

STUDY ON PRAYER

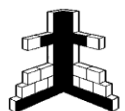
I. What is Prayer?

2 Chron. 7:14

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

A. Old Testament

1. Genesis 4:26b - *“then began men to call upon the name of the Lord.”*
2. Genesis 20:7 - *“He shall pray for thee.”*
3. Genesis 20:17 - *“So Abraham prayed for the people.”*
4. Numbers 11:2 - *“When Moses prayed for the people”*
5. Numbers 21:7 - *“And Moses prayed for the people”*
6. Judges 16:28 - *“Lord God, remember me, I pray thee.”*
7. 1 Samuel 1:10 - *“Hannah prayed unto the Lord and wept sore”*
8. 1 Samuel 7:5 - *“I will pray for you unto the Lord”*
9. 1 Samuel 8:6 - *“And Samuel prayed unto the Lord”*
10. 1 Samuel 12:19 - *“Pray for the servants unto the Lord”*
11. 1 Samuel 12:23 - *“God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you.”*
12. 2 Samuel 7:27 - *“in his heart to pray this prayer unto”*
13. 1 Kings 13:6 - *“pray for me that my hand may be”*
14. 2 Kings 4:33 - *“and pray unto the Lord”*
15. 2 Kings 6:17-18 - *“Elisha prayed”*
16. 2 Kings 19:15 - *“Hezekiah prayed before the Lord”*
17. 2 Kings 20:2 - *“turned his face to the wall and prayed unto the Lord”*
18. 2 Chronicles 6:24 - *“Pray and make supplication unto”*
19. 2 Chronicles 6:32 - *“If they come and pray in this house”*
20. 2 Chronicles 7:14 - *“If my people which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and PRAY, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”*



- a. Prayer is the offering up of our desires for lawful and needful things and things we want that are promised of God.
- b. Pleading our cause before God's court, talking and communicating with God.

II. Grounds and conditions for getting answers to prayer.

You must first be born again, be in Christ and have the right relationship with God.

John 15:7

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Psalm 84:11

For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

Psalm 37:4-5

Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. [5] Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

1 John 3:22

And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

III. Is God obligated to answer a prayer of a sinner?

The only prayer of a sinner God is obligated to answer is "God be merciful to me, a sinner". God does, at times, answer other prayers that a sinner prays because of His Goodness.

Romans 2:4

Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

IV. What is the first prayer God is really obligated to answer?

Luke 18:13

And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

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.

V. What Scriptures do we have that says God will answer?

Psalm 91:15

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

Psalm 34:15

The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.

Psalm 34:17

The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

God expects us to meet His conditions if we expect Him to meet ours.

VI. Whom do we ask or pray to; God the Father, God the Son, or God the Holy Spirit?

John 16:23

And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

John 14:13-14

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. [14] If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

John 16:24

Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

John 16:26

At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you:

VII. Knowing who to pray to is acknowledging who is the Head.

1 Cor. 3:11

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Ephes. 3:14

For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

VIII. Realizing what Christ's job is, for us, helps us to understand who to pray to.

A. During His earthly ministry

1. Luke 9:1 – *“Then He called His twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure disease.”*
2. In their report, which showed their joy – *“Even the devils are subject unto us THROUGH MY NAME.”* Luke 10:17
3. A hint of the implications of His name. *“Whosoever shall receive this child in My name receiveth Me; and whosoever shall receive Me receiveth Him that sent Me.”*
4. Folks can gather in His name. *“For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them.”*
5. We are commanded to baptize in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Matt. 28:19

B. First Miracle after Pentecost

1. *“Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST OF NAZARETH, rise up and walk.”*
Acts 3:6
2. Peter's explanation of this miracle: *“AND HIS NAME through FAITH IN HIS NAME hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know.”*
Acts 3:16

3. Still later: *“Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the NAME OF JESUS CHRIST OF NAZARETH, whom ye crucified, Whom God raised from the dead, even by Him doth this man stand here before you whole.” Acts 4:10*
4. *“There is none other NAME under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” Acts 4:12*
5. A council was called and a decision was made that the disciples should be strongly threatened. *“That they speak henceforth to no man in this name. And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.” Acts 4:17-18*

C. Several Truths About When One Prays in the Name of Jesus

1. Renunciation. We are admitting the bankruptcy of our own name – our own worth and merit at the throne of grace. In our flesh dwells no good thing. We have no worth whereby His grace to claim. NAME OF JESUS gives unholy men access to a Holy God and to stand in His presence.
2. Identification. Identify with the person of Jesus.
3. Submission. Ask in accordance with His will as revealed in His Word.
4. Expectation.

