as a result of this ‘prayer of agreement’ (...which we found in our previous study, also referred to a very serious ‘vow’ before God¹, making it doubly powerful), it says that, not only will the sick be saved, but that “the Lord will raise him up” as well.

Once again, we see how the different ‘kinds of prayer’ were never meant to be prayed one at a time, but as the Spirit leads, ‘flowing’ from one ‘kind’ into another, effortlessly and seamlessly, to accomplish God’s will, and defeat the enemy.

§ UNITED PRAYER (PRAYING IN ONE ACCORD)

This brings us to another kind of prayer of agreement, called ‘united prayer.’

And as opposed to ‘the prayer of agreement’, ‘united prayer’ usually involves a larger group of people coming together to pray and seek God for various reasons.

One such example is found in Acts chapter 1, where, following the resurrection of Jesus (and His instructions to His disciples go to Jerusalem and wait to be baptised with the Holy Spirit), it says in verses 12 through 14 saying...

Acts 1:12 *Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey.*

Acts 1:13 *And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James.*

Acts 1:14 *These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.^{NKJV}*

And as a result of their united prayerful obedience, it goes on to say in Acts chapter 2, verses 1 through 4...

¹ *Spirit-Filled Believer's Topical Bible (The), Reference Edition, Copyright © 1992 by Harrison House, P.O. Box 35035, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74153, USA. p.103*

Acts 2:1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place (meaning that they were still in prayer; specifically 'united prayer').

Acts 2:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Acts 2:3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.^{NKJV}

Further to this, when we get to Acts chapter 4, after Peter and John were arrested and severely threatened by the religious leaders to 'no longer speak in the Name of Jesus' (after healing a lame man at the gate 'Beautiful'), it says in verses 21 through 24...

Acts 4:21 So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done.

Acts 4:22 For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed.

Acts 4:23 And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them.

Acts 4:24 So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord (that's 'united prayer') and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them..."^{NKJV}

This prayer continues on through to verse 30, at which point they conclude, and it says in verse 31...

Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed (in unity and harmony), the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.^{NKJV}

So here, unlike Acts chapter 2, where 'they were filled with the Spirit and spoke in other tongues', it says that 'they were filled with the spirit and spoke the Word of God with boldness', which is exactly what they wanted.

What this shows us is that, when ever believers come together in Spirit-led, Spirit-empowered, 'united prayer,' God always shows up in the most extraordinary ways, and does the most extraordinary things; So that we can accomplish the impossible in the earth.

Of course, united prayer was not something that was unique to the New Testament, but something that was well-known, and often utilised, in the Old Testament as brought out in 2nd Chronicles chapter 5 (which was in the time of King Solomon), with verses 13 and 14 saying...

2 Chr 5:13 indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice (that's 'united prayer') with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever," that the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud,

2 Chr 5:14 so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God.^{NKJV}

This time of prayer, praise and worship continues through chapter 6 and the last verse, and then it says in chapter 7, verses 1 through 3...

2 Chr 7:1 When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the temple.

2 Chr 7:2 And the priests could not enter the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the Lord's house.

2 Chr 7:3 When all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD on the temple, they bowed their faces to the ground on the pavement, and worshiped and praised the LORD, saying: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever."^{NKJV}

Notice a couple of things here very quickly: First, everyone saw "the fire come down," and they all saw "the glory of the Lord on the temple" as well; What an overwhelming sight this would have been; Something that would have gone far beyond anything they could have ever imagined.

Second, they all "bowed their faces to the ground, and worshiped and praised the LORD"; This was voluntary, not forced; Which immediately tells us that, when the presence of God is actually present, it will literally drive people to their knees. (This is where supernatural evangelism takes place to where God gets all the glory.)

Third, they all "worshipped and praised the Lord" by saying exactly the same thing, and that was: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever."

What all this shows us is the great power there is in united prayer, when done right, with the right heart; It allows the very presence, power, and glory of God to be revealed, in all of its astonishing splendour and majesty; It shakes the very foundations of the earth, and has the power to defeat all the enemies plans.

To conclude, here is an example of 'united prayer' that you can pray with others:

Dear Heavenly Father, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, we put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, and longsuffering; we bear with one another, and forgive one another; just as Christ forgave us; And since we are called to travel the same road, and in the same direction, we will do everything possible to stay together, both outwardly and inwardly; We have one Master, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, Who rules over all, works through all; and is present in all.

Everything we are, and think and do is permeated with 'oneness'; We commit, Lord, to pray for one another, keeping our eyes open and keeping each other motivated, so that no one falls behind or fails; Also, we pray for our spiritual leaders, that they will know what to say, and have the courage to say it at the right time; We are one in the bond of love, in the Name of Jesus. Amen.

CHAPTER 8



Kinds Of Prayer V

(Intercessory Prayer & Praying In Other Tongues)

§ THE PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

We now come to the *last two* ‘*kinds of prayer*’, and they are ‘*praying in other tongues*’ and ‘*intercessory prayer*’.

Of the two, we will begin with *intercessory prayer*, because it is a *particular* ‘*kind of prayer*’ that is *unique and different* to all the other ‘*kinds of prayer*’ we’ve looked at, where as *praying in tongues*, as we’ll see, *encompasses all the* ‘*kinds of prayer*,’ including *intercessory prayer*, and which was only available *after the Day of Pentecost* (*Acts 2:4*¹).

So, let’s begin by looking at what the word ‘*intercession*’ actually means.

It is *best described* in Ezekiel chapter 22 and verse 30, where God Himself defines it for us when He says there...

