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# What is Prayer?

## What is Prayer?

- Prayer is God's verbal channel of communication between believers (in Jesus Christ) and Himself –through which His heavenly glory, will, blessings, power and provision (His Lordship and Saving Power) are being brought into active reality on earth.
- Christian prayer is to the Father, in the Name of Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

## To The Father

- Our Father who is in heaven.... (Matt. 6:9)
- I bow my knees before the Father (Eph. 3:14)
- Giving thanks always for everything to God the Father (Eph. 5:20, Col. 1:12, 3:17)
- Abba Father (Mk. 14:36, Rom. 8:15, Gal. 4:6)
- The Father ... from Whom are all things (1 Cor. 8:6).
- The Father of mercies and God of all Comfort (2 Cor. 1:3)
- The eternally blessed One. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 11:31)
- The Father...who has blessed us with every blessing in the heavenly realms (Eph. 1:3)
- Every generous act and perfect gift is from above coming down from the Father of lights (James 1:17)
- Father of spirits (Heb. 12:9)

## In The Name OF Jesus

- Jesus Christ the Mediator between God and Man (1 Tim. 2:5, Heb. 8:6, 9:15, 12:24)
- When two or three are gathered in My Name there I am in the midst of them (Matt. 18:20)
- Whatever you ask in My name I will do it ...(Jn. 14:13,14)



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- Whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you (Jn. 15:16, 16:23-26)
- Calling on the name of the Lord for salvation (Acts 2:21; 4:12,10:43 Rom. 10:13, 1 Cor. 1:2, 6:11)
- Signs and wonders (Acts 3:6, 4:30)
- Faith in His name (Jn. 1:12, 20:31, Acts 3:16)
- Exorcism (Acts 16:18,19:13-17)
- Healing (James 5:14)
- Worship & service in His name (Phil. 2:10, Heb. 6:10, 13:15)

### **Through The Holy Spirit**

- The Holy Spirit helps us in our praying (Rom. 8:26)
- The Spirit gives life to our prayers (Jn.6:63)
- The Holy Spirit gives us access to the Father (Eph. 2:18, 3:12)
- We need to be born-again as a new creation by the Holy Spirit to really know spiritual life (Jn. 3:3-8, 2 Cor. 3:13-18, 5:17)
- Believers are 'one spirit' with God (1 Cor. 6:17)

### **Posture**

It does not involve any special required place or posture - though kneeling, raising of hands, laying on of hands and lying prostrate before the Lord get a few mentions each.

- **Kneeling:** Luke 22:41, Acts 7:60, 9:40, 20:36, 21:15, Eph. 3:14
- **Laying On of Hands:** Matt. 19:15, Mk. 6:5, 8:23-25, 10:16, 16:18; Luke 4:40, Acts 6:6, 8:17,18; 13:3, 19:6, 28:8, 1 Tim. 4:14, Heb. 6:2
- **Lifting up Holy Hands:** Deut. 32:40, Ps. 28:2, 63:4, 134:2, 141:2, Lam. 3:41, Luke 24:50.

### **What Prayer Is NOT!!**

- A Hypocritical Public Performance (Matt. 6:5, 6)
- Repetitive / Wordy (Matt. 6:7, 8)
- Unforgiving / Hard-Hearted (Matt. 6:12-15, 18:21-35; 1 Pet. 3:7)
- Boastful (Lk. 18:9-14)



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- Full of conflict with others (1 Tim. 2:8)
- Unbelieving / Filled With Doubt (James 1:5-8, Matt. 21:21, Mk. 11:23)

### **The Three Big Categories**

1. **ENFORCEMENT** - exorcism, healing, cleansing lepers, raising the dead, acts of faith and power, intercession, crying out for justice and for God's will to be done
2. **ADORATION** – praise, thanksgiving, worship, sitting in silence before the Lord, seeking God, knowing God's love
3. **REQUESTING** – for forgiveness, escape from temptation, cleansing, spiritual growth, wisdom, power in ministry, daily bread and so on.

### **N.T. Enforcement**

- **Casting out of demons.**
- **Healing: That which I have** I give unto you, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.
- **Works of Faith:** Moving mountains / nothing shall be impossible / all things are possible to them that believe.
- **Binding and loosing:** Forgiveness and remission of sins, church discipline etc.

