

“What the Bible Says about Prayer”

Selected Scriptures

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1. What is prayer?

- A. A personal, supernatural communication with God.
- B. Spontaneous, ongoing communion with God, individually and corporately.

2. Why pray?

- A. It is a command.
“I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men” (1 Timothy 2:1)
- B. To nurture our relationship with God.
“I love the LORD, because He hears my voice and my supplications” (Psalm 116:1; cf. Psalm 34:1-8).
- C. God wants us to depend on Him.
“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

- D. It allows us to be involved.
“O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and take action! For Thine own sake, O my God, do not delay, because Thy city and Thy people are called by Thy name” (Daniel 9:19)
- E. God responds to prayer.
“...ask and it shall be given to you” (Luke 11:9)
“The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much” (James 5:16)
“In my trouble I cried to the LORD and He answered me” (Psalm 120:1)

3. How do we pray?

- A. To the Father.
“Pray then in this way, ‘Our Father...’” (Matthew 6:9)
- B. In the Spirit.
“...pray at all times in the Spirit” (Ephesians 6:18)
- C. In the name of Christ.
“What you ask in My name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son” (John 14:13)
- D. According to His will.
“...if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us” (1 John 5:14)

4. Why pray every day?

- A. Direction
"...if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him; but let him ask in faith without doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind; for let not that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord" (James 1:5-7)

- B. Protection
"Father...deliver us from the evil one" (Matthew 6:9, 13)

- C. Confession
"forgive us our debts" (Matthew 6:12; cf. 1 John 1:9)

- D. Adoration
"I will sing praise to Thy name, O Most High" (Psalm 9:2)

- E. Thanksgiving
"Give thanks to the LORD for He is good" (Psalm 136:1; cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:18)

- F. Provision
"give us this day our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11)

5. What inhibits prayer?

- A. Sin (*1 Peter 3:7; Proverbs 28:13*)

- B. Pride (*James 4:6, 10*)

- C. Disunity (*1 Corinthians 3:1-4*)

- D. Not in the Word (*Psalms 119*)

- E. Isolation (*Proverbs 18:1*)

- F. Doubt (*Matthew 21:22; James 1:6*)