Ezek 22:30 *And I (God) sought for a man (or woman) among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.*^{KJV}

The *Spirit Filled Life Bible* says: “*The text says, ‘I sought for a man...who would...stand...before Me on behalf of.’ This clearly identifies this passage with*

¹ *Acts 2:4* *And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*^{NKJV}

intercession. No single phrase in Scripture more accurately describes the work of an intercessor than the phrase ‘stand before Me on behalf of’. The intercessor always comes ‘before God’ on ‘behalf of’ others. [It then goes on to say...] Also significant is the intercessor’s twofold responsibility. Not only would he [or she] ‘make a wall’ which suggests he [or she] would restore a breach caused by an enemy, but he [or she] would ‘stand in the gap’, or plug up that breach against the enemy throughout the building process. [In short, it says...] There is a ‘gap’ between God and man that that an intercessor tries to repair.”¹

Beyond this definition, there is also the New Testament equivalent in Romans chapter 8, verses 26 and 27, where the apostle Paul writes...

Rom 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession (huperentugchano:G5241) for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Rom 8:27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession (Gk. ‘Entugchano’:G1793) for the saints according to the will of God.^{NKJV}

Here we find two different Greek words for ‘intercession’: The First word, found in verse 26, is the Greek word (Gk. huperentugchano:G5241) which means, “to intercede in behalf of” or “make intercession for”² (as defined before in Ezekiel 22:30);

And the Second Greek word (Gk. ‘Entugchano’:G1793), found in verse 27, means “to entreat”³; Or in more specifically: “To turn to God and ‘plead’ on behalf of another”.

All this goes back to our previous definition of ‘standing before God on behalf of...’ someone.

This is what Job desperately needed in his time of trouble, with him saying in Job 9:33...

Job 9:33 Nor is there any mediator between us [...that is, God and Job...], Who may lay his hand on us both.^{NKJV}

And, of course, we know according to 1st Timothy 2:5, that Mediator did come, in the form of Jesus Christ, with the apostle Paul saying there...

¹ Spirit Filled Life Bible (NKJV). A Personal Study Bible Unveiling All God’s Fullness In All God’s Word. General Editor Jack W. Hayford, Litt.D. Copyright © 1991 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. P.O. Box 141000, Nashville, Tennessee 37214-1000. p.1186

² QuickVerse – Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance Of The Bible: © copyrighted 1980, 1986 and assigned to World Bible Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved (Software Version)

³ QuickVerse – Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance Of The Bible: © copyrighted 1980, 1986 and assigned to World Bible Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved (Software Version)

1 Tim 2:5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,^{NKJV}

In other words, a part of Christ's ministry today is to intercede for all the saints (...all those who have made Him Lord), and why Hebrews chapter 7, and the latter half of verse 25 says...

Heb 7:25b ...He (Jesus) always lives (or "ever liveth"^{KJV}) to make intercession (Gk. 'Entugchano':G1793) for them.^{NKJV}

The good news is that, even though you may not have anyone praying for you down here, always know that Jesus Christ is interceding for you right now in Heaven; And His prayers are more than enough!

What's more, in 1st John 2:1, the apostle John reveals something of great importance when he says there...

1 John 2:1 My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if you do sin, there is someone to plead for you before the Father (lit. "one who speaks to the Father in our defence"^{NIV}). He is Jesus Christ, the one who pleases God completely.^{NLT}

The New King James Version, which is a transliteration (or a word-for-word translation) from the Greek says...

1 John 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.^{NKJV}

The *Believer's Study Bible* says that "the term 'Advocate' portrays Jesus as both an 'attorney' and an 'intercessor,' one who represents the cause of believers in the presence of the Father."¹

And so, when Christ acts as our intercessor and defence attorney, every condemnation brought against us by the enemy is 'overruled,' and why the apostle Paul says in Romans 8:34...

Rom 8:34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession (Gk. 'Entugchano':G1793) for us.^{NKJV}

William Hendriksen, in his commentary writes: "...how would it even be conceivable that the Father should deny the intercessory prayers of the Son, who so fully, marvellously, and gloriously accomplished the task assigned to him?"¹

¹ *Believers Study Bible (BSB)*, QuickVerse Notes Version. Notes on 1 John 2:1

So, this is how Jesus Christ intercedes for us, and this is the model that we are to follow in our intercession for others.

Our prayers must be well prepared, both in heart and mind, and not only have God's Word behind it, but also the strength of will and emotion as well.

The reason for emotion is because of what Hebrews 4:15 says, and that is...

Heb 4:15 *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*^{KJV}

This tells us that Jesus Christ must be passionate in His intercession for us before the Father. Especially against 'the accuser of the brethren,'² satan.

And that's what we need to try and picture every time we begin interceding on behalf of others, and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us along the way.

It is something that we should all be engaged in, and why the apostle Paul says in 1st Timothy chapter 2, and verse 1...

1 Tim 2:1 *Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men*^{NKJV}

In other words, along with all the other 'kinds of prayers' that God expects us to pray everyday, 'the prayer of intercession' should be included, especially since Isaiah 59:16 says that...

Isa 59:16a *He (that is, God) saw that there was no man (or woman), And wondered (or 'was astonished') that there was no intercessor (... 'no one to intercede')*:^{NKJV}

What's more, it actually goes on to say in Isaiah 64:7 (*from the New Living Translation*)...

Isa 64:7a *Yet no one calls on Your Name or pleads with You for mercy.*^{NLT}

From these Scriptures (*and, of course, Ezekiel 22:30*³), we see that God is constantly calling for intercessory prayer warriors.

¹ William Hendriksen, *New Testament Commentary – Romans*, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Michigan. 49516. p.289

² **Rev 12:10** *Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down."*^{NKJV}

³ **Ezek 22:30** *And I (God) sought for a man (or woman) among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.*

As challenging as this may be, as the Spirit leads, it is time that we make an effort to answer that call, and take our rightful place in prayer and 'stand in the gap' for people and nations that are in desperate need of Divine intervention.

