

PRAYER

—The Power, Purpose, and Pattern—

- The Purpose and Power of Prayer
- Who God Hears and the Heart He Requires
- The Direction and Substance of Prayer
- The Manner, Spirit, and Perseverance of Prayer
- The Closing and Confirmation of Prayer

Prayer is one of the greatest blessings ever offered, by our heavenly Father.
Through it, weak and imperfect people, can **Speak Directly** to Almighty God.

Prayer is **NOT** a ritual to recite, **NOR** a duty to be rushed, but a **Relationship to be Cherished**.
It is how **Faith** breathes ([Heb.11:6](#)), how **Trust** grows ([Prov.3:5-6](#)), and how **Gratitude** speaks ([Col.4:2](#)).

From the beginning, God's people have prayed.

- Abraham interceded for Sodom ([Gen.18](#)).
- Hannah poured out her soul for a son ([1Sam.1](#)).
- David cried to God, through both tears and triumph ([Psa.55](#)).
- Jesus Himself prayed often, rising early to commune with His Father ([Mk.1:35](#)).

When we look through Scripture, we find that prayer is not man's idea — it is God's invitation.
He calls us to draw near to Him, promising that when we do, He will draw near to us ([Jas.4:8](#)).

Before we learn how to pray, we must understand **why** God commands us to pray
— what He designed it for, to accomplish in our hearts.

I. **The Purpose and Power of Prayer**

Prayer is not merely asking God for things; it is drawing close to Him in love, reverence, and trust.
It is how we walk with God each day.

A. **Prayer, as Communion and Worship**

The Bible says,

- **“The LORD is NIGH unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth. He will **FULFIL** the desire of them that fear Him: He also will **HEAR** their cry, and will **SAVE** them.”** ([Psa.145:18-19](#))

True prayer draws the believer, near to God's presence.

Paul through inspiration, said,

- **“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”** ([Phil.4:6-7](#))

Prayer brings peace, when worry would take over.

Just as a child feels safe, when speaking to a loving father,
so the believer finds comfort, when talking with God.

Just as prayer brings peace in our troubles, it also gives us an example to follow.
No one modeled prayer more perfectly than...

B. Jesus: Our Perfect Example in Prayer

Jesus prayed often, showing that prayer is essential, not optional.
If the Son of God prayed, how much more should we?

From [Mark 1:35](#),

- We learn that Jesus rose early to pray alone.

From [Luke 6:12](#),

- We learn that he continued all night in prayer.

In Gethsemane He prayed,

- **“Not as I will, but as thou wilt.”** ([Matt.26:39](#))

Prayer strengthens us to obey the Father’s will, even when it’s hard.
Prayer is not about changing God’s will; it’s about surrendering ours.

From the prayers of Jesus, we learn not only dependence, but also gratitude.
His communion with the Father teaches us...

C. Thanksgiving and Praise in Prayer

Prayer is not only for asking—it is for thanking.
A grateful heart keeps prayer from becoming self-centered.

The Bible says,

- **“Pray without ceasing... in every thing Give THANKS.”** ([1Thess.5:17-18](#))
- **“Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with THANKSGIVING.”** ([Col.4:2](#))
- **“Enter into His gates with THANKSGIVING, and into His courts with PRAISE.”** ([Psa.100:4](#))

When prayer begins with thanksgiving, it reminds us, that God has already blessed us beyond measure.

The purpose of prayer is fellowship, not formality.
Through prayer we worship, trust, and align our hearts with God’s will.

Now that we understand the purpose of prayer, we must discuss...

II. Who God Hears, and the Heart He Requires

The Bible confirms,

A. The Righteous Are Heard

God hears those who love Him and walk in obedience to His Word.

- **“The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their Prayers.”** ([1Pet.3:12](#))
- **“The effectual fervent Prayer of a righteous man, availeth much (that is, accomplishes much).”** ([Jas.5:16](#))
- **“The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their Cry.”** ([Psa.34:15](#))

A pure heart and obedient life, opens the way to heaven’s throne.

But while God eagerly hears the prayers of the righteous, Scripture also warns, that certain hearts cannot be heard.

Let us see what prevents prayer, from reaching heaven.

B. Sin, Unforgiveness, and Pride, Hinder Prayer

- “Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear:
² but **Your Iniquities** have separated, between you and your God, and **Your Sins** have hid His face from you, that **He will NOT hear.**” ([Isa.59:1-2](#))
- “**He that turneth away his ear** from hearing the law, even **his prayer shall be abomination.**” ([Prov.28:9](#))

From [Mk.11:25-26](#), we learn that we need to forgive others, or our own prayers will be hindered.

