

Prayer

1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;
Lk 18:1

1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.
1 Tim 2:1-2

17 Pray without ceasing.
1 Thess 5:17

Prayer is the highest privilege afforded to man. There is nothing greater that a man can achieve nor a more glorious place that can be obtained in this life than to speak to the Ancient of Days and to be recognized as a legitimate heir. There is a great need to know God personally in the hour in which we live. In consideration of all of the uncertainties of this life that we will face God is constant and willing to allow us to approach him if we give him his due in humble repentance and obedience to the Apostolic message of the New Birth.

Prayer is Simple

6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. 9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.
Jms 4:6-10

Draw nigh – (Thayer) To turn one's thoughts to God, to become acquainted with Him

22 And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the Lord. 23 And Abraham drew near
Gen 18:22-23

8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?
Mic 6:8

Separating ourselves from the constant and demanding distractions of this life to spend quality time with God on a regular basis is one of the challenges of this generation. It is a challenge, but there should be no doubt of the reward to those who diligently seek him (Heb 11:6).

The Life of Jesus

21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

1Pet 2:21-23

Christ is our example of the totality of a life lived in the Spirit. Jesus committed himself to Him that judgeth righteously ie total trust in the design of the Eternal Spirit.

Jesus prayed!

35 And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

Mk 1:35

39 And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him. 40 And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation. 41 And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, 42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. 43 And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. 44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground. 45 And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow, 46 And said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.

Lk 22:39-46

46 And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray.

Mk 6:46

15 But so much the more went there a fame abroad of him: and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities.

16 And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.

12 And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

Lk 5:15-16 & 6:12

There was in the mind of Christ an intense need for spiritual regeneration and a desire to touch the Spirit of his Father and be touched. He prayed more earnestly, he continued all night in prayer to God. The Bible says that "we have the mind of Christ" ie a mind for prayer!

Now let us look at some of the teaching of Christ about prayer.

22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.
Matt 21:22

9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. 10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.
Lk 11:9-10

The principle of asking in faith, being confident of the benevolence of God is the foundational priority of the teaching of Christ concerning prayer.

It is impossible to have righteousness in the heart without this understanding and conviction that God is good and He wants to help us to do His will.

The negative aspects of humanity are dealt with through the Word of God and personal consecration. The ministry is for the perfecting of the saints, the Holy Ghost teaches us and through prayer God helps us work through our errors and character flaws. These are the Agents of Perfection:

- The Ministry of the Word
 - The Spirit of God
 - Personal Consecration
 - The Blood of Jesus

Sins and character flaws can only be recognized and overcome through these agents. One must be honest with a mind to trust God without question as well as being open hearted to the instruction of the Spirit of God, the Word of God, and the Man of God.

9 And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. 12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. 13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.
Lk 18:9-14

Justification came through humility in approaching God. Do not complicate this simple principle – An attitude of brokenness and humility touches the heart of God.

5 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. 6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. 7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. 8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. 9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Matt 6:5-13

1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;
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11 Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually.
1 Chron 16:11

11 Put on the whole armour of God, ... 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;
Eph 6:10-18

Notice in Matthew 6 Jesus said “when you pray” ie it was a given in the mind of Christ that prayer is necessary.

Prayer to be Right with God

25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. 26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.
Mk 11:25-26

23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; 24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.
Matt 5:23-24

*Being careful about how we approach God. Rom 6:13, 2 Cor 7:1-2, 13:1-5, Heb13:17
Jude 20, 1Jn 3:3*

1 Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle?

who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

2 He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness,
and speaketh the truth in his heart.

3 He that backbiteth not with his tongue,
nor doeth evil to his neighbour,
nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.

4 In whose eyes a vile person is contemned;
but he honoureth them that fear the Lord.
He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.

5 He that putteth not out his money to usury,
nor taketh reward against the innocent.
He that doeth these things shall never be moved.

Ps 15 (See also 24:3-5)

4 Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that
he may dwell in thy courts:

we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.

Ps 65:4

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24 And
see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Ps 139:23-24

18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

Ps 66:18

31 Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of
God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

Jn 9:31

Notice is Psalm 15 the stipulations in order to abide or dwell in a close proximity to
God.

13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

Pro 28:13

3 And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes: 4 And I prayed unto the Lord my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments; 5 We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments: 6 Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. 7 O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces,

Dan 9:3-7

9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.,

Matt 6:9-13

14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

2Chron 7:14

Thanksgiving and Praise

6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Phil 4:6-7

2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; 3 Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:

Col 4:2

1 Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. 2 Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. 3 Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture 4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. 5 For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

Ps 100

1 I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart;
Ps 9:1

15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. 16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.
Heb 13:15-16

The Renewing of the Holy Ghost

Receiving the Holy Ghost is the beginning of our walk with God. When we are born again we become babies in the Kingdom of God and need the “sincere milk of the Word” (1 Pet 2:5). Prayer helps us to digest the Word of God and grow in the Spirit. One of the marks of true spirituality is to be able to respond to the Spirit of God to be used by Him for whatever purpose is deemed necessary by the Spirit of God.