We see some outstanding examples of this in the Old Testament, where the saints of Old, even though they didn't have the gift of 'other tongues', did an exceptional job of 'standing in the gap' and acting as 'go-betweens' for both, people and nations.

The first example we'll look at is Abraham's intercession for the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah; That's found in Genesis chapter 18, in verses 17 through 33, where it says...

Gen 18:17 *And the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing,*

Gen 18:18 *"since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?"*

Gen 18:19 *"For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him."*

Gen 18:20 *And the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave,*

Gen 18:21 *"I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know."*

Gen 18:22 *Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. (He did not go his way; Instead, it goes on to say...)*

Gen 18:23 *And Abraham came near and said, "Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked?" (This is where Abraham's intercession begins; And added to this question, also then asks...)*

Gen 18:24 *"Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it?"*

Gen 18:25 *"Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (Notice how he is not only holding the righteous up before God, but also appealing to His mercy and justice as well.)*

Gen 18:26 *So the LORD said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes."*

Gen 18:27 *Then Abraham answered and said, "Indeed now, I who am but dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord:*

Gen 18:28 *"Suppose there were five less than the fifty righteous; would You destroy all of the city for lack of five?" (It is extremely significant the way that Abraham worded the question; It is essential that we keep our eyes on what right, and do everything to preserve it; Not look at what's wrong, and be in a hurry to destroy it...) So He said, "If I find there forty-five, I will not destroy it."*

Gen 18:29 *And he spoke to Him yet again and said, "Suppose there should be forty found there?" So He said, "I will not do it for the sake of forty."*

Gen 18:30 *Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Suppose thirty should be found there?" So He said, "I will not do it if I find thirty there."*

Gen 18:31 *And he said, "Indeed now, I have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: Suppose twenty should be found there?" So He said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of twenty."*

Gen 18:32 *Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but once more: Suppose ten should be found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of ten."*

Gen 18:33 *So the LORD went His way as soon as He had finished speaking with Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.^{NKJV}*

Notice how one man, through intercession, set the conditions for either the preservation, or the destruction, of two major cities; That's what God is looking for; And what He so desires for the Body of Christ to do.

As a second example, let's go to Exodus chapter 32, where Moses intercedes for the children of Israel, who had 'strayed from the faith' to such a degree that it states in verses 7 through 14...

Exo 32:7 *And the LORD said to Moses, "Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves."*

Exo 32:8 *"They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a moulded calf, and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!'"*

Exo 32:9 *And the LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people!"*

Exo 32:10 *"Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them (...this is the price of disobedience and rebellion against God). And I will make of you a great nation." (Moses could have rejoiced greatly in this, and avoided a great deal of heart-ache; But instead, he decided to take the high road, and stand in the gap, and intercede for these people, with verse 11 going on to say...)*

Exo 32:11 Then Moses pleaded with the LORD his God (...this is 'the prayer of intercession;' That's why **Romans 8:34** in the New Living Translation substitutes "makes intercession for us" with the phrase "pleading for us"...), and said: "LORD, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?"

Exo 32:12 "Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, 'He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? (Notice the basis of his intercession: he doesn't want God to look bad! And so he says...) Turn from Your fierce wrath, and relent from this harm to Your people.

Exo 32:13 "Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" (Here, Moses reminds God of His promises to those who did obey Him; And so, as a result of not wanting God to look bad, and expecting Him to keep His word, it says...)

Exo 32:14 So the LORD relented ('changed His mind'^{NRSV}, 'repented'^{KJV}) from the harm which He said He would do to His people.^{NKJV}

But this is not where it ends. It goes on to say in verses 30 through 32...

Exo 32:30 Now it came to pass on the next day (...after Moses had confronted the people about their sin...) that Moses said to the people, "You have committed a great sin. So now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin."

Exo 32:31 Then Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold!

Exo 32:32 "Yet now, if You will forgive their sin; but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written."^{NKJV}

Notice that Moses uses a different approach to Abraham; While Abraham's intercession was based on God's righteousness ("Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"), Moses' intercession is based on God's mercy and grace ("...forgive their sin ...if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written.").

So, here are two different ways of going before God and, in prayer, making intercession for those you love.

Now, just as a third example of 'intercession', let's take a look at one of the most exceptional, and outstanding characters in all the Word of God: Daniel.

To give you some context: At this time, Israel had gone into captivity due to the sins of the people against God (such as, rebellion against God, sacrificing to idols, shedding

innocent blood, and various sins of the flesh, to name a few), and even though Daniel had lived an upright, righteous life, he too was taken captive, along with the rest of the nation.

Under these circumstances, in his prayer time, it would have been so easy for Daniel to have become bitter and angry with his people and said something like:

“They have sinned and done wrong. They have rebelled against you and scorned your commands and regulations.

They have refused to listen to your servants the prophets, who spoke your messages to our kings and princes and ancestors and to all the people of the land.

“Lord, you are in the right; but their faces are covered with shame, just as you see them now. This is true of all of them, including the people of Judah and Jerusalem and all Israel, scattered near and far, wherever you have driven them because of their disloyalty to you.

O LORD, they and their kings, princes, and ancestors are covered with shame because they have sinned against you.”

That’s what most Christians would have prayed today, if they had done everything right and still, were forcibly removed from their homes, and taken into captivity, all because of the sins of their neighbours.

But not Daniel. He refuses to let strife and bitterness get in the way, and instead of turning his back on them, and blaming them for his predicament (which he had every right to do), he decides to forgive them; ‘identify’ with them; And intercede for them!

And his prayer of intercession (as he stands before God, on behalf of the people and the nation), is as follows, in Daniel chapter 9, verses 5 through 8, where he says...