- Jesus said, “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.
²⁶ But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven, forgive your trespasses.”

If we hold a grudge against someone, our hearts are too full of ourselves, to truly speak to God.

God hears the humble, forgiving, and repentant heart
—but He turns away from pride and hypocrisy.

Righteousness and humility, prepare the heart for prayer.
The greatest barrier to prayer, is not silence from God, but sin within us.

Now that we understand who can pray, we must see...

III. The Direction and Substance of Prayer

Knowing who God hears, prepares us to understand...

A. To Whom We Pray

Jesus gave a perfect model:

- “After this manner therefore **Pray** ye, **Our Father** which art in heaven.” ([Matt.6:9](#))

We pray to the Father, through the Son, by the help of the Holy Spirit.

- Jesus said, “Whatsoever ye shall **Ask** In My Name, that will I Do, that the **Father may be glorified** in the Son.” ([Jn.14:13](#))
- “For there is one God, and **one mediator** between God and men, the man **Christ Jesus;**” ([1Tim.2:5](#))
- “**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.” ([Rom.8:26-27](#))

We do not pray to Mary, angels, or saints.
God the Father alone, is the hearer of prayer, approached only through Christ.

Once we know to whom we pray, we can then consider...

B. What We May Pray For

—That is, what kind of requests, honor God and reflect His will.

The Lord invites us to pray about everything,
but He expects us to pray in submission to His will.

- “...in **every thing** by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your **Requests be made known unto God.**” ([Phil.4:6](#))
- “If any of you lack wisdom, let him **Ask of God...**” ([Jas.1:5](#))
- Even Jesus prayed, “...Not as I will, but as Thou wilt.” ([Matt.26:39](#))
- “And this is the confidence that we have IN Him, that, **IF we Ask any thing according to His will**, He heareth us:” ([1Jn.5:14](#))

We may not always receive what we ask, but we always receive what is best.

We can pray for help, strength, forgiveness, or guidance
—but all requests must bow to God’s perfect wisdom.

- “Ye ask, and receive not, because ye **ask amiss**, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.” ([Jas.4:3](#))

Prayer takes different forms, including...

C. Private and Public Prayer

Jesus warned against praying for show, yet the early church prayed together often.
Both private and public prayer, have their place.

From [Matt.6:5-6](#), we learn that one should pray secretly before the Father.

- Jesus said, “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.” ([Matt.6:5–6](#))
- The disciples “continued stedfastly... in prayers.” ([Acts 2:42](#)), ...which was during public worship.

From [1Cor.14:15-16](#), we learn that others must understand public prayers, so they can say Amen.

- “...I will **Pray with the spirit**, and I will **Pray with the Understanding** also:
...Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not, what thou sayest?”

Private prayer builds intimacy with God; public prayer builds unity among His people.
Prayer is directed to the Father, through Christ, guided by the Spirit.

It may be private or public, spoken or silent,
but it must always be sincere and in harmony with God’s will.

Now let us consider...

IV. The Manner, Spirit, and Perseverance of Prayer

...That is, the attitude, persistence, and faith that must accompany our words.

Now that we know what and to whom we pray, we must learn how to pray.

A. Pray with Faith and Perseverance

God does not always answer immediately, but He never ignores a faithful heart.

- Jesus said, “**Ask**, and it shall be given you; **Seek**, and ye shall find; **Knock**, and it shall be opened unto you.¹⁰ For every one that asketh **Receiveth**; and he that seeketh **Findeth**; and to him that knocketh it shall be **Opened**.” ([Lk.11:9–10](#))
- “...men ought always to pray, and not to faint;” ([Lk.18:1](#))
- “...continuing instant in prayer;” (Paul said in [Rom.12:12](#))
- “Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him:” ([Psa.37:7a](#))

When God delays—He is refining our trust ([Isa.40:31](#); [Jas.1:3-4](#)).

Faithful prayer does not stop with our own needs,
—it reaches outward in love, interceding for others with...

B. Supplication, Intercession, and Spiritual Strength for Our Souls

Prayer is powerful, when it becomes unselfish
—when we pray for others, and for the strength to stand against sin.

- “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, **prayers**, intercessions, and giving of thanks, **be made for all men** (that is, believers and unbelievers);” ([1Tim.2:1](#))
- From [Exodus 32:11–14](#), we learn that Moses interceded for Israel.
- From [Job 42:10](#), we learn that Job prayed for his friends.
- “**praying always**, with all prayer and supplication, in the Spirit (as opposed to in the flesh), and **watching** thereunto, **with all perseverance** and supplication **for all saints**;” ([Eph.6:18](#))

Prayer is not just for comfort—it is our greatest weapon in spiritual battle.

