

# PRAYER

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# What is Prayer?

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Prayer is communicating with God.

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We communicate with God by talking directly to Him. We can talk to God silently or out loud, in a formal or informal fashion.

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*What mighty praise, O God, belongs to you in Zion. We will fulfill our vows to you, for you answer our prayers. All of us must come to you. Psalm 65:1-2*

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*Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Philippians 4:6*

# MODES of Prayer

- Personal prayer (Prayer to God to fellowship and tell God our personal needs.)
  - But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you. Matthew 6:6
- Community prayer (Prayer offered to God by a group of believers, who pray for one another and intercede on behalf of others.)
  - When he realized this, he went to the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark, where many were gathered for prayer. Acts 12:12
- Congregational prayer (Prayer offered to God by members of a Local Church.)
  - I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. 2 Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. 1 Timothy 2:1-2

# Jesus gives us a Model Prayer (Pattern for prayer or Ingredients to include in prayer)

- Honor God's name
- Acknowledge God and accept God's will
- Ask for your needs
- Ask for forgiveness
- Ask God to help you live in a God honoring manner (forgive others)
- Ask for power to overcome evil forces
- Ask for the demonstration of God's power on earth

# THE LORD'S PRAYER

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*Pray like this:*

*Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy.*

*May your Kingdom come soon.*

*May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.*

*Give us today the food we need, and forgive us our sins,  
as we have forgiven those who sin against us.*

*And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.*

*Matthew 6:9-13*

# In prayer, we should avoid:

- Vain repetitions. (repetitive prayers that have lost their meaning)
  - *“When you pray, don’t babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. Matthew 6:7*
- Imposing our will above the will of God
  - He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, “My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.” Matthew 26:39
- Wrong motives
  - And even when you ask, you don’t get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure. James 4:3
- Seeking revenge
  - But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! Matthew 5:44
  - Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, “I will take revenge; I will pay them back,” says the Lord. Romans 12:9

# Inclusion in prayer (Beyond our own needs)

- Government authorities
  - “The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know. Pray especially for rulers and their governments to rule well so we can be quietly about our business of living simply, in humble contemplation. This is the way our Savior God wants us to live.” (1 Timothy 2:1-3, The Message)
- Pastors, ministers, God's servants and other ministries
  - We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 ESV)
  - When they heard the report, all the believers lifted their voices together in prayer to God: “O Sovereign Lord, Creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—...And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. (Acts 4:24,29)
- Sinners to be saved
  - Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. (Romans 10:1)
- For all members of the Body of Christ, the Church
  - And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people. (Ephesians 6:18)

# Inclusion in prayer (Beyond our own needs) continued

- For deliverance of those in distress and need
  - “Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:4)
  - So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church. . . . When he realized [he had been freed], he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying. (Acts 12:5, 12)
- For our love of our enemies
  - “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:43-45)
- For Workers to be sent by God into all the world to preach the gospel
  - “Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” (Matthew 9:38)

# Praying “in Jesus’ Name”

- To come in the name of someone means that another person has authorized us to come on his authority, not on our own. (Acts 3:6, 4:7, 16:18)
- The “name” of a person in the ancient world represented the person and therefore all their character.
- This means that praying “in Jesus’ name” is not only praying in his authority, but also praying in a way that is consistent with his character that truly represents him and reflects his manner of life and his own holy will.
- “Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.” (John 14:13–14 ESV)
- “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.” (John 15:16 ESV)

# The Role of the Holy Spirit in Our Praying

- “Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.” (Rom 8:26–27 ESV)

# Praying with Faith

- “Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” (Mark 11:24 ESV)
- Jesus is apparently saying that when we ask for something, the kind of faith that will bring results is a settled assurance that when we prayed for something (or perhaps after we had been praying over a period of time), God agreed to grant our specific request.
- Prayer is never wishful thinking, for it springs from trust in a personal God who wants us to take him at his word.

# According to His Will

- “And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.” (1 John 5:14–15 ESV)
- We should have great confidence that God will answer our prayer when we ask him for something that accords with a specific promise or command of Scripture. For this reason, knowledge of Scripture is a tremendous help in prayer, enabling us to follow the pattern of first Christians who quoted Scripture when they prayed.

# Helpful Tips

- Think about the content of your prayer
  - Pay attention to current events in your life, the community and world.
- Think about the structure of your prayer
  - There is NO right way to pray.
  - Determine what your prayer is doing and where your prayer is going.
  - Don't be intimidated about prayer, remember it is talking to God – not people. The audience is releasing their prayers to you.
- Write down your prayer and practice praying out loud.
  - This is helpful especially if you are nervous.
  - In the age of technology you can even record yourself praying.
- Don't forget the beginning and ending.
  - Let us pray. Join me in prayer. Let's pray together.
  - Ending "In Jesus name we pray, Amen."

# I Must Tell Jesus

I must tell Jesus all of my  
trials;

I cannot bear these  
burdens alone;

In my distress He kindly  
will help me;

He ever loves and cares for  
His own.

Refrain:

I must tell Jesus!

I must tell Jesus!

I cannot bear my burdens  
alone;

I must tell Jesus!

I must tell Jesus!

Jesus can help me, Jesus  
alone.