Dan 9:5 *But we have sinned and done wrong. We have rebelled against you and scorned your commands and regulations.*

Dan 9:6 *We have refused to listen to your servants the prophets, who spoke your messages to our kings and princes and ancestors and to all the people of the land.*

Dan 9:7 *“Lord, you are in the right; but our faces are covered with shame, just as you see us now. This is true of us all, including the people of Judah and Jerusalem and all Israel, scattered near and far, wherever you have driven us because of our disloyalty to you.*

Dan 9:8 *O LORD, we and our kings, princes, and ancestors are covered with shame because we have sinned against you.* ^{NLT}

This is the mark of an exceptional intercessor: One who 'turns to God, and pleads on behalf of the people', clearly 'identifying' with them by saying 'we', instead of 'they', and having an attitude of praying 'with' them, instead of just 'for' them.

Continuing on in verses 18 and 19, he now says...

Dan 9:18 *"O my God, listen to me and hear my request (...this can only come from a person with a righteous heart, living a righteous life and, therefore, has the faith and confidence to believe for the best possible outcome! And so, be continues...). Open your eyes and see our wretchedness. See how Your city lies in ruins--for everyone knows that it is Yours. We do not ask because we deserve help, but because you are so merciful.*

Dan 9:19 *"O Lord, hear. O Lord, forgive. O Lord, listen and act! For Your own sake, O my God, do not delay, for your people and your city bear Your name."^{NLT}*

Notice how Daniel's intercession is based on two things:

First, God's mercy ("...because You are so merciful..."[vs.18]);

And Second, the preservation of God's reputation ("...Your city lies in ruins--for everyone knows that it is Yours [vs.18]... For Your own sake...Your city bears Your name [vs.19]).

What an amazingly bright, compassionate, and wise individual he was; Knowing exactly how to approach God on such an incredibly difficult matter, and getting Him to act in such a way that He isn't violating His will or His Word.

That's where a lot of intercession goes 'wrong': When people ask God to do something that directly contradicts His Word or His will, and then wonder why their prayers didn't work.

To conclude, let's take a quick look at Colossians chapter 4, verse 12 and 13, where the apostle Paul talks about the intercessory prayer ministry of the founder of that church (at Colossae), and says about him...

Col 4:12 *Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers (lit. 'always wrestling in prayer for you'), that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.*

Col 4:13 *For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal (or 'agonized'^{NLT}) for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis."^{NKJV}*

R. Kent Hughes writes: "Epaphras was from Colossae. He had come all the way to Rome because he was concerned about the Gnostic heresy which threatened to rob the Colossians of their fullness. Epaphras has a profound concern for his fellow believers. Paul represented him as 'always wrestling in prayer for you'. From the Greek word

used here, we get our English word 'agonise'. Paul had watched Epaphras pray for Colossae, and this was the one word which best described his prayer. The same root word was used to describe Jesus' fervent prayer in Gethsemane (Luke 22:44)... This was selfless, giving, big-hearted prayer."¹

That's the spirit and the heart of intercession.

So, what we've seen are some very different individuals, with very different personalities, interceding in different ways, meaning that, whatever 'way' you come up with to intercede will be just as unique as you are, and will be just as right in God's eyes as what Abraham, Moses, Daniel, and Epaphras did.

Of course, this will take some effort, and discipline on your part; But don't give up; Persevere.

Because the results will be nothing less than astounding. And the testimonies you will have will be timeless, and priceless.

To conclude, here is an example of what 'the prayer of intercession' looks like; This particular prayer is for protection...

Dear Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus, I lift up [this person] to You; I stand in the gap and pray a hedge of protection around them, and thank You, Father, that You are a wall of fire round about them, and you set Your angels round about them;

Father, I thank You, that [this person] dwells in the secret place of the Most High and abides under the shadow of the Almighty; They will say of You, Lord, that You are their refuge and their fortress; And in You they trust. Therefore, You will cover them with Your feathers, and under Your wings they shall always find security and protection.

Because they have made You Lord, no evil will befall them; No accident will overtake them; Neither shall any plague or calamity come near them. For you give Your angels charge over them, to guard and protect them where ever they go.

Whenever they call upon You, You will answer; You will honour them, and be with them in trouble; You will rescue them, and satisfy them with long life, and show them Your salvation; And they will forever, love You, and honour You, and rejoice in You, and bless You. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

¹ R. Kent Hughes, *Colossians & Philemon – The Supremacy of Christ*, Copyright © 1989 by R. Kent Hughes, Published by Crossways Books, A division of Good News Publishers, Westchester, Illinois. 60154. p.151

§ PRAYING 'IN' THE SPIRIT & PRAYING 'WITH' THE SPIRIT

Now, that we have some idea of what *'intercession'* is, and what it involves, let's go on to look at the final *'kind of prayer'*, and *one of the most powerful 'weapons'* we now have in our arsenal, *'praying 'with' the spirit'*, or *praying in other tongues*.

This is the *'kind of prayer'* that *incorporates* all other *'kinds of prayer'*; Meaning that you can use this *heavenly language* in *all of your prayers* as we'll see in just a moment.

Now, before we go any further, we need to make a distinction between *praying 'in' the Spirit* and *praying 'with' the spirit*.

Praying *'IN' the Spirit* is praying *'Spirit-led, Spirit-empowered prayer'* that, in the *New Testament*, *includes 'tongues'*, especially since it is *the apostle Paul* who wrote in Ephesians chapter 6 and verse 18, and said...

Eph 6:18 *Praying always with all prayer and supplication 'IN' the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints;*^{NKJV}

Remember again that it is this *same apostle* that said in 1st Corinthians 14:18...