Romans 8:34

Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

1 Tim. 2:5

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

IX. We find direction in knowing what the Holy Spirit’s job is.

John 6:44

No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 14:6

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Do We Need Help in Prayer? The Bible says we do. The Bible points us to the Holy Spirit as our helper in prayer.

And in Jude We Read: *“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.”* V. 20.

Romans 8:26

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

X. Model Prayer

Luke 11:2-4

And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. [3] Give us day by day our daily bread. [4] And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

The Lord’s Prayer should have been called the Disciples’ Prayer.

1. Our Father - This notes our relation to God and also how we direct our prayers. (When we got saved, we changed fathers. Before, ye were of your father, the devil.)

2. Which art in Heaven - This teaches where God is, and where our prayers should be directed to.

3. Hallowed be Thy Name - This teaches the reverence we should give God when we pray.

Philip. 4:6

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Hebrews 13:15-16

By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. [16] But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

4. Thy Kingdom come - This puts the first interest toward God and His kingdom.

Matthew 6:33

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

5. Thy Will be done on earth as in Heaven - This accepts and agrees with the Father's will in all things. Example: Is it God's will for men to be sick? Are there sick people in Heaven? On the cross, Christ paid that price by the stripes He bore for you and I.

1 Peter 2:24

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Is there poverty or are there poor people in Heaven?

3 John 1:2

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth

Is it God's will that some be saved or that all might come to repentance?

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

6. Give us our daily bread - Now that we have acknowledged who God is and what our interest should be, we can bring Him our requests. We can approach the throne boldly, but in a humble way. There is no contradiction in this statement; think on it and you will see.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

7. Forgive us our sins (shortcomings) - for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. A repentant heart is necessary in getting answers to our own prayers.

Matthew 6:14-15

For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: [15] But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Mark 11:25

And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

8. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil - Guidance and deliverance from God should be part of our prayer life. One scripture to remember is that God will not tempt a man with evil.

James 1:13

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

For God is not a man that He should be tempted.

General Facts About Prayer

I. Commands to Pray

A. Ask and it shall be given.

Matthew 7:7

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

B. Let your requests be made known to God.

Philip. 4:6

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God

C. Praying always with all prayer and supplication.

Ephes. 6:18

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

D. Pray without ceasing.

1 Thes. 5:17

Pray without ceasing.

E. Come boldly to the throne of God.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

II. Time to Pray

A. In the morning.

Psalm 5:3

My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.

Psalm 88:13

But unto thee have I cried, O Lord; and in the morning shall my prayer prevent thee.

Psalm 143:8

Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee.

B. Day and night.

Psalm 88:1

A Song or Psalm for the sons of Korah, to the chief Musician upon Mahalath Leannoth, Maschil of Heman the Ezrahite.

O Lord God of my salvation, I have cried day and night before thee:

Luke 2:37

And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

C. Three times daily.

Psalm 55:17

Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.

Daniel 6:10

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

D. Without ceasing.

1 Thes. 5:17

Pray without ceasing.

E. All night.

Luke 6:12

And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

III. Attitudes in Prayer

A. Meditating.

Psalm 5:1

*To the chief Musician upon Nehiloth, A Psalm of David.
Give ear to my words, O Lord, consider my meditation.*

B. Agonizing.

Luke 22:44-46

And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground. [45] And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow, [46] And said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.

C. Groaning.

Romans 8:26-27

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

[27] And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

D. In the Spirit.

Ephes. 6:18

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Jude 1:20

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

IV. Where to Pray

A. In closets.

Matthew 6:6

But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

B. On mountains.

Matthew 14:23

And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

C. Everywhere; in homes, in temples.

1 Tim. 2:8

I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

Acts 1:13-14

And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.

[14] These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

Acts 3:1

Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

Acts 12:12

And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.

