

Wednesday
January 12th, 2022

HOW CAN I PRAY FOR YOU?



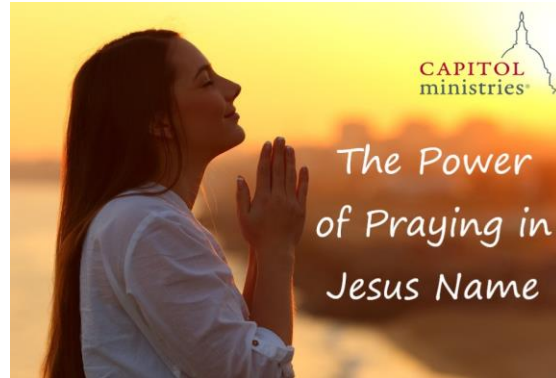
Psalm 5:1-3 – “Listen to my words, Lord, consider my lament. ²Hear my cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray. ³In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly.”

Psalm 55:16-18 – “As for me, I call to God, and the Lord saves me. ¹⁷Evening, morning, and noon I cry out in distress, and he hears my voice. ¹⁸He rescues me unharmed from the battle waged against me, even though many oppose me.”

Psalm 62:8 – “Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.”

Jeremiah 29:12-13 – “Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

POLITICAL LEADERS • MISSOURI STATE CAPITOL



Praying is an essential daily exercise for the follower of Jesus the Messiah. If you desire to walk in the will of God under the power of God's Mighty hand, then be that political leader or staff member who prioritizes morning prayer. In addition, may you grow exponentially in your faith in Christ this session as you experience the blessings and profits of additional daily prayer.

It is important to recognize that our restored relationship with God through receiving Jesus and believing in His Name (*John 1:12*) begins with a prayer. *Acts 2:21*, “**And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**”

I do add that in the O.T. the expression “calls on” referred to prayer directed toward Yahweh (*Gen 4:26; 12:8; 13:4*). The Greek word *kyrios*, translated “Lord,” refers to Jesus. Thus, Paul identifies Jesus Christ with Yahweh of the O.T.

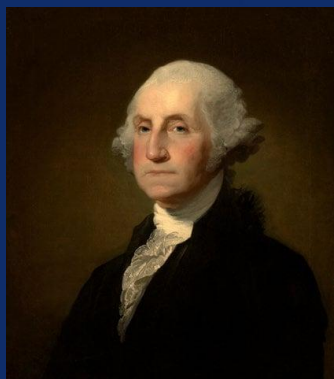
Praying in the Name of JESUS – We pray in Jesus' Name because Jesus is the mediator between God and mankind. *1 Timothy 2:5-6*, “**For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people.**” (*Heb. 8:6, 9:15*) A mediator negotiates reconciliation between two parties in conflict and therefore an applicable term for the Savior. The need for a mediator between God and mankind testifies to the sinfulness of humanity (*Genesis 3:21-24*), while the provision of a mediator demonstrates the kindness of God. For one to be reconciled to the Father, there is only one course of action – **ACCEPT WHAT JESUS DID!** Believe in Jesus as your personal Savior and Lord (*Rom. 10:9-10*)! *Titus 3:4-6*, “**But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.**” ➔ **Salvation is a gift!** (*Ephesians 2:8-9, John 4:10, Romans 6:23, 2 Cor. 9:15*). Furthermore, as an ever-present reality Jesus is our intercessory King to “Abba” Father. In *Rom. 8:34*, Jesus “**who was raised to life is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.**” Christian: you are reminded that Jesus is interceding for you as one of the blood bought members of the Bride of Christ (*Rev. 19:7*). Furthermore, as *Romans 8:26* states, the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit also intercedes for us. In addition, what God has instituted that serves to unify Christians under the Lordship of Christ is the privilege of praying for others. Hence, “**How can I pray for you?**” ➔ **One of the greatest acts of love you can do to honor your Lord and Savior is to offer prayer for one of your fellow Political Leaders.** There is a supernatural transaction that takes place when you sacrifice your precious time to lift up a prayer to God for another. When we pray, we are asking for God to move in a specific way and the more that prayer is centered in Christ and led by the Holy Spirit the more we see a miraculous move of God. As a side note often God will use you as a *Peacemaker* to bring parties together, mediating a compromise or a solution for the benefit of everyone in Missouri. *Matthew 5:9*, “**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.**” Have you ever considered in the midst of turmoil when nothing seems to be working; hey folks, let's have a moment of prayer? Don't be too surprised for the founding Father's of our nation took the same action often. In fact, prayer and fasting was a practice taken straight out from the Bible. *Dan 9:3-4*, “**So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed.**”

