

#12

Prayer

Prayer is how we communicate with God; it is how we talk to God. When we examine the life of Jesus in scripture, we can see a perfect example of prayer life. Scripture shows us when Jesus prayed, how often he prayed, and what he prayed about. It also gives us some great examples of his prayers.

The Prayer Life of Jesus

Matthew 1:35 – And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he [Jesus] went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

Matthew 14:23 – And when he [Jesus] had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. (See also Mark 6:46)

Luke 5:16 – And he [Jesus] withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.

Luke 6:12 – And it came to pass in those days, that he [Jesus] went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

Luke 9:18 – And it came to pass, as he [Jesus] was alone praying, his disciples were with him: and he asked them, saying, Whom say the people that I am?

Luke 9:28 – And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray.

The Power of Prayer

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

John 16:23-24 – ²³ And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. ²⁴ Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

James 5:16 – ...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Mark 11:24 – ²⁴ Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Matthew 11:23-24 – ²³ For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. ²⁴ Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Matthew 7:7-11 – ⁷ Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: ⁸ For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. ⁹ Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him

a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? ¹¹ If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

1 John 3:22 - And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

Mathew 18:19-20 – ¹⁹ Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

The Prayers of Jesus

Matthew 26:36-44 – ³⁶ Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. ³⁷ And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. 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. ⁴² He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, **thy will be done.** ⁴³ And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. (See also Mark 14:32-39)

John 17:1-26 – ¹ These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: ² As thou hast given him power over ³ all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. ⁴ I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. ⁵ And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

⁶ I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. ⁷ Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. ⁸ For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. ⁹ I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. ¹⁰ And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.

¹¹ And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. ¹² While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I

am not of the world. ¹⁵ I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

¹⁷ Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. ¹⁸ As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

²⁰ Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; ²¹ That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. ²² And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: ²³ I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

²⁴ Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. ²⁶ And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

What Should We Pray For?

Luke 11:13 – 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?

Luke 22:40 – And when he [Jesus] was at the place, he said unto them, **Pray that ye enter not into temptation.**

James 5:13-14 – ¹³ Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing Psalm. ¹⁴ Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

James 5:16 – Confess your faults one to another, and **pray one for another**, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.(Jas 5:16).

Philippians 1:9 – And this I **pray, that your love may abound** yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;

2 Corinthians 13:7 – Now I **pray to God that ye do no evil**; not that we should appear approved, but that ye should do that which is honest, though we be as reprobates.

Matthew 9:37-38 – ³⁷ Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; ³⁸ **Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.** (See also Luke 10:2)

2 Thessalonians 3:1-2 – ¹ Finally, brethren, **pray for us**, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: ² And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.

Mark 13:32-33 – 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.

Matthew 5:44-45 – ⁴⁴ But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; ⁴⁵ That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. (See also Luke 6:28)

Jesus Instructs Us On How To Pray

Matthew 6:6-15 – 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. (See also Luke 11:1-4)

When Should We Pray

1 Timothy 2:8 – I will therefore that men **pray every where**, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

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

Luke 21:36 – 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.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 – **Pray without ceasing.**

Summary

Prayer is a wonderful tool by which we can talk to our Father in heaven. There is nothing mysterious or mystical about it. We just need to speak to him. Jesus laid out the blue print of prayer when he gave us the Our Father.

1. We should address our prayers to the Father: "Our Father which art in heaven."
2. We should praise our Father: "Hallowed be thy name.... For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever."
3. We should pray for God Kingdom to come. "Thy kingdom come."
4. We we pray for God's will to be done in our lives and in the world: "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."
5. We should pray for our needs: "Give us this day our daily bread."

6. We should pray for forgiveness: "And forgive us our debts,"
7. We should pray for help to forgive others: "as we forgive our debtors."
8. We should pray for deliverance from temptation: "And lead us not into temptation,"
9. We should pray for protection from evil: " but deliver us from evil."

Our prayer life should reflect the fact that God is always with us. He should continually be in our minds and we should continually speak to him through prayer. This is what Jesus modeled. He always sought to do his Father's will. This was accomplished through constant prayer or communication with his Father.

We can pray by simply talking to God and expressing our love, gratitude, thanks, praise, needs, concerns, problems, disappointments, pain and our questions. God will listen and he wants to hear. We also need to listen. Since prayer is communication, we need to listen to what God has to say. We can also use scripture in our prayers. We can take God's promises in scripture and we can claim them in prayer on our behalf and on the behalf of others.