V. How Not to Pray

Jesus taught that men should not pray like the hypocrites - to be seen of men, and not like the heathen, who think God hears for their “much speaking”.

Matthew 6:5-8

And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. [6] But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. [7] But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. [8] Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

VI. Prayer of Jabez

1 Chron. 4:10

And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.

Jabez defined:

1 Chron. 4:9

“...and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, because I bare him with sorrow.”

Note: Five requests of Jabez:

1. Bless me indeed
2. Enlarge my coast
3. Let your hand be with me
4. Keep me from evil
5. Keep me from grief

Ten Conditions of Answered Prayer
(Dake’s Bible, N.T., Page 47, Col. 4)

1. Have the faith of God.

Rom. 4:17; Heb. 11:3; Gal. 5:22-23

2. Pray: say in no uncertain terms what you want

Mk. 11:23; Matt. 17:20, 21:21-22; Jn. 15:7

3. Have unlimited faith without questioning and limiting God’s will or what you want.

Mk. 11:23-24; Matt. 17:20, 21:21-22; Mk. 9:23; Jn. 15:7, 16

4. Refuse to doubt in your heart.

Mk. 11:23; Matt. 17:20; Jas. 1:5-8

5. Believe that whatever is asked will be given.

Mk. 11:23-24; Matt. 7:7-11, 17:20, 21:21-22; Heb. 11:6

6. Believe that whatsoever is asked is already granted.

Mk. 11:24; Matt. 17:20; 1 John 5:14-15

7. Be authoritative and command to come to pass what is asked.

Mk. 11:23-24; Matt. 17:20; Mk. 9:23

8. Believe that what you want is God’s will.

Mk. 11:24; Jn. 15:7; Matt. 17:20, 21:21-22; Heb. 11:6; Jas. 1:5-8

9. Never say “If it be thy will” concerning anything you ask that is definitely promised of God in His Word.

Mk. 11:23; Ps. 84:11; II Cor. 1:20; II Pet. 1:3-4

10. Have a clean heart and life with God and man.

Mk. 11:25; Jn. 15:7; I Jn. 3:22-23

(Note: Jesus said “*whatsoever*”, “*anything*”, “*all things*”, “*what ye will*”, “*whatsoever ye desire*”, “*whatsoever he saith*”. God has not limited you, so why should you limit God?)

Twelve Reasons for Unanswered Prayer - James 4:2-3

(Dake’s Bible, N.T., Page 262, Col. 1)

1. Lust (*v. 1,2,3,5; Jn. 8:44*)
2. Murders (*v. 2*)
3. Covetousness (*v. 2*)
4. Fighting and war (*v. 2*)
5. Asking amiss to satisfy lusts (*v. 3*)
6. Adulteries (*v. 4*)
7. Friendship of the world (*v. 4*)
8. Pride (*v. 6*)
9. Rebellion against God (*v. 7*)
10. Backsliding and sin (*v. 8*)
11. Double mindedness or doubt (*v. 8*)
12. Misuse of the tongue (*v. 11-12*)

Eighteen Reasons for Unanswered Prayer

1. Refusing to hear truth – *Prov. 28:9*
2. Refusing to humble self – *II Chr. 7:14*
3. Forsaking God – *II Chr. 15:2*
4. Provoking God – *Deut. 3:26*
5. Hardheartedness – *Zech. 7:12-13*
6. Lack of charity – *Prov. 21:13*
7. Regarding iniquity in heart – *Ps. 66:18*
8. Wrong motives – *Jas. 4:3*
9. Dishonor of companion – *I Pet. 3:7*
10. Unbelief – *Matt. 17:20-21, 21:22*
11. Sin – *Jas. 4:1-5; Jn. 9:31; Isa. 59:2*
12. Parading prayer life – *Matt. 6:5*
13. Vain repetitions – *Matt. 6:7*
14. Unforgiveness – *Matt. 6:14-15; Mk. 11:25-26*
15. Hypocrisy – *Lk. 18:9-14*
16. Being discouraged – *Lk. 18:1-8*
17. Worry and anxiety – *Phil 4:6*
18. Doubting/Double mindedness – *Jas. 1:5-8*