When we pray in faith, we can trust that God always answers,
—but His answers may come in different ways and times.

C. God Answers: Yes, No, or Wait

God denied Paul’s request...

- He said, “...there was given to me **a thorn in the flesh**, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.⁸ For this **thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me**.⁹ And He said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee**: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” ([2Cor.12:7–9](#))
- From [Dan.10:12–13](#), we learn that Daniel’s answer was delayed, but not denied.
- Jesus prayed, “Nevertheless **NOT My will, but Thine, be Done**.” ([Lk.22:42](#))

God always answers with perfect wisdom, even when it is not what we expected.

Faithful prayer is persistent, selfless, and trusting.

It **ASKS** boldly, **SUBMITS** humbly, and **WAITS** patiently.

Now let's notice...

V. The Closing and Confirmation of Prayer

Every prayer should end with reverence and recognition of the One, who makes prayer possible.

A. Praying in the Name of Jesus

When we pray "in Jesus' name," we are not using a formula — we are appealing to His divine authority.

- **"Whatsoever ye Do in word or deed, Do all, In the Name of the Lord Jesus."** ([Col.3:17](#))
- **"Whatsoever ye shall Ask the Father, In My Name, He will give it you."** ([Jn.16:23-24](#))
- **"Giving thanks always... In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ."** ([Eph.5:20](#))
- **"There is none other Name under heaven... whereby we must be saved."** ([Acts 4:12](#))

To pray in Jesus' name, means to pray, **by His authority** and **according to His will**.

Whether we say "In Jesus' Name," "In Christ's Name," "through Christ," or "by His authority," the heart must honor Christ, as the only Mediator ([1Tim.2:5](#)).

As our prayers draw to a close, we confirm our faith in the authority of Christ, and express our agreement through a single word, and so let's discuss...

B. The Meaning and Role of "Amen"

The word "Amen" appears throughout Scripture, —meaning "so be it," or "it is true."

From [1Chron.16:36](#), we learn that,

- **"all the people said, Amen, and praised the LORD."**

From [Nehemiah 8:6](#),

- The people answered, **"Amen, Amen."**
- **"Blessed be the LORD... Amen, and Amen."** ([Psa.41:13](#))
- **"For of Him... are all things... Amen."** ([Rom.11:36](#))
- **"Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Amen."** ([Rev.22:20](#))

From [1Cor.14:16](#),

- The congregation says **Amen**, to express agreement.

Saying "Amen" is not required, but it is good.

It declares our agreement with the prayer and our trust in God's will.

Publicly, it unites the assembly, in **shared faith**;

Privately, it seals our prayer, with **personal conviction**.

Amen is not a ritual word—it is a statement of faith: **"So be it, Lord."**

Saying "Amen" is our way of agreeing with God's truth.

Prayer closes with humility and faith

— acknowledging the authority of Christ and trusting that God's Will, is best.

VI. Closing Thoughts

Prayer has Eternal Value.

Every sincere prayer—spoken in faith—continues to please God, long after the words have faded.

[Psa.141:2](#), poetically portrays prayer as offering incense
—something that lingers and fills the air, even after the flame has gone out.

From [Acts 10:4](#), God told Cornelius that his prayers were remembered as a memorial
—something that continues to stand before God, even after the moment of prayer itself has passed.

Let us, therefore, continue in prayer:

- To the **Father**, through the **Son**, guided by the **Holy Spirit**.
- With hearts of faith, gratitude, and humility.
- Persevering in trust, resting in His timing, and closing with Amen, meaning, “**So be it, Lord.**”
- James said, “**The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man, availeth much.**” ([Jas.5:16](#))

Prayer is a blessing reserved for the child of God.

Salvation requires obedience to the gospel first, and then **prayer** becomes the privilege of fellowship.

Salvation begins with **Hearing** ([Rom.10:17](#)), **Believing** ([Heb.11:6](#)), **Repenting** ([Lk.13:3](#)),

Confessing Christ ([Acts 8:37](#)), and being **Baptized** into Him ([Gal.3:26-27](#)).

But once we **belong to Him**, prayer becomes the heartbeat of our faith
— our **daily connection** with the Father through Jesus Christ.

May God help us, to live as people of prayer, whose hearts are always near the throne of God.

The Lord invites and we await to assist.

Come without delay, while we stand and sing.