

What is Prayer? Part 1

1.As Children of God no matter how diligently we may strive to please God in all other phases of responsibilities, if we do not pray, or pray properly, we will be miserable failures.

2.We should appreciate the great blessing of prayer!

- 1 Timothy 2: 5 For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and mankind, the Man Christ Jesus,

Are you praying every moment available?



3. Prayer is the General Term for Addressing God

- **A. God has made it possible for his children to talk to him. (1 Tim.2:5; Heb 4:14-16)**
- **B. God ask His children to call upon him. (Luke 18:1-8; Eph. 6: 17-18; 1 Tim. 2:1-3; Thes 5:17)**

*So let us come boldly to the
throne of our gracious God.*

T H E R E W E W I L L R E C E I V E
H I S M E R C Y , A N D W E W I L L
F I N D G R A C E T O H E L P U S
W H E N W E N E E D I T M O S T .

H E B R E W S 4 : 1 6

4. Prayer is the Privilege and Duty of the Righteous (Jas. 5:16)

- A. The model prayer of Jesus (Matt. 6:9) shows that prayer was designed for God's children. (cf. John 8:42, 44)
- B. Those trying to live righteously have their prayers approved of God. (1 Pet. 3:10-12)

**SO THEN, THIS IS HOW
YOU SHOULD PRAY: 'OUR
FATHER IN HEAVEN,
HALLOWED BE YOUR
NAME.**

– MATTHEW 6:9

5. Prayer is Asking, Seeking and Knocking (Matt. 7:7-11)

- **A. Asking petitions of God.**
- **B. Seeking answers to life's problems.**
- **C. Knocking to gain entrance into a more abundant life.**

Ask, and it shall be given you;
seek, and ye shall find; knock,
and it shall be opened unto you:
For every one that asketh
receiveth; and he that seeketh
findeth; and to him that
knocketh it shall be opened.

Matthew 7:7-11 KJV



6. Prayer is an Act of Faith (Luke 18:1-8; Jas. 1:5-7)

- **A. One cannot please God without faith. (Heb. 11:6)**
- **B. One must have a working faith. (Jas. 2:14, 24)**
- **1. Prayer is not a substitute for works.**
- **2. Prayer is a mockery unless one strives for the most effective service possible in doing the will of God.**
- **3. As a farmer does not pray for good crops as a substitute for his obligation to prepare the soil, plant the seed, etc., but for reinforcement of his efforts; no Christian should pray for the sick, the needy or the lost as a substitute for his responsibilities to such teachings as Galatians 6:10; Romans 15:1; and Mark 16:15-16**

*If any of you lacks wisdom,
you should ask God,
who gives generously to all
without finding fault,
and it will be given to you.*

James 1:5



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7. Prayer is more Than Thinking

- **A. Prayer is a communication with two parties involved, God listens, the Christian talks.**
- **B. This raises an important question: "Must one then verbalize private prayers?"**
- **1. No. God knows our hearts. (Heb. 4:13; Acts 15:8)**
- **2. The example of Hannah (1 Sam. 1:12-13). Though she had not verbalized her prayer, she:**
 - **a. "Poured out her soul before the Lord" (v.15)**
 - **b. Had "spoken." (v. 16)**
 - **c. Had asked petition of God. (v.17)**

**AS HANNAH KEPT ON
PRAYING BEFORE THE
LORD, ELI WATCHED HER
MOUTH.
— 1 SAMUEL 1:12**

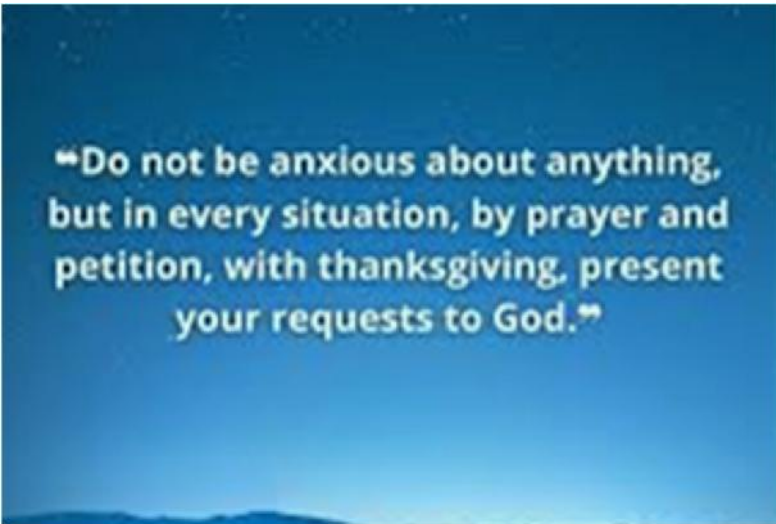
8. The Scriptural elements of Prayer.

- 1. Adoration or Praise
 - a. Prayer is a way of eulogizing God. (Acts 2:47; Matt. 6:9)
 - b. "But what makes prayer worship? Since worship is an expression of love for and devotion to God, prayer which recognizes him; which appeals to his love, mercy, grace, and power; and which shows a reliance on Him and the need to communicate with him; is surely worship. It exalts God as the object of our praise, the recipient of our love, and the source of all blessings. In turn, God displays His providential care and love for His Children by hearing and answering their prayers (1 John 5:14-15; Matthew 7:7-11).
 - c. An example: The prayer of the disciples after Peter and John were released from prison. (Acts 4:14-31)
- 2. Petitions
 - a. Petitions include pleas for one's needs. (1 John 5:14-15)
 - b. Petitions include supplications (Eph. 6:17-18; Phil 4:6). "Primarily a wanting, a need...then, an asking, entreaty, supplication.