### **N.T. Adoration**

- Veil of the temple torn in two
- Access to the Father via the Holy Spirit
- Love of God poured out into our hearts via the Holy Spirit
- Daily transformation from glory to glory
- Rejoicing in the Lord always
- Your young men shall prophesy and your old men dream dreams...
- Abundance of revelation as the Holy Spirit teaches us the things of God



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MINISTRIES

## **N.T. Requesting**

- Anything you ask in My name (Jn. 14:14,16:23)
- If we ask anything according to His will (1 Jn. 5:14,15)
- All things are yours (1 Cor. 3:21-23)
- Come boldly before the throne of grace in time of need (Heb. 4:16)
- Prayers for wisdom, spiritual insight and maturity (Eph. 3:14-21)

## **Spiritual Senses**

- **Spiritual Eyes:** Ephesians 1:18; John 6:22,23; Matthew 13:13-17; Lk. 24:31; Jn. 12:35-41, Acts 26:18, Heb. 12:2, Rev. 3:18
- **Spiritual Blindness:** Matt. 23:14, 16, 17, 19, 24, 26; John 9:39-41, Acts 28:27, 2 Cor. 4:4, 2 Pet. 1:9, 1 Jn 2:11, Rev. 3:17
- **Spiritual Ears:** Acts 7:51, 28:27; Rom. 11:18; Rev. 11,17,29; Matt. 11:15,13:9
- These must be **trained** through use (Heb. 5:14)
- **Jesus used them** to know the Father's will (Jn. 5:19)

## **Using Our Spiritual Senses When We Pray**

- Luke 12:12
- John 4:23,24
- John 14:16,17; 15:26, 16:13
- Acts 2:17,18
- Acts 13:2
- Acts 8:26-29
- Acts 10:9-17
- Acts 16:7-10

## **Discerning God's Voice - 1**

- God's voice always lines up with God's word
- God's voice always lines up with the fruit of the Holy Spirit
- God's voice always lines up with the nature and the commandments of Jesus Christ



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- God's voice may discipline but never totally condemns the believer in Jesus Christ.
- God's voice always directs us towards loving and righteous and fruitful ends

### **Discerning God's Voice – 2**

**James 3:14-18:** “But if you have bitter jealousy and strife in your hearts, do not glory and lie against the truth. (15) This is not the wisdom coming down from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. (16) For where envying and strife are, there is confusion and every foul deed. (17) But the wisdom that is from above is first truly *pure*, then peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. (18) And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”

### **Discerning God's Voice -3**

**Galatians 5:19-26:** “Now the works of the flesh are clearly revealed, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lustfulness, (20) idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, fightings, jealousies, angers, rivalries, divisions, heresies, (21) envying, murders, drunkennesses, revelings, and things like these; of which I tell you before, as I also said before, that they who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. (22) But the fruit of the Spirit is: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith, (23) meekness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (24) But those belonging to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and lusts. (25) If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. (26) Let us not become glory-seeking, provoking one another, envying one another.”

### **Discerning God's Voice -4**

**1 John 2:9-11** “The one who says he is in the light but hates his brother is in the darkness until now. (10) The one who loves his brother remains in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. (11) But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness, walks in the darkness, and doesn't know where he's going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.”



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- Resentment, rejection and revenge creates darkness in us, so that we cannot see God or pray correctly
- Love creates light in us so that we come to know God and to pray effectively

### **Discerning God's Voice -5**

- **GOD – FRUIT:** pure, peaceable, wise, gentle, full of love and the fruit of the Spirit, calm, unhurried, gracious, forgiving, inviting, promising, blessing.
- **SATAN /FLESH– ENERGIES:** accusing, tempting, harassing, envying, striving, competing, demanding, alluring, adulterous, impatient, foolish, unwise, cursing, avenging, occult, magical, fear-creating, unforgiving, hard-hearted, tempestuous, denying.
- **SELF – ANXIETIES:** worries, fears, pompousness, self-centeredness, ego, trivial concerns, self-absorption, no peace, inability to rely on God or trust in His goodness and faithfulness

### **Praying With Power!**

**1 John 5:14-15:** “Now this is the confidence we have before Him: whenever we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. (15) And if we know that He hears whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked Him for.”

- Get into God's will
- Ask
- Listen For God
- Pray further based on the response that you receive
- Be confident that God has heard you
- Believe that you have received.



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# Unanswered Prayer

## Doubt

- Doubt puts us at our senses as the ultimate arbiter of all things
- Doubt leads us to be double-minded
- We end up receiving nothing from the Lord

**Matt. 14:30-31; Matt. 21:21,22; Mark 11:23; 1 Tim 2:8; James 1:5-8**

## Not Asking

- We have not because we ask not
- Not asking - or asking very vaguely is a defense mechanism to avoid disappointment and stems from unbelief in the goodness of God

**James 4:2,3; Matt. 7:7-11, 21:21,22; Luke 11:8-13; John 4:10, 14:13,14;  
John 15:7,16; 16: 23, 24; Eph. 3:20; 1 John 3:22, 5:14,15; Phil. 4:6,7**

## Covetousness / Worldly Prayers

- Covetousness = idolatry
- Scheming to get things
- Focus on worldly things and sensual pleasures
- God becomes simply a spiritual mechanism for self-gratification
- He becomes not a Holy Lord and Savior but a quick fix idol.