1 Cor 14:18 *I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all;*^{NKJV}

And so, for anyone who *prays in this way, praying 'in' the Spirit* will *always include 'praying in other tongues'*, because it is *the most perfect prayer* that *the Spirit* can *lead you* in.

And as an *added bonus*, Jude, the half brother of Jesus, also says in Jude verse 20...

Jude vs.20 *But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit*^{NKJV}

Therefore, when you *pray in the Spirit*, you not only *pray the perfect will of God*, but you also *'build yourself up on your most holy faith'* in the process!

Now, as opposed to *praying 'in' the Spirit*, when the apostle Paul says *praying 'with' the spirit*, he is making *specific reference* to *praying in 'other tongues'*.

That's brought out in 1st Corinthians chapter 14, where he (*the apostle Paul*) says in verses 14 and 15...

1 Cor 14:14 *For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.*

1 Cor 14:15 *What is the conclusion then? I will pray 'with' the spirit, and I will also pray 'with' the understanding. I will sing 'with' the spirit, and I will also sing 'with' the understanding.*^{NKJV}

There are several things here that we need to take note of; *Firstly*, notice in verse 14 that the apostle Paul says “if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays” (...note the little ‘s’ for spirit here, as opposed to the capital ‘S’ for ‘Spirit’ used in Ephesians 6:18 to indicate the Holy Spirit), meaning that praying in tongues is an activity of the human spirit, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

That’s clearly brought out in Acts chapter 2 and verse 4, where it says that they...

Acts 2:4 *And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and [they] began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*^{NKJV}

In other words, it is the Holy Spirit that empowers ‘our spirit’ to speak with other tongues.

Now, some believe that ‘tongues’ is actually an ‘in-born ability’ of the human spirit that lies dormant within us, that requires ‘activation’ by the Holy Spirit; However, Acts 2:4 says ‘as the Spirit gave them utterance’, meaning that the Holy Spirit was definitely involved in the ‘utterance’.

Getting back to 1st Corinthians 14:14, notice the way the verse ends, with the apostle Paul clearly stating...

1 Cor 14:14b ... my understanding is unfruitful.^{NKJV}

In other words, praying in tongues is not of the mind (...so, our thoughts and prejudices cannot get in the way of our prayers).

However, that doesn’t mean it’s ‘meaningless’; Its meaning lies deeper than logic or reason; It is more ‘right-brain’ than ‘left-brain’; It is more intuitive rather than cognitive.

It is important to note at this time that the word usually translated ‘tongue’ (Gk. ‘glossa’) means language; Had the biblical writers wanted to, they could have very well used an alternative term such as ‘battalogo’ which means ‘to babble’; But they didn’t, meaning that speaking in tongues is actually speaking languages of some kind.¹

¹ From: Barry Chant, *Praying In The Spirit*, copyright © 2002 Barry Chant, Sovereign World Ltd, PO Box 777, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 OZS, England. p.142

Accordingly, William MacDonald writes: “*The Greek word ‘glossa’ means ‘language’ ...not mouthing nonsense syllables ... He [the tongue-speaker] has the same wholesome confidence that the one who speaks through him is the God of order. There he has ever reason to believe that the Spirit who speak through him orders and shapes the speech according to intelligent patterns.*”¹

Now, once you become fluent in this gift, praying in tongues becomes one of the most powerful prayers you can ever pray, because it is the prayer that has been designed to take you beyond your limitations, intellect, and natural prayer abilities.

It is the language that allows you to perfectly praise and worship God²; perfectly intercede for others; perfectly bind and loose; and so on.

In his book ‘Praying In The Spirit’, Barry Chant says: “*Bringing our requests to God is limited if we exclude tongues from our form of prayer.*” On the other hand, tongue-speaking adds enormous strength and depth to [our] prayers... When humanly we are at a loss for words, the Spirit comes to our aid and helps us to intercede [praise, worship, etc] according to the will of God.³

Sadly, however, it is the one ‘kind of prayer’ that has been grossly misunderstood, and the topic of constant debate; And instead of bringing unity and harmony to the Body of Christ (as it was meant to), sadly, the enemy has used it to bring strife and division to the Body of Christ, and to weaken it greatly.

But it is important to remember that it was Jesus Himself that said, in Mark chapter 16, verses 15 through 17...

Mark 16:15b ... *Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

Mark 16:16 *He that believes and is baptised shall be saved; but he that believes not shall be damned.*

Mark 16:17 *And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; (which would only be possible if they were filled with the Holy Spirit...)*

Mark 16:18 *"they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."*^{KJV mod.}

¹ William MacDonald in Mills (ed.), *Speaking in Tongues*, p.225

² **Eph 5:18-19** *And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,^[19] speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord...^{NKJV}*

³ Barry Chant, *Praying In The Spirit*, copyright © 2002 Barry Chant, Sovereign World Ltd, PO Box 777, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 OZS, England. p.124

What's significant about these particular verses (...as opposed to those in 1st Corinthians 12), is that 'tongues' is for anyone who believes; And it all began in Acts chapter 1, following the resurrection of Jesus Christ, where it says in verses 4 and 5...

Acts 1:4 *And being assembled together with them, He (Jesus) commanded them (His disciples) not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me;*

Acts 1:5 *"for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."^{NKJV}*

Jesus then goes on to explain why this was so important in Acts chapter 1 and verse 8, where He says...

Acts 1:8 *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."^{NKJV}*

Following this command, it says in Acts chapter 2, verses 1 through 4...

Acts 2:1 *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.*

Acts 2:2 *And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.*

Acts 2:3 *Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.*

Acts 2:4 *And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."^{NKJV}*

Now, as wonderful as this was, something else incredible took place right outside where the disciples were, with verses 5 through 8 going on to say ...