8. The Scriptural elements of Prayer.

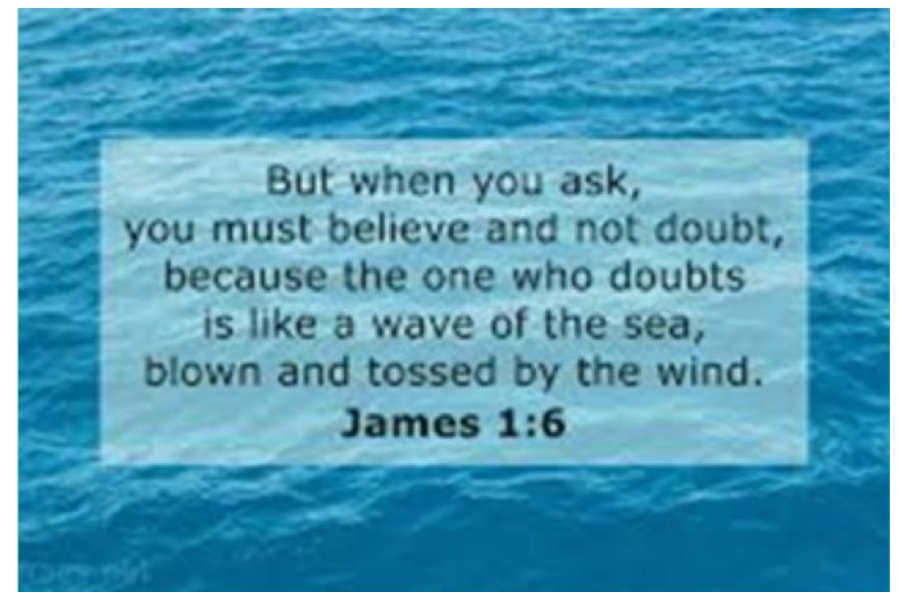
- **3.Thanksgiving**
 - a. Prayer should be characterized by thanksgiving for blessings received. (Phil. 4:6)
 - b. As Christians we should be abounding in thanksgiving.
- **4.Intercession**
 - a. The Greek word translated intercession in the New Testament is enteuxis. It is "a petition, it is a technical term for approaching a king, and so for approaching God in intercession." (Vine, 607)
 - b. Intercessions are pleas for others (1 Tim. 2:1). In other words , seeking the presence and hearing of God on behalf of others.
 - c. Again, we can cite the example of Simon in Acts 8:24 where he asked Peter to pray for him.



“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

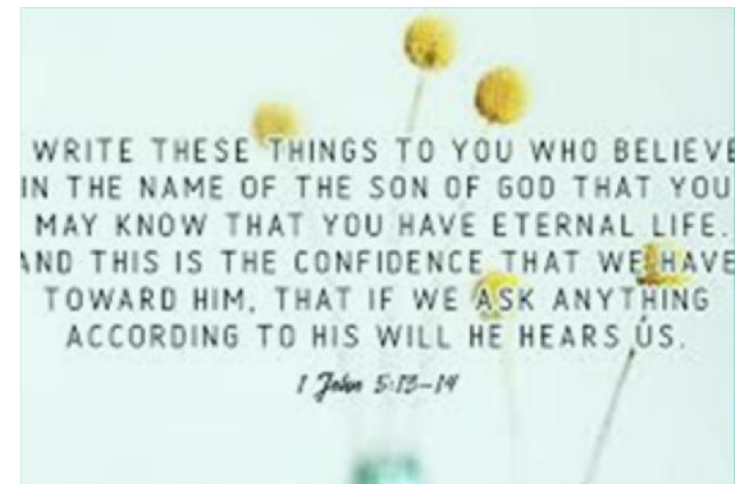
9. Assumptions of prayer

- 1. God is real.
 - A. One must see God as a thinking, powerful and personal being. (Heb. 11:6)
 - B. One must have no doubt as to God and his willingness and ability to hear and answer prayer. (Jas. 1:6)
 - C. One must be assured that the Father-child relationship with God is a reality. (Matt. 11:25; Luke 11:2)
 - D. God is interested in the welfare of his children. (Matt. 10:29-31). He loves and cherishes us! (1 John 3:1)
- 2. God Hears Prayer.
 - A. The ears of God are open to the prayers of the righteous. (1 Pet. 3:12; John 9:31)
 - B. As one draws near to God, He draws near to him. (Jas. 4:8)



9. Assumptions of prayer

- **3. God Answers Prayer**
 - **a. If God heard the prayers of his children and made no response at all, how futile their prayers would be. Hebrews 11:6.**
 - **b. God answers all proper prayers. (1 John 5:13-15)**
 - **c. God answers prayer in different ways. He, at times:**
 - **1. Withholds the answers. (Matt. 26:39-44; Job 30:20)**
 - **2. Delays the answer. (Luke 18:7)**
 - **3. Exceeds the request. (Acts 12:5; Eph. 3:20)**
 - **4. Does not grant what is requested- He knows best. (Matt. 26:39; 2 Cor. 12: 8-9)**



10. It's Blessings

- **A. Peace that passes understanding. (Phil 4:6-7)**
- **B. Help in time of temptation. (1 Cor. 10:13)**
- **C. Wisdom. (Jas. 1:5)**
- **D. Physical necessities. (Matt.6:11, 33)**
- **E. Healing-both physical and spiritual. (Jas. 5:16)**
- **F. Forgiveness. (Matt. 6:12; Acts 8:22)**
- **G. Help with Prayer. (Rom. 8:26-27)**
- **H. All good things. (Psa.84:11; Jas. 1:17)**



**“Give us
this day
our daily
bread.”**

MATTHEW 6:11