

PRAYER SERIES

What the Bible Says about Prayer

PRAYER IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF HOW WE RELATE TO GOD. Many religions recognize the need for prayer, but what does the Bible say about it? Does God hear all our prayers? Do some people get access to God? Is there a prayer technique that will get you what you want? God's Word answers these questions, and also gives us guidance as we struggle with tougher questions such as, Why didn't God Answer my prayer? Why should I pray at all?

Three Things to Know Before You Pray

1. **GOD CARES FOR YOU.** Because of God's unfailing love for us, we can bring anything and everything in our hearts to God in prayer. Prayer is a safe place of trust.

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7

I trust in God's unfailing love for ever and ever.-Psalm 52:8

2. **GOD HEARS YOUR PRAYERS.** God Almighty is listening. Because we are his beloved children, no prayer is too small for him to hear.

He will respond to the prayer of the destitute; their pleas.-Psalm 102:17

You will live in Zion, in Jerusalem. You won't cry anymore. The Lord will certainly have pity on you when you cry for help. As soon as he hears you, he will answer you. Isaiah 30:19

12 For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. 1 Peter 3:12

3. **YOU CAN PRAY WITH CONFIDENCE.**

You don't have to be a prayer giant to come confidently to God in prayer. As believers, we can all equally approach God because of our unique standing in Jesus.

In him {Jesus} and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence- Ephesians 3:12

What is Prayer? Prayer is talking with God. We can pray alone or in a group; silently or aloud; using a written prayer or a spontaneous one. But to be in prayer is more than just speaking words. Scripture portrays a life of continual prayer, meaning a kind of openness toward God in all we do (1 Thess. 5:17). Our entire lives should be prayers to God, exhibiting the praise and love of our Creator and Savior.

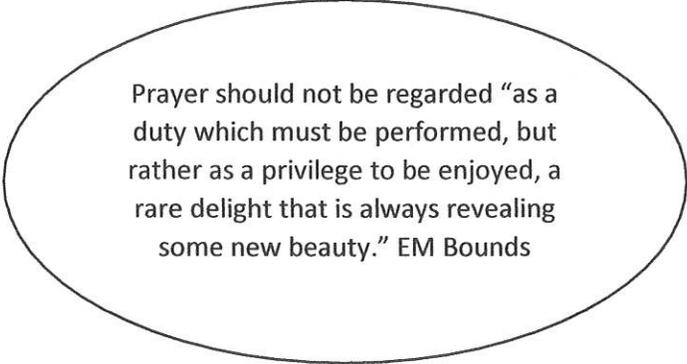
Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.- Hebrews 4:16

WHY PRAY?

PRAYER IS IMPORTANT. God's Word instructs believers to make prayer a high priority. God wants to hear from his children

Devote yourselves to prayer.-Colossians 4:2

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people.- 1 Timothy 2:1 (**Also see verse 8**)



Prayer should not be regarded "as a duty which must be performed, but rather as a privilege to be enjoyed, a rare delight that is always revealing some new beauty." EM Bounds

PRAYERS DRAWS US CLOSE TO GOD. In prayer,

We worship, confess our sins, bring our request to God, and wait and listen for him to speak. In short, we enter deeply and directly into relationship with God. Through communion with God, our hearts and minds will be changed to be more like our Lord, and we will grow to know his perfect will for lives.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. **Romans 12:1-2**

So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord- who is the Spirit-makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.- **2 Corinthians 3:18**

PRAYER IS POWERFUL. God not only hears our prayers, but he is acting on them. Our prayers request bring about real change in the world and in the lives of the people we pray for.

"Ask, and you will receive. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened for you.

8 Everyone who asks will receive. The one who searches will find, and for the one who knocks, the door will be opened. **Matthew 7:7-8**

And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. **Matthew 21:22 (KJV)**

And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well.... The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.- **James 5:15-16**

PRAYER BRINGS PEACE. When we are at
Our wit's end, Scripture tells us to turn all those
Anxieties over to God who will give us peace.

**"Prayer is a strong wall and
fortress of the church; it is a
goodly Christian weapon."**

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.- **Philippians 4:6-7**

"Prayer as a relationship is probably your best indication about the health of your love relationship with God. If your prayer life has been slack, your love relationship has grown cold."

PRAYER PROTECTS US. We have Almighty God on our side! Jesus showed believers the importance of praying for protection and deliverance. (2 Cor. 10:4; Eph. 6:10-18.)

Jesus prayed for his disciples: My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.- **John 17:15**

The Lord's Prayer: And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.- **Matthew 6:13**

Jesus warns his disciples: Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.- **Luke 21:36**

The Prayer of Jesus

Jesus took time to pray to God the Father, Jesus "often withdrew to lonely places and prayed" (Luke 5:16) and he would pray for long periods of time (Luke 6:12)

Jesus:

Prayed for his followers. John 17:9

Prayed for the children. Matthew 19:13

Praised the Father in prayer. Matthew 11:25

Prayed for himself. John 17:1

Prayed his Father's will be done. Matthew 26:29

Thanked the Father in prayer. John 11:41

Asked the Father to forgive sinners. Luke 23:34a

Prayed with his last words on the cross. Luke 23:46