Acts 2:5 *And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.*

Acts 2:6 *And when this sound occurred (...referring back to Acts 2:2, where it said, "And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind...", it says...), the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.*

Acts 2:7 *Then they were all amazed and marvelled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?*

Acts 2:8 *"And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?"^{NKJV}*

So, two miracles took place on this day: First, we received a language that allowed us to talk to God unhindered; And Second, we also received the ability to talk to anyone from anywhere in the world in their own language, without being hindered as well.

Notice that all of them, all at once, "heard them speak in his own language" (which numbered about 15 or 16 different languages) meaning that, the incident that took place at the Tower Of Babel (in Genesis chapter 11) was reversed on this day; And they were no longer separated by language.

Just a side note: Although, not as spectacular (where 'everyone heard them speak in their own language'), this phenomenon of someone speaking in tongues and having the recipient hear their own language being spoken, has, by no means, 'passed away'.

In his book 'Praying In The Spirit'¹, Barry Chant gives an example of a German lady that affirmed that a member of Ken Chant's church, while speaking in tongues over her, had spoken a relatively unknown provincial Prussian dialect, and that Ken Chant's interpretation of that utterance was actually accurate!

She was so amazed by this phenomenon, she was soon filled with the Spirit herself!

Further to this, he also tells of the late Leo Harris, who was once told by an astonished visitor from the Middle East that he [Leo], while praying in tongues over her, had actually prayed for her in her native language, Arabic! So extraordinary was this experience that her son ended up becoming a minister of the gospel."

So, whether we are speaking directly to God (in an undecodable language), or ministering to people in their own native language, speaking in 'other tongues' allows us to go beyond our natural abilities, and overcome our limitations, and do what would be considered, the 'impossible'.

Now, returning to the Book of Acts, and continuing on, we find the phenomenon of 'speaking in tongues' appearing all through the Book, with Acts 2:38², Acts 10:46³, and Acts 19:7⁴, all reporting that Jews and Gentiles alike, received 'the gift of the Holy

¹ From: Barry Chant, *Praying In The Spirit*, copyright © 2002 Barry Chant, Sovereign World Ltd, PO Box 777, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 OZS, England. p.139-40

² **Acts 2:38** Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."^{NKJV}

³ **Acts 10:44 - 46a** While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.^{NKJV}

⁴ **Acts 19:1-7** And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on

Spirit, and spoke in other tongues; Showing that this gift was for all who 'believed' (...just as Jesus said it would be), and not just for a select few.

Now, as to when the apostle Paul received this gift, that's brought out in Acts chapter 9, verses 17 and 18, where it says...

Acts 9:17 *And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."*

Acts 9:18 *Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.*^{NKJV}

And we know that this experience, like all the others in the book of Acts, was followed by the evidence of speaking in other tongues, because of what the apostle Paul reveals to us again in 1st Corinthians 14:18 (that we looked at before)...

1 Cor 14:18 *I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all;*^{NKJV}

So, what we've established so far is that: Firstly, speaking in tongues is for everyone who believes;

And Secondly, the apostle Paul, who was a great Biblical scholar (having written about two-thirds of the New Testament), and a 'Pharisee of Pharisees'¹, had no trouble speaking in tongues himself, and probably knew more about 'tongues' than most others.

Accordingly, we will look at what he has to say about 'tongues' and see what we can learn about this fascinating 'kind of prayer'.

✠ PRAYING WITH 'OTHER TONGUES'

Remember again that 'prayer' was defined as 'communing with God'; And therefore, any communication with God is 'prayer'.

That being the case, we can better understand what the apostle Paul talks about in 1st Corinthians 14:2, when he says...

Christ Jesus." When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.^{NKJV}

¹ **Acts 23:6** *But when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, "Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee;*^{NKJV}

1 Cor 14:2 *For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God (...this is prayer), for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries (which are, 'divine secrets', 'hidden matters' that are only known to God that He reveals to us!).*^{NKJV}

Notice the extraordinary significance of speaking in tongues: It actually allows you to speak to God, not men, and have Him reveal 'divine secrets' and 'hidden matters' to us!

Furthermore, because this communication is on God's level, and specifically 'to God' Himself, then not only can "no one understand him", but neither can the devil; Which means that he has no defence against anything that you 'pray' in this way.

Now, even though you don't understand what you are saying, William MacDonald points out that: "The Greek word 'glossa' means 'language' ...not mouthing nonsense syllables ... [he goes on to say that the 'tongue-speaker'...] has the same wholesome confidence that the One who speaks through him is the God of order. Therefore, he [the tongue-speaker] has every reason to believe that the Spirit who speaks through him orders and shapes the speech according to intelligent patterns."¹

Further to this, in his book 'Clothed with Power,' Kent Chant writes: "Indeed if 'glossolalia' [speaking in tongues] were subject to the laws that [limit and] bind ordinary language, or if, when I speak in tongues, I must be speaking one of the native languages of men, what would I have gained? In what way would I have improved my prayer life? ... There are sentiments I could not put into words even if I were familiar with every language in the world... Glossolalia [speaking in tongues] is free of such restraint ... It is rather the soaring language of the spirit."²

This is, again, why 'praying in tongues' is so powerful; Because it is limitless, in its ability to express and pray, the 'perfect will of God'.

This is especially important when it comes to interceding for others, and standing in the gap; And why the apostle Paul says in Romans 8:26...

