

A Study On Prayer

Matthew 6:5-15

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Luke 11:1

*"And it came to pass, as he was praying in a certain place, that when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, **Lord, teach us to pray**, even as John also taught his disciples."*

Acknowledgments Seen In Prayer

- ▶ There is a God. **cf. Hebrews 11:6**
- ▶ Man needs God. **cf. John 15:5**
- ▶ God hears prayer. **cf. James 4:8; 1 Peter 3:12**
Psalms 65:2 "O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come."
- ▶ God answers prayer. **Matthew 7:7-11**
- ▶ God cares for man. **1 Peter 5:7**

What Is Prayer?

- ▶ Prayer is more than wishful thinking. It is the ***"heart's desire"*** (praise, adoration, thanksgiving) ***expressed to God.*** **Romans 10:1**

Kinds of Prayer cf. 1 Timothy 2:1

1. Supplication (*deesis*) – "Prayers asking God's aid in some particular matter related to a specific need."
2. Prayers (*proseuche*) – Is a more general term in meaning covering every form of address to God and including the idea of worship and devotion.
3. Intercession (*enteuxis*) – is a falling in with, meeting with, in which a petition or plea is presented on behalf of another or of others.

Kinds of Prayer cf. 1 Timothy 2:1

4. Thanksgiving (*eucharistia*) – is the acknowledgment that all benefits and blessings in all realms are from God. It is gratitude and grateful praise.
cf. Colossians 2:6-7

"Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks"
Psalms 75:1

- ▶ James 1:17 Gifts cometh from the father.
- ▶ Acts 17:25 Life, breath, and all things.
- ▶ Matthew 7:9-11 He giveth good things to them that ask.

Attributes To Cultivate For Acceptable Prayer

- ▶ Humility. cf. Luke 18:9-14; cf. verse 1
- ▶ Love. cf. Matthew 18:21-35; Matthew 6:12; Ephesians 4:32; cf. 1 Corinthians 13
- ▶ Expectation. cf. Matthew 17:19-21; Mark 11:22-24; cf. James 1:5-8
- ▶ Watchfulness. Matthew 26:38-41
 - Often linked with prayer. Mark 13:33; Luke 21:36; Ephesians 6:18; Colossians 4:2
 - *cf. 1 Peter 5:8, "Be sober, be watchful: your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."*
- ▶ A Godly life. Proverbs 15:29; Proverbs 28:9; cf. John 9:31

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Specific Conditions Of Acceptable Prayer

- ▶ **In the name of Christ.** John 14:13-14; 16:23; cf. John 15:16; 16:26; 1 Peter 2:5
- ▶ **According to His will.** 1 John 5:14-15
 - Implies a knowledge of His will. 1 Kings 8:22-30; Nehemiah 1:4-11; Ezra 9:5-11; Deuteronomy 30:1ff
- ▶ **Persistence and fervency.** Luke 11:5-8; Luke 18:1-8; James 5:17

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Hindrances To Prayer

- ▶ **Marital problems.** 1 Peter 3:7
- ▶ **Selfish requests.** James 4:3
- ▶ **Disbelief.** James 1:5-8
- ▶ **Persistence in sin.** Proverbs 28:9; John 15:1-8; 1 Peter 3:12; Psalms 66:18

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Hindrances To Prayer

- ▶ **Failure to forgive others.** Matthew 6:12-15; 18:21-35; James 2:13; Titus 3:5-6
- ▶ **Self-righteousness.** Matthew 6:1-5
- ▶ **Un-righted wrongs.** Matthew 5:23-24

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