13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.
Phil 2:12

By being renewed in the Holy Ghost we become acquainted with the Spirit of God moving and therefore become used to the prompting of the Holy Ghost. This is what is meant by being led by the Spirit and also praying in the Spirit.

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Rom 8:14-16 & 26-27

5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; 7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:5-7

20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,
Jude 20

16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

2Cor 4:16

Inner Strength

14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; 17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. 20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, 21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Eph 3:14-21

Praying in the Spirit gives us that Blessed Inner Strength!!!

1 I will praise thee with my whole heart: before the gods will I sing praise unto thee. 2 I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name. 3 In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul.

Ps 139:1-3

15 But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth. 16 O turn unto me, and have mercy upon me; give thy strength unto thy servant, and save the son of thine handmaid.

Ps 86:15-16

Watch and Pray

7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. 1 Pet 4:7

36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Lk 21:36

38 Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. 39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. 40 And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? 41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Matt 26:38-41

31 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.
32 But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in
heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. 33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye
know not when the time is.

Mk 13:31-33

God is Faithful

16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy,
and find grace to help in time of need.

Heb 4:16

13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but *God is
faithful*, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with
the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

1 Cor 10:13

your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him

Matt 6:8

10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that
knocketh it shall be opened. 11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father,
will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? 12
Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If ye then, being evil, know
how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly
Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

Lk 11:10-13

Supplication and Intercession

10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem,
the spirit of grace and of supplications:

Zech 12:10

Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto
him, Friend, lend me three loaves; 6 For a friend of mine in his journey is come to
me, and I have nothing to set before him? 7 And he from within shall answer and
say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I
cannot rise and give thee. 8 I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him,
because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as
many as he needeth. 9 And I say unto you, Ask,...

Lk 11:5-9

22 And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the Lord. 23 And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked? ...
... 32 And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake. 33 And the Lord went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place.
Gen 18:22-33

Corporate Prayer

7 Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.
Is 56:7

See also Lk 19:45-46, Jn 2:13-17

“When the Saints begin to pray for the Lord to have His way, the Glory of the Lord is coming down”. That is what the old song says, and is so true, when the Saints congregate to pray together a special atmosphere prevails. An atmosphere of power and victory as we feed off of one another’s strivings to touch something deeper in God.

12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; 13 And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.
Heb 12:12

I have experienced the encouragement, healing and strength spoken of in this verse while caught up in the spirit of prayer in a congregational prayer meeting. Hearing the voices of my fellow warriors and partners in tribulation as we are fighting as one man to survive and to thrive in this world so hostile to the God that we love.

4 I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; 5 That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; 6 Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: 7 So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: 8 Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. 10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.
1 Cor 1:4-10

This unity and confirmation of and from our High Priest is present in it’s most concentrated form when we come together as a body to sit in the heavenly places.

13 And when **they** were come in, they went up into an upper room ... 14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren. 15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty.)

Acts 1:13-15

1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And **they** were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:1-4

23 And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them. 24 And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, ... 31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Acts 4:23-31

5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. ... 12 And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.

Acts 12:1-12

2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. 3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

4 So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.

Acts 13:1-4

13 And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.

Acts 16:13

4 And finding disciples, we tarried there seven days: who said to Paul through the Spirit, that he should not go up to Jerusalem. 5 And when we had accomplished those days, we departed and went our way; and they all brought us on our way, with wives and children, till we were out of the city: and we kneeled down on the shore, and prayed.

Acts 21:4-5

The bond that is created by a common desire of the people of God to touch heaven is in my opinion the threefold cord of Ecclesiastes 4:12.

27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel:

Phil 1:27

The Thought Life

3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. 4 Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength:

Is 26:3-4

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. 9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

Phil 4:8-9

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; 6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

2 Cor 10:3-6

113 I hate vain thoughts: but thy law do I love.

Ps 119:113

12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Heb 4:12

We need the Word of God to be the Judge of our thoughts so we can cull what is not pleasing to God from what is and put away from us the evil thoughts of the flesh.

21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: 23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

Mk 7:21-23

Prayer is so good and so necessary to the spiritual health of any child of God. We must cultivate and develop a healthy and robust prayer life so we can be what God wants us to be. God has a purpose for every soul that is alive or will be alive until the Trumpet sounds. I am determined to be in that number – What about you?

Answers - Psalm 91

1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust

9 Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;

14 Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. 15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him:

I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. 16 With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

Commitment – Psalm 132:1-5

1 A Song of degrees. Lord, remember David,
and all his afflictions:

2 How he swore unto the Lord,
and vowed unto the mighty God of Jacob;

*3 Surely I will not come into the tabernacle of my house,
nor go up into my bed;*

*4 I will not give sleep to mine eyes,
or slumber to mine eyelids,*

5 Until I find out a place for the Lord,
an habitation for the mighty God of Jacob.