Rom 8:26 *Likewise the Spirit also helps our infirmities (referring to human weaknesses): for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*^{KJV mod.}

¹ W. MacDonald in Mills (ed.), *Speaking in Tongues*, p.277 from Barry Chant, *Praying In The Spirit*, copyright © 2002 Barry Chant, Sovereign World Ltd. PO box 777, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 OZS, England p.141-142

² K. Chant, *Clothed with Power*, pp.117f. from Barry Chant, *Praying In The Spirit*, copyright © 2002 Barry Chant, Sovereign World Ltd. PO box 777, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 OZS, England p.142-143

It is important to note that the words 'for us' *doesn't exist in the Greek*; The literal text actually says that, *the Spirit Himself, 'joins with us in bearing the burden imposed by our weakness'*¹, in an effort to help us (*not replace us*).

In fact, R. Kent Hughes puts it this way: "*The Holy Spirit...rolls up his sleeves and helps us bear our weaknesses.*"²

And in this case, the 'weakness' is specifically our *inability* to "pray for as we ought," at which point, "*the Spirit Himself makes intercession*," using our vocal chords to verbalise those 'groans' (and 'sighs') that we find impossible to put into words.

In his commentary, John Calvin writes: "*Not that he [the Spirit Himself] actually prays or groans but arouses in us assurance, desires, and sighs, to conceive which our natural powers could scarcely suffice. And Paul, with good reason, calls 'unspeakable' these groans which believers give forth under the guidance of the Spirit...*"³

Accordingly, it has also been suggested that, "*Like tongues, these 'groans' are a 'prayer language,' inspired by the Spirit, and takes the form of utterances that cannot be put in the language of earth.*"⁴

Remember again, that "praying in tongues and groaning in the Spirit is a form of undecodable prayer"; Which means, of course, that it is a kind of prayer that Satan cannot understand, and therefore, cannot hinder.⁵

And as to what exactly the Spirit helps us do is brought out in the next verse with the apostle Paul saying in Romans chapter 8 and verse 27...

Rom 8:27 *And he that searches the hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because he makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.* ^{KJV mod.}

First, notice that it says that it is God Who "searches the hearts"; And that must mean that He knows exactly what we are thinking and feeling, even when we don't know how to put it into words; This is especially useful when we are praying and interceding for others.

¹ Douglas Moo, *The Epistle To The Romans*, © 1996 Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 255 Jefferson Ave. S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503 / P.O. Box 163, Cambridge CB3 9PU U.K. p.523

² R. Kent Hughes, *Romans*, Copyright © 1991 by R. Kent Hughes, Published by Crossways Books, A division of Good News Publishers, 1300 Crescent Street, Wheaton, Illinois. 60187. p.163

³ John Calvin, *Institutes*, III, 5. from Barry Chant, *Praying In The Spirit*, copyright © 2002 Barry Chant, Sovereign World Ltd. PO box 777, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 OZS, England p.104

⁴ From Douglas Moo's Commentary, *The Epistle To The Romans*, © 1996 Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 255 Jefferson Ave. S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503 / P.O. Box 163, Cambridge CB3 9PU U.K. p.525

⁵ From: *New Day* (Unley Park: Tabor Publications, June 1982), p. 23 from Barry Chant, *Praying In The Spirit*, copyright © 2002 Barry Chant, Sovereign World Ltd. PO box 777, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 OZS, England p.143-144

That's what 1st Chronicles 28:9 brings out, when it says...

1 Chr 28:9b *For the LORD sees every heart and understands and knows every plan and thought.*^{NLT}

And further to this, there's also 1st Samuel 16:7 that says...

1 Sam 16:7b *Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.*^{NIV}

Now, since God knows our hearts, we can be sure that the prayers offered on our behalf will be absolutely perfect.

William MacDonald explains that: *“If God searches the hearts of men, He can also interpret the mind of the Spirit, even though that mind finds expression only in groans. The important thing is that the Holy Spirit's prayers... are always according to the will of God.”*¹

Added to this, Douglas Moo, in his commentary says that: *“God knows what the Spirit intends, and there is perfect harmony between the two, because it is in accordance with God's will that the Spirit 'intercedes' for the saints.”*²

And it is because of this that the apostle Paul goes on to say in Romans 8:28...

Rom 8:28 *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*^{KJV mod.}

Notice something very important here: And that is, *“all things work together for good” only for those who are being led by the Spirit in their prayer life (...and, of course, praying the perfect will of God using their heavenly language).*

Because that's what allows God to turn our situations around, and use the very thing that the devil intended for our destruction, to work for our 'good'.

In her book 'Chasing the Dragon,' Jackie Pullinger (considered 'a legend' in Hong Kong, by both the secular and Christian media for the evangelistic work she has done), shares the following:

“Every day ... I prayed in the language of the Spirit. Fifteen minutes by the clock. I still felt it to be an exercise. Before praying in the Spirit, I said, 'Lord, I don't know how to

¹ William MacDonald, *Believer's Bible Commentary – A Complete Bible Commentary In One Volume*, © 1995, 1992, 1990, 1989 by William MacDonald. All rights reserved. Thomas Nelson, Inc. P.O. Box 141000, Nashville, Tennessee 37214-1000. p.1712

² Douglas Moo, *The Epistle To The Romans*, © 1996 Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 255 Jefferson Ave. S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503 / P.O. Box 163, Cambridge CB3 9PU U.K. p.527

pray, or whom to pray for. Will You pray through me – and will You lead me to the people who want You.’ And I would begin my fifteen-minute stint.

“After about six weeks I noticed something remarkable. Those I talked to about Christ believed. I could not understand it at first and wondered how my Chinese had so suddenly improved, or if I had stumbled on a splendid new evangelistic technique. But I was saying the same things as before. It was some time before I realised what had changed. This time I was talking about Jesus to people who wanted to hear. I had let God have a hand in my prayers and it produced a direct result. Instead of my deciding what I wanted to do for God and asking His blessing I was asking Him to do His will through me as I prayed in the language He gave me.”¹

To review: Firstly, when we ‘pray in tongues’, we are praying God’s perfect will (...the apostle Paul calls it ‘divine secrets or mysteries’ in 1 Cor 14:2);

Secondly, when we pray in tongues, we are praying beyond our ability, and beyond all earthly limitations in a fluent and powerful manner;

And Thirdly, when we pray in tongues, we are allowing God to do what only He can do: the miraculous, the supernatural, and even the impossible.

