

Series: Lord, Teach Us to Pray (02)
Title: How to Pray in Gratitude and Faith

Scripture: Mark 11:24-25; Psalm 65:11; 2 Chronicles 20

2025 Summer Scripture: Romans Road (ESV) 1:20; 3:23; 6:23; 5:8; 10:9-10; 8:37-39

- <u>Praying in gratitude</u> is thanking God for fulfilled promises and answered prayers.
 (Psalm 65:11)
- <u>Praying in faith</u> is thanking God that He will fulfill what He has promised and will answer.
 (Mark 11:24-25)

How to Pray in Gratitude & in Faith:

- 1. Seek the LORD in earnest and concerted <u>prayer</u>. (2 Chronicles 20:1-4)
 - i. Pray privately.
 - ii. Enlist others to pray with you.
 - iii. Pray publicly.
- 2. In prayer, focus on God, not your problem. (2 Chronicles 20:5-9)
 - a. Pray gratitude for God's greatness.
 - b. Pray gratitude for God's power.
- 3. In prayer, tell God you are powerless and He is powerful. (2 Chronicles 20:10-12)
 - i. Be still and know that God is God.
 - ii. Pray the greatest personal prayer to God: "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." "I cannot do it. I need YOU, God, to do it."
- 4. In prayer, listen to what God says (in His Word). (2 Chronicles 20:13-17)
 - a. God speaks His eternal loving truths through His Word. (2 Chronicles 20:14-17)
 - i. "Do not be afraid and do not stress." ("Fear Not" 365x in the Bible)
 - 1. Do not become dismayed. Do not become discouraged."
 - ii. "The battle is mine and I can handle it." (Eph. 6:12)
 - iii. "Stand firm in your faith and keep (or start) serving." (Eph. 6:10-20)
 - iv. "Keep walking, waiting, and watching Me work. I'm with you."



- 5. In prayer, worship (particularly strong singing) in response to God speaking. (2 Chronicles 20:18-19)
 - a. Spontaneous worship is a right response to revelation.
 - b. Stop withholding your worship because you refuse to hear what God has said.
 - c. Planned worship is a right response to revelation. 1 Chronicles 6:13
- 6. In prayer, thank God in advance for His answer (believing God will act). (2 Chronicles 20:20-21)
- 7. Praying turns into praising God expecting God to turn battles into blessings (this is His nature, it is what God does). (2 Chronicles 20:22-28)
 - a. Spiritual warfare should be carried out in worship.
 - i. We are created to sing.
 - ii. We are commanded to sing.
 - iii. We are compelled to sing.
 - iv. We should sing when we are afraid.
 - v. We should sing when we face opposition.
 - vi. We should sing when we are overwhelmed with worship.
 - vii. God has appointed the singing of spiritual songs as an effective weapon against Satan.

Dick Eastman's book, <u>The Hour That Changes the World</u>, gives a plan for personal prayer. He records the words of Mary Slosser who worked in China for many years. She used to say, "I sing the Doxology and dismiss the devil." And Amy Carmichael said, "I believe truly that Satan cannot endure it and so slips out of the room — more or less — when there is a true song."

Praying in Gratitude and Faith Comes with Wonders and Warnings:

- 1) The Holy Spirit moves and the Gospel is proclaimed. (2 Chronicles 20:29-30)
 - a) God adds to the number those who are being saved.
- 2) We must not hold back anything from the Lord. God wants every part of our lives. (2 Chronicles 20:31-34)
- 3) We must keep praying in gratitude and faith. We lose the favor of God when we become self-sufficient and depend on the world's power, influence and authority.(2 Chronicles 20:35-37)