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George Washington



“Direct my thoughts, words and work. Wash away my sins in the immaculate blood of the lamb, and purge my heart by thy Holy Spirit, from the dross of my natural corruption, that I may with more freedom of mind and liberty of will serve thee, the everlasting God, in righteousness and holiness this day, and all the days of my life.”

— George Washington, first President of the United States, Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, member of the Continental Congress, President of the Constitutional Convention, “Father of His Country,” judge. From William J. Johnson, *George Washington, The Christian* (New York: The Abingdon Press, 1919).

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How Can I Pray For You?

Characteristics of Christian Prayer – These are not an exhaustive list by no means, but I hope the following fosters enthusiasm to pray often.

Prayer is Essential – Prayer is communication with the Almighty God of the universe who brought everything into existence by His Word. *Psalm 33:6, “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth.”* It is essential that as we walk through this life as a child of God (*Gal. 3:26*) that we consistently and constantly commune with our Father whom we can approach with confidence (*Eph. 3:12*). **The goal in life is to worship and honor God and bring glory to His Name through our love** (*1 John 4:19*), service (*Matt. 5:16*) and witness (*1 Peter 3:15*). For **you** to know the will of God at the Capitol it is essential that you petition God for guidance (*Romans 8:14*), wisdom (*James 1:5*) and spiritual knowledge (See *Romans 12:2* for a link between holiness, transformation of the mind and knowing God’s will. For greater knowledge we can turn to our brothers and sisters in the faith for assistance. *Colossians 1:9b-10, “We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.”*

Prayer is Faith Driven – Greater prayers are born out of greater faith! *Matt. 21:22, “If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”* *Matt. 7:7, “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”* In each of the three statements here, Jesus’ point is the same. When God’s people pursue something by asking, seeking, knocking then God responds in faithfulness and generosity. This verse emphasizes the need for an authentic relationship with God which supports the point – prayer is faith driven. As the apostles said to Jesus (*Luke 17:5*) so can we, **“INCREASE OUR FAITH”**. **Charles Spurgeon** once stated, *“Unless I believe my prayer to be effectual it will not be, for on my faith will it to a great extent depend.”*

Prayer is Powerful – Throughout Scripture prayer has proven to be powerful against our backsliding tendencies as *James* refers to *5:16, “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”* The confession of sin to God purifies us from all unrighteousness (*1 Jn 1:9*) and clears the way for powerful and effective prayer, because the stumbling block of sin that God was dealing with has been removed. Thank God Almighty that in the Cross of Jesus Christ sin has been atoned forever (*1 John 4:10, Heb. 7:27*). In the Cross Satan’s head was crushed as promised in *Genesis 3:15* and death has been swallowed up in victory (*1 Cor. 15:54*). Prayer as a restored experience with God is an absolute gift that a Christian should not neglect. **READY TO PRAY?**

Prayer is Practicing Being IN the Presence of God – Serving in the Political Arena necessitates one regularly resting in the Peace of God (See *John 16:33, John 14:27*). *Isaiah 32:17, “The fruit of that righteousness will be peace; its effect will be quietness and confidence forever.”*

The Lord’s Prayer – *“This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” (Matthew 6:9-13)*

Serenity Prayer – *“God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.”*