



prayer

the effective, fervent
prayer of a righteous
man avails

much. james 5:16

What is Prayer?

The greatest privilege a Christian has is the privilege of prayer. Not only is it a privilege, but it is also the responsibility of every believer. Jesus said, "Men ought always to pray and not lose heart" (Luke 18:1)

Prayer is simply talking to God, letting our concerns and requests be made known to Him. When we pray, we admit our need for God and our utter dependence on Him. Only through a relationship with Jesus Christ do we have access to God (1 Timothy 2:5) We approach God in Jesus' name, not our own.

Prayer is not a means of trying to get from God what we want, but rather a means by which we enable God to give us what He wants. Regarding prayer, Billy Graham said, "Prayer is the rope that pulls God and man together. But it doesn't pull God down to us; it pulls us up to Him.

Why Pray?

We're to pray because God commands it (2 Chronicles 7:14; Luke 18:1). Through prayer, we receive things (James 4:2), experience fullness of joy (John 16:24), and find help in times of trouble. Prayer is the cure for worry (Philippians 4:6; 1 Peter 5:7) and also helps us resist temptation (Matthew 26:41).

When are we to Pray?

We are to pray always. The bible instructs us to "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). The apostle Paul exhorted believers to pray "always with all prayer and supplication: (Ephesians 6:18).

Types of Prayer

Praise and Adoration

Through praise and adoration, we acknowledge God's goodness. We must recognize that when we pray, we enter God's presence (Matthew 6:9). Prayer takes us into the very throne room of God. As we revere the Lord by communing with Him in prayer, our relationship with Him becomes more intimate, and our love more tender.

Confession and Repentance

Confession and repentance are prerequisites for approaching God. The bible assures us forgiveness if we confess our sins to God. Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8).

Thanksgiving

We need to always remember what God has done for us, and give Him thanks for it. We're to thank Him during the good times, as well as the bad times, "giving thanks always for all things..." (Ephesians 5:20). We're also to make our requests known to God "with thanksgiving" *Philippians 4:6).

Supplication

Believers are to pray for our own needs and ask God for help in our daily affairs. We must never think that our requests are too small to bring before God. As Christians we are to pray about everything, being confident that God hears us, cares about us, and acts on our behalf.

Intercession

Intercession means to pray on behalf of – and for – other people (1 Timothy 2:!). People can stop us from telling them about Jesus, but they can't stop us from praying for them. We're to pray for our family, friends, Christian leaders, our country, and whatever else God lays on our hearts. We are to pray for them as seriously as we would for ourselves.

What if I don't Pray?

Neglecting to pray is a sin. David said, "Far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you" (1 Samuel 12:23). Jesus said, "Men ought always to pray and not lose heart" (Luke 18:1). D. L. Moody summarized the necessity of prayer with this observation: "Jesus never taught His disciple how to preach, but only how to pray."

Day 1 Focus

Read Matthew 5:1-12. Ask God for your heart to be pure as you pray. Ask God to focus your soul to better hear His voice.

Day 2: The Lord's Prayer

Read Luke 11:1-8. Pray the Lord's Prayer. Use each section as a way to pray not just a prayer to recite.

For the rest of the 30 days use this as a guide each time you pray. Each short part focused on one essential part of our relationship with Him. The Lord's prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) can do that and far more, if we will use it as a pathway to intimacy with God. When we do, He opens our eyes to see from His perspective, enables us to share His heart, and keeps us close to Him:

- ***Our Father in heaven, holy is Your Name.*** WORSHIP HIM! Whether by inner acknowledgment or outward motion, bow before the King, your Father and Shepherd,

in faith, love, humility and surrender, the attitude of worship.

- ***Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.*** SURRENDER TO HIM! Our King reigns -- He always has and He always will. Today, the goodness of His kingdom is demonstrated wherever His will is known and followed. -. ***Give us***

this day our daily bread. TRUST HIM FOR DAILY PROVISION! Jesus, Himself the Bread of life, longs to equip you with the riches and resources of His life. When you give yourself to Him, He gives Himself to you.

- ***Forgive us as we forgive.*** THANK HIM FOR HIS GRACE -- AND SHARE IT WITH OTHERS! God calls us to "be holy" as He is holy; nothing less can qualify us for the heavenly throne room of our King.

- ***Deliver us from the evil one.*** BATTLE IN PRAYER! Stand firm in the spiritual victories Christ won for you at the cross. They are living realities for those who belong to Him.

- ***For Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever!*** PRAISE HIM! TRUST HIM!

Day 3: Exalt his name in the world.

Read Psalm 47... Offer praise to our God for all He has done.

Day 4 Live empowered by the Spirit

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! (Luke 11:13, Ephesians 3:19, Galatians 5:16-26).

Day 5 Boldness to live a life of faith

Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." (Acts 4:29-30)

Day 6 Healing

Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. **The** prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. (James 5:14-15).

Day 7: The heavens declare God's glory.

Read and declare Psalm 19. As you read this Psalm, make it a declaration that God's glory will come forth into your house, church, business, city, state, and nation.

Day 8 Deliverance/Provision

So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him...When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. (Acts 12:5-

12). But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake (Acts 16:25-26)

Day 9 God's Wisdom

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to all men generously and without reproaching, and it will be given him (James 1:5)

Day 10 Church Leadership

And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they believed (Acts 14:23)

Day 11 Church Family and Volunteers

Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest (Matthew 9:38) While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off (Acts 13:2-3)

Day 12 Encouragement

Read Psalms 121 and 122. Look up beyond your circumstances. Seek Him and ask Him to help you in the area that you need help.

Day 13 Discernment

And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more in with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ (Philippians 1:9-10)

Day 14 To know God better

[We have not ceased to pray for you to be] increasing in the knowledge of God (Colossians 1:10, Ephesians 1:17)

Day 15 A knowledge of His will

And so, from the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding (Colossians 1:9)

Day 16 Power to comprehend the love of Christ.

I bow my knees before the Father . . . that you may have power to comprehend with all the saints what are the breadth and length and height and depth and to know the love of Christ, which surpasses knowledge (Ephesians 3:14-18)

Day 17 Hope

I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers . . . that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints (Ephesians 1:16,18)

Day 18 Strength and endurance.

[We have not ceased to pray for you to be] strengthened with all power, according to

his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy (Colossians 1:11, Ephesians 3:16)

Day 19 God's Power and Strength

I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers . . . that you may know . . . what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe (Ephesians 1:16, 19)

Day 20 Faith

I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail; and when you have turned again, strengthen your brethren (Luke 22:32)

Watch at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of man (Luke 21:36)

Day 21 Our Faith to grow

Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24, Ephesians 3:17)

Day 22 God Plan

Read Genesis 12 and 15. Ask God to reveal to you His plan for your life in this generation.

Day 23 Live a life pleasing to Him

[We have not ceased to pray for you that you] lead a life worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work (Colossians 1:10)

Day 24 Forgiveness

Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors (Matthew 6:12)

Day 25 Protection

Deliver us from evil (Matthew 6:13)

Day 26 Unity

I do not pray for these only, but also for those who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one; even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that thou hast sent me (John 17:20-21)

Day 27 Government

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, [and] giving of thanks be made for all men for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

Day 28 Our enemies

But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, (Mt. 5:44)

Day 29 Our Cares

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5:7)

Day 30 EVERYTHING

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. (Philippians 4:6)