

Biblical Exhortation About Prayer: Where? When? How? What?

Where to Pray

- In your private room or secret place *But you, when you pray, enter into your room. And shutting your door, pray to your Father in secret; and your Father who sees in secret shall reward you openly. Matthew 6:6*
- In church *My foot stands in an even place; in the congregations I will bless the LORD. Psalm 26:12*
And Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward the heavens. 1 Kings 8:22
- Everywhere and anywhere *Therefore, I desire that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. 1 Timothy 2:8*

When to Pray

- In the morning *My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning I will direct my prayer to You, and I will look up. Psalm 5:3*
- Morning, noon, and night *Evening and morning, and at noon, I will pray and cry aloud; and He shall hear my voice. Psalm 55:17*
- Day & night *O LORD God of my salvation, I have cried day and night before You. Psalm 88.1*
- Every day of the week *Be merciful to me, O Lord; for I cry to You daily. Psalm 86:3*
- Always* *Then Jesus spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart. Luke 18:1*

*** NOTE:** God is available to hear YOUR prayers 24/7/365! You will NOT be put on hold.

How to Pray

- Pray boldly *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16 (See also Genesis 18.22-25)*
- Pray with an attitude of deep love and respect for God *Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from Him the right way for us and our little ones and all our possessions. Ezra 8:21*

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- Pray conversationally*

And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Matthew 6:7

*** NOTE:** God is a person -- namely, your Father. Prayer is a personal, intimate CONVERSATION with your Father -- not a *magical incantation* or *religious babbling*.

What to Pray

In "the Model Prayer," Jesus taught us to:

- Pray to the Father.
- Acknowledge God's holiness.
- Seek God's kingdom & will.
- Request God's daily provision.
- Confess your sins and seek forgiveness.
- Request strength to resist evil and temptation.
- Offer praises unto God.

But you... After this manner therefore pray ye... Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen. Matthew 6.9-13

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- Share your sorrows and joys with God.

Is any among you suffering? Let him pray. Is any cheerful? Let him sing praise. James 5.13

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- Pray for spiritual and physical healing for yourself and others.

Pray for one another, that you may be healed. James 5.16b

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- Pray for those who govern your nation and the world, that we may live in peace and godliness.

Pray... for kings and all that are in high place; that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and gravity. 1 Timothy 2.2

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- Pray for wisdom and discernment.

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. James 1.5 (see also 1 Kings 3.5-14)

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- Pray for your enemies.

But I [Jesus] say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you. Matthew 5.44

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- Pray for all your needs. Give thanks always unto God. Seek and receive God's peace that surpasses all understanding.

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. Philippians 4.6-7
