

Prayer

What is prayer?

Prayer is our direct line with heaven. Prayer is a communication process that allows us to talk to God!

Prayer is a relationship with God the Father, Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Prayer comes in form of worship, praise, thanksgiving, repentance and so on.

Prayer comes in a form of a spiritual warfare, a hard working battle. Yes, it's a relationship, but at times it is a battle in nature. Jacob battled with God; I will not let you go until you bless me!

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Prayer is free, it has no time limit, no cost, no hidden agenda, no right or wrong, no good or bad prayer. Prayer has no location restriction. Prayer is totally free.

But there are a number of prayer topics.

1. **Prayer of thanksgiving.** The book of Psalms, and some parts of 1 Chronicles, for example, 1 Chronicles 16:8 “Oh give thanks to the Lord!”
2. **Prayer of Repentance** Act 3:19 “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out.”

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3. **Prayer of needs or worries.** 1Peter 5:7 “Casting all your care upon Him for He cares for you.”
4. **Prayer of anticipation.** The Lord Jesus before the cross, said to his disciples, wake up and pray, anticipate the things that are about to happen, be on your guard and pray.

How do I approach prayer?

1. With confidence and belief that He will deliver:

“Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come fearlessly into God's presence, assured of his glad welcome” (Eph 3:12). “So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it”

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2. **With joy that He can deliver.** “You have shown me the way of life, and you will give me wonderful joy in your presence” (Act 2:28).

3. **With expectation that He is going to deliver.** “Listen to my voice in the morning, LORD. Each morning I bring my requests to you and wait expectantly” (Psalm 5:3). “I am praying to you because I know you will answer, O God. Bend down and listen as I pray” (Psalm 17:6).

4. **Pray with faith.** “So, you see, it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that there is a God and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him” (Heb 11:6).

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But there is a difficult kind of prayer. **“Prayer of brokenness, or of wonder and questions”!!!**

A wonderful man of God who was called to minister in one church in the USA, was obedient to the calling of God, and became the church pastor. By God’s grace he managed to move the church from the place of denomination restrictions, to a place of freedom in Christ, where true revival took place. Suddenly without any warning He was diagnosed with cancer all over his body. Within a short period of time, only a few days, he become bed restricted.

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The church prayed and prayed with brokenness, and with all the faith in the world. Yet, a few days later He went to be with the Lord. A prayer of brokenness, and a prayer of questions; full of wonder and why?

Even with such a sad experience the pastor who was telling the story stood up and said, “Pastor x was a man of God, when he was with us he led many people to Christ, and taught the church how to pray. But in his departure from us and in his death, the church has moved on a new place of prayer. The prayer of brokenness, the prayer that opens heaven, the prayer that pleases the heart of God.”

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The Lord is good, He knows that the church needs to grow. By just trusting Him in everything we have, depending on His authority and His power.

We need to learn that the highest place of prayer is when we approach the throne of God with confidence and a broken heart. This is the prayer of Job 1:20-22
“Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. And said: Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return there, The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord.

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The apostle Paul explains this kind of prayer in a beautiful way. Philippians 4:6-7 “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

And finally the lovely picture of our Lord Jesus, Matthew 26:38-39 “Then He said to them, My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me. He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying

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“O, My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will but as You will.” {Jesus said let Your will be done.}

But we have to pray in faith, and with faith and believe in the promises of God to us.

The Spirit of God will lead us to pray according to the will of the Father. Therefore it's important to be controlled by the Spirit not by emotions. James said that the prayer of a godly person is powerful James 5:16 "So admit to one another that you have sinned. Pray for one another so that you might be healed. The prayer of a godly person is powerful. It makes things happen".

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When you pray believe that our God is listening to you. It's His promises to us all. 2 Chronicles 16:9 said "The Lord looks out over the whole earth. He gives strength to those who commit their lives completely to him."

This is the promise of God to us all, He will strengthen those who commit their lives to Him.

Will you commit your life in prayer to the Lord today?

Let us pray.