



Prayer 101



One day Jesus went up on a mountain to teach His disciples many things about God. One of the things He taught about was prayer. He began by telling them not to be like the hypocrites who love to stand praying in the churches and in the streets just so they can be seen and people will think they are special. He said that's the only reward they will get.



Instead, Jesus told them to go into their closet (a quiet place where they couldn't be heard praying), and the Father which sees in secret will reward them openly. *"Your Father knows what things you have need of before you ask him, so pray like this: Our Father, which is in heaven, Hallowed (holy) be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we have forgiven (released debts and given up resentment against) our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen."* (Matthew 6:8-13)

"For if you forgive people their trespasses --- that is, their reckless and wilful sins --- and you give up resentment against them --- your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their trespasses --- neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." (Matthew 6:14,15 AMP)

Why does God require such a difficult thing to do before we can have our prayers answered. The reason is for our own good because our Father knows we cannot let go of the bad things that were done to us by ourselves. Our natural thinking is so programmed in these areas that only the supernatural power of God, by His Holy Spirit working in us can give us the ability to give up those remembered sins against us, and to release the anger and resentment twins that go with those memories. By forgiving trespasses against us, we are showing God that we trust Him and that we put His Word above any thing in this world that would try to keep us apart from Him.



Psalm 37:4,5 tells us *"Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit (give) your way unto the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass!"* The only way we can commit our way unto Him is to pray and tell Him we give our life to Him and then do it!

Prayer is treated very shallow today. No thought is given to the fact that when you say, "Father," God listens. You have entered in to the holy presence of God Himself, and it took the shed blood of Jesus on that cruel cross to buy your ticket into the throne room of God. Some people fall asleep while they are praying. How rude! We wouldn't do that if the President were listening to us. Some people get angry at God when they pray. How dare they! God has given everything He has to us --- but because we don't read our Bible to know how to receive it --- we blame Him, when the problem is the result of our own choices, which we probably never asked God about in the first place before we made the decision.

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If you don't pray before making decisions, you will be making them in your own limited, earthly wisdom. But, if you approach God reverently, in prayer, asking Him for His wisdom in the matter, He will give it to you at just the right moment. James 1:5 says, *"If any of you are lacking in wisdom, let him ask of God who gives to everyone generously, without reproaching or fault-finding, and it will be given to him."*



Plan for your prayer time in the way that is right for you. A few basic steps will help you to plan:

1. Make time – you can do it. We all have 24 hours. Set a time when you are alert and won't go to sleep.
2. Make a place – it can be a certain chair, a certain room, under a certain tree, but it's your place to meet God there. It can be a blanket & a pillow on the floor with your Bible. If possible, make it a place where you can talk out loud.
3. Make a plan – what are you going to talk to God about. Have a notebook or paper to write prayer requests you made to God & answers when they come.
 - If your not sure how to start – pray Matthew 6:8-13 to Him.
 - Offer thanksgiving unto God for what He has done for you; health, eyesight, children, hearing, a place to sleep, food to eat, etc.
 - Confess any sins you know of and repent before Him.
 - Offer praise to God for who He is – holy, all-powerful, loving, merciful, all-knowing, wise, etc.
 - Pray for others, your children, family, friends, your children's school, our nation, our government, The Sheepfold, etc.
 - Pray for your needs and ask God for your heart's desires.
4. Try to read 2 chapters of the Old Testament and 2 chapters of the New Testament if possible – or obtain a "Through the Bible In One Year" Bible.
5. Have confidence that your Father God hears your prayers when you pray. They are very precious to Him just like your children's prayers are precious to you when they pray because you know they trust and believe in a God who loves them.

Prayer is seeking God's will. Immature faith tries to manipulate God. It looks for spiritual short cuts to produce an answer to any request. It regards prayer as a weapon to force God to make good His promises. But true prayer is not a human effort to persuade God or force our will on Him. True prayer is finding God's will in the Bible and coming into agreement with it.

"These things have I written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions (requests) that we have asked of Him." (1 John 5:13-15)



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1. Why did Jesus tell His disciples to go into a closet to pray?

2. If I forgive people their trespasses (sins) against me, what will God do? (Matthew

6:14) _____

3. Why does God require me to do this? _____

4. When we blame God for our problems what probably caused the problem?

5. If I need wisdom, where can I find it? (James 1:5) _____

6. What are the 5 basic steps for a meaningful prayer time?

7. What is prayer? _____

8. How can we have confidence God hears us? (1 John 5:14)
(The answer to this question will be your memory verse)

MEMORY VERSE: _____

Prayer 101

1. Why did Jesus tell His disciples to go into a closet to pray? To be in a quiet place where they couldn't be heard.
2. If I forgive people their trespasses (sins) against me, what will God do? (Matthew 6:14) God will forgive my trespasses (sins) against others.
3. Why does God require me to do this? Because He knows we can't do it without His help and He can't answer our prayers until we do.
4. When we blame God for our problems what probably caused the problem?
We probably never asked God before making the decision.
5. If I need wisdom, where can I find it? (James 1:5) Ask of God who gives to everyone generously.
6. What are the 5 basic steps for a meaningful prayer time?
 1. Make time
 2. Make a place
 3. Make a plan
 4. Read my Bible
 5. Have confidence God hears me
7. What is prayer? Prayer is seeking God's will for me.
8. How can we have confidence God hears us? (1 John 5:14)

MEMORY VERSE: "If we ask anything according to His will He hears us."