

# PRAYER

The Bible is a God-to-man message. It reveals the mind of God unto mankind.

Prayer, on the other hand, is a man-to-God communication. By it we express our thoughts to God.

It is the expression of the heart's desire unto God; through faith; in the name of Christ Jesus. Both are vitally important to the Christian.

## WHO SHOULD PRAY?

Believers in God and His Son Jesus Christ.

Jesus taught His disciples to pray.

Jesus encouraged the disciples to pray. Luk.18:1

However, the "face of the Lord is against those who do evil." 1Pe.3:12

## WHY PRAY?

Prayer is heard by the Lord. 1Pe.3:12

However, selfish requests are not granted. Jam.4:2-3

Prayer is effective. Jam.5:16

Prayer is to be an ongoing activity for all Christians. 1Th.5:17

## WHERE SHOULD ONE PRAY?

Anywhere:

In the assembly Act.2:42

In prison. Act.16:25

On the seashore. Act.21:5

At a riverside. Act.16:13

In a garden. Mar.14:32

On a mountain. Mat.14:23

At a member's house. Act.12:12

If possible, pray where you can focus on talking to God. Mat.6:6; Act.10:9

Not to pray to be seen of men. Mat.6:5

## HOW SHOULD ONE PRAY?

In faith, confidence. Mat.21:22, Jam.1:6

With persistence, not losing heart. Luk.11:5-8; 18:1-8

With reverence. Mat.6:9, Isa.66:2

With a forgiving heart. Mat.6:12-15, Mar.11:25-26

According to God's divine will. 1Jo.5:14-15

In Jesus' name. Joh.14:13-14; Joh.16:24

**In Hebrew thought, the name was mysteriously linked to the person's character and prerogatives. Thus prayer in Jesus' name is prayer that is seeking His will and submissive to His authority.**

John 14:13; 1 John 5:14

## WHAT SHOULD BE OUR PRAYER?

Praise and adoration. Act.2:47, Rom.15:11, Psa.100

Thanksgiving. Psa.103

Petitions for others in Christ:

For their spiritual strength. Eph.3:14-19

For their deliverance from evil men. 2Th.3:1-5

That they abound in knowledge and judgment. Phi.1:9-11

For their physical needs. Jam.5:13-14, 3Jo.2

Petitions for those outside of Christ:

Civil rulers. 1Ti.2:1-2

Enemies. Mat.5:44; Luk.6:28

The salvation of the lost. Rom.10:1

Petitions for self:

Physical necessities. Mat.6:11, 32

Our every care. Phi.4:6, Heb.4:16, 1Pe.5:6-7

Wisdom. Jam.1:5

Deliverance. Mat.6:13

## WHEN SHOULD WE PRAY?

In times of decision and crises:

Jesus prayed

when choosing the Apostles. Luk.6:12-13

for Peter. Luk.22:31-32

when facing crucifixion. Mar.14:32-42

Disciples prayed

when choosing a replacement for Judas. Act.1:24

when Peter was put in prison. Act.12:5

when sending out missionaries to the Gentiles. Act.13:3

when appointing elders. Act.14:23

when in prison. Act.16:25

Pray at all times. 1Th.5:17 "Pray without ceasing."

Luk.18:1 "at all times ... to pray"

Act.2:42 "devoting themselves to ... prayer"

Eph.6:18 "pray at all times"

Col.1:9 "have not ceased to pray"

## WHAT POSTURE FOR PRAYER?

Kneeling. 1Ki.8:54, Act.20:36

Standing. Jer.18:20

Head bowed. Luk.18:13

Sitting. 2Sa.7:18

Prostrate. Mat.26:39

Uplifted hands. 1Ki.8:22, 1Ti.2:8

**Any (reverent) position.**

## THOUGHT QUESTIONS:

Is prayer a duty?

How does one develop his or her prayer-life?

Does God hear a sinner's prayer?

Can prayers be hindered by corrupted character? (Jam.4:7); or injured relationships?  
(Mat.5:23-24, 1Pe.3:7)

If God knows our thoughts already, why express them in prayer?