It is a prayer that by-passes the condition set in 1st John 5:14 (...that “if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us” ...), and takes us directly to the promise of verse 15 which says...

***1 John 5:15** And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.^{NKJV}*

That’s the power of praying in tongues, and the assurance that comes with it; And what’s more, the apostle Jude goes on to say, in Jude verse 20...

***Jude 1:20** But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit^{NKJV}*

In other words, not only do we pray God’s perfect will, but we are strengthened in the process as well!

Now, as a conclusion to the ‘Kinds of Prayer’, I’d like to leave you with this bit of wisdom: Always remember that your only responsibility is prayer; It is God’s responsibility to bring about the manifestation.

The apostle Paul put it so well when he said in 1st Corinthians chapter 3, verses 6 and 7...

***1 Cor 3:6** I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.*

¹ J. Pullinger, *Chasing the Dragon* (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1983), pp. 62f.; *The Crack in the Wall: the life and death of Kowloon Walled City* (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1989)

1 Cor 3:7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. ^{NKJV}

If you just remember this, you will never give up, and never burn out; But have an incredibly effective, productive, and fruitful, prayer life!

🔗 PRAYERS YOU CAN PRAY FOR YOURSELF OR OTHERS

Now, as an added bonus, for those who may be looking for a place to start in your prayer life, here are some general prayers you can pray for anyone, anytime.

The first is in Ephesians chapter 1, verses 16 through 20, where the apostle Paul prays for the church at Ephesus and says...

***Eph 1:16b** I pray for you constantly,*

***Eph 1:17a,c** asking God...to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you might grow in your knowledge of God.*

***Eph 1:18** I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the wonderful future he has promised to those he called. I want you to realize what a rich and glorious inheritance he has given to his people.*

***Eph 1:19** I pray that you will begin to understand the incredible greatness of his power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power*

***Eph 1:20** that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honour at God's right hand in the heavenly realms.* ^{NLT}

Continuing on in Ephesians chapter 3, verses 16 through 21, Paul says...

***Eph 3:16** I pray that from His glorious, unlimited resources He will give you mighty inner strength through his Holy Spirit.*

***Eph 3:17** And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts as you trust in Him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvellous love.*

***Eph 3:18** And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love really is.*

***Eph 3:19** May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it. Then you will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from God.*

Eph 3:20 Now glory be to God! By his mighty power at work within us, He is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope.

Eph 3:21 May He be given glory in the church and in Christ Jesus forever and ever through endless ages. Amen. ^{NLT}

Added to this there is also Philippians chapter 1, verses 9 through 11, where the apostle Paul prays for the Philippian believers and says there...

Phil 1:9 I pray that your love for each other will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in your knowledge and understanding.

Phil 1:10 For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until Christ returns.

Phil 1:11 May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation--those good things that are produced in your life by Jesus Christ--for this will bring much glory and praise to God. ^{NLT}

Finally there's a short prayer in the epistle of 3rd John and verse 2, where the apostle John says...

3 John 2 Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. ^{NKJV}

This clearly shows us that prayers don't have to be long to be powerful.

Now, as stated before, there is so much more to prayer than can be covered in this short course (such as, "What Jesus and the Apostles Taught About Prayer" and so on); But for now, just know that you have a strong foundation, and enough information (that will hopefully become 'revelation' in time) to go on and have an effective, productive, fruitful prayer life.

Thank you for taking the time to do this course; And may God Bless you in all your prayer endeavours and adventures.

That concludes our study on 'The Foundations Of Prayer'.

Final Exam

Foundations Of Prayer

Exam Questions

True False

- 1. Prayer is communion with God.
- 2. Jesus said that 'we ought always to pray'.
- 3. The Book of Acts has very little say about prayer.
- 4. Establishing the will of God is unnecessary in prayer.
- 5. The Spirit of God and the Word of God sometimes oppose each other.
- 6. Prayer needs faith to work.
- 7. The name of Jesus is a 'prayer essential'.
- 8. You don't need patience once you've done the will of God.
- 9. Your confession and conversation need not agree with your prayer.
- 10. Forgiveness is essential to having your prayers answered.
- 11. Praying always is an impossibility.
- 12. The prayer of submission can only be prayed by you.
- 13. You can only dedicate buildings to the Lord.
- 14. We can commit our works and our ways to God through prayer.
- 15. The prayer of supplication doesn't always require Scripture verses.
- 16. The prayer of petition is a formal request or supplication.
- 17. We should pray the prayer of sanctification over our food.
- 18. Praise, worship, and thanksgiving aren't really prayers.
- 19. The prayer of agreement can be prayed alone.
- 20. If you want everyone to understand you, pray in tongues.

Answer Sheet

Foundations Of Prayer

Answer Sheet

True False

- 1. Prayer is communion with God.
- 2. Jesus said that 'we ought always to pray'.
- 3. The Book of Acts has very little say about prayer.
- 4. Establishing the will of God is unnecessary in prayer.
- 5. The Spirit of God and the Word of God sometimes oppose each other.
- 6. Prayer needs faith to work.
- 7. The name of Jesus is a 'prayer essential'.
- 8. You don't need patience once you've done the will of God.
- 9. Your confession and conversation need not agree with your prayer.
- 10. Forgiveness is essential to having your prayers answered.
- 11. Praying always is an impossibility.
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