**James 4:2,3; 1 John 2:15-17; Eph. 5:3-5; Col. 3:5**

## Mean-Spiritedness & Unforgiveness

- Husbands who are mean and who lack understanding toward their wives (or vice-versa) do not get their prayers answered
- Unforgiving people do not get their sins forgiven
- Quarrelsome, squabbling people who seek to get things by fighting instead of asking from God do not receive

**Rule of Thumb: God treats us as we treat others**

**1 Pet. 3:7; James 4:2; Mark 11:25,26; Matt. 6:12-15; Matt. 18:21-35;  
Luke 16:19-31**

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MINISTRIES

## Unrighteousness

- God is ‘against those who do evil’
  - Having a character that is deeply inclined to evil stops prayer being answered
  - This is different from the occasional sin that God easily forgives (1 Jn. 1:7-9)
  - An evil heart is like the Temple which was supposed to be a place of prayer but had become “a den of thieves”
  - The Kingdom is blocked to the wicked and the unrepentant (1 Cor. 6:9,10)
- 1 Pet. 3:10-12; 1 Cor. 6:9, 10; Matt. 21:13; Luke 20:47; Acts 8:19-24**

## Hypocrisy

- Hypocrisy = hupo (under)+ crites (mask)
- Hypocrites are mask wearers – inwardly are unrighteous, but outwardly they are respectable.

**Matt. 6:5-8; Matt. 23:23-39; Luke 20:46,47**

**Luke 18:9-14**

## Pride!

- The search for earthly status is the opposite of the spirit of humble prayer
  - If we exalt ourselves God will humble us
  - If we humble ourselves God will exalt us
- Lk. 18:9-14; Matt. 18:1-4; Matt. 23:5-12; Lk. 14:7-11; James 4:6-10**

## Disunity, Squabbling & Wrath

- Unity strengthens prayer while disunity destroys it
- Disunity means we are on the wrong spiritual level – that is we have become carnal not spiritual
- We need to confess our sin and fix up our relationships before we enter into serious prayer and intercession
- Our attitude is our altitude

**1 Tim. 2:8; Matt. 18:18-20; James 4:2,3; 1 Cor. 3:1-3; Matt. 5:20-26**





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MINISTRIES

## **Lack Of Persistence In Prayer**

- Persistence is a sign of true faith and ‘holy desperation’
- Many of the healing miracles came to people who ‘cried out’ persistently
- Unbelief gives up and walks away
- Faith says, “God will come through – I just know it!”

**Luke 18:1-8; Luke 11:5-13; Rom. 4:19-21, 12:12; 2 Kings 13:14-19; 1 Cor. 15:58; Eph. 6:18**

## **Not In God’s Will Or Timing**

- Some things are not ‘righteous’ – that is outside God’s moral will
- Some things are simply not for you personally, you are not trained, gifted or ready for them or they are not assigned to you - that is not in God’s specific will
- Other things have a ‘spiritual timing’ that you must wait for as God’s Word comes to pass – that is not in God’s sovereign will

**1 John 5:14, 15; 1 John 3:22; 1 Cor. 12:27-31; Rom. 12:3; 2 Cor. 10, 13; Jude 1:6; Ecc. 3:1-11; Ps. 105:17-22; Jer. 45:1-5**

## **“Weak Hands” Not Seizing The Day**

- When God is moving in amazing and prophetic ways we need to ‘get on board’ as Joshua did in ordering the sun and moon to stand still
- Now is the day of salvation
- If we get ‘tired’ or just miss the moment entirely we will see defeat, not victory

**Ex. 17:9-13; Joshua 10:6-15; 2 Kings 13:14-19; Matt. 11:20-30; 2 Cor. 6:1, 2**

## **Lack of Thankfulness & Joy**

- Gratitude is the heart of prayer and of the Abba Father - Son relationship
- We are commanded to always be thankful and rejoicing - as a clear sign of our faith



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- God is light – that is, He is always positive in nature and the Christian should be full of light as well – in gratitude, thanksgiving and praise
- Negativity and unbelief go hand in hand
- Thanksgiving helps us to create the positive faith picture ‘of the mountain moving’ that is essential to powerful prayer

**Phil. 4:6,7; Eph. 1:16, 5:20; Col. 2:6,7; 3:15-17, 4:2; 1 Thess. 5:18; 1 John 1:5, James 1:17**

### **Sleeping Saints**

- Christians need to ‘watch’ and ‘be alert’ in prayer
- We are to be faithful, sober, alert and ‘people of the light’ – not of darkness, drunkenness and carousing
- This includes both current events and the Second Coming
- It may also include long times of prayer such as praying through the night watches

**Luke 21:34-36; Matt. 26:38-41; Matt. 24:42,43; 25:1-13; Mark 13:32-37, 14:37,38; 1 Cor. 16:13; Eph. 6:18; 1 Thess. 5:4-8; Col. 4:2; 1 Pet. 4:7**