Prayer

**A.  Who to pray for:**

1. The lost: Rom 10:1; Mt 9:36-38
2. Rulers: 1 Ti 2:2; 1 Pe 2:13-17
3. The sick: Jas 5:13-15; Acts 28:8
4. Our enemies: Mt 5:43-48 Lk 6:27-28; Rom 12:20-21 (You cannot harbor ill feelings towards those you pray for every day.)
5. Christians: Eph 1:16; 6:18; 2 Ti 1:3; Col 1:3; 1 Cor 1:4; 1 Th 1:2
6. Proclaimers of the gospel: 2 Th 3:1-2; Col 4:2-4; Acts 4:29; 12:5; 13:3
7. Jesus example in who to pray for: Jn 17
   1. Pray for self...Jesus did: 1-5 "Glorify me Now father"
   2. Pray for saved: 6-19 "These you have given me"
   3. Pray for lost: 20-26 "that the world may believe"

**B.  How to pray:**

1. Pray fervently like the world depends upon it: Col 4:12; Acts 9:9-11; 1 Th 3:10; Jas 5:16-18
2. With bold confidence: Heb 4:16 (boldly, not brashly)
3. With reverence: Isa 66:2; Ps 111:9; 89:7
4. With sincerity and selfless intent: Mt 6:5-8
5. With humility: Lk 18:9-14; Jas 4:6,10; 1 Pe 5:6-7; 2 Chro 7:14; 34:27; Isa 57:15
6. Keeping alert (don't let your mind drift): Col 4:2; Lk 21:26
7. In Jesus' name: Jn 14:13-14; 15:16; 16:24,26; Col 3:17 (an attitude that we pray by the authority of Jesus, not merely saying the words, "In Jesus name, Amen")
8. Be devoted (make it a habit): Col 4:2; Rom 12:12; Acts 6:4
9. Have an attitude of thanksgiving: Col 4:2
10. With a forgiving spirit: Mt 6:12-15; Mt 18:21-35; Eph 4:32
11. With perseverance/persistence: Lk 11:5-9; Eph 6:18
12. Don't lose heart: Lk 18:1
13. Be specific: When at restaurant we don't say "bring food" but "med-rare, potato w/sour cream"
14. Pray expecting to receive: Mk 11:24; 2 Sam 22:7; Jas 1:5-8 Ps 5:1-3
    1. Acts 12:5,12-16 tragic they rejected answer to what they had been praying for
    2. Some pray for a bushel, then carry a cup
    3. Don't expect a thousand-dollar answer to a 10 cent prayer

**C.    Praying within our public assemblies: "Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension." (1 Timothy 2:8)**

1. "holy hands" hands that have done no evil, but practice righteousness
2. "without wrath/anger" bearing no grudge or anger towards another person: Mt 5:21-22
3. "without dissentions" no strife and discord towards another: Mt 5:23-24

**D. Prayer posture: The following postures are recorded in the Bible:**

1. Fell on face: Mt 26:39; Mk 14:35
2. Lifting up hands: 1 Ti 2:8
3. Kneeling down: Lk 22:41; Acts 7:60; 9:40; 20:36; 21:5; Eph 3:14; 2 Chro 6:13; Dan 6:10
4. Standing: Mk 11:25
5. Sitting: 2 Sam 7:18

**E. Prayer Warriors: Examples Of Great Prayer**

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| Click to View | 1. Abraham: Rom 4:16-23; Heb 11:19 2. Moses- Intercession (10X) Deut 9:16-21 (Longsuffering with sinners) 3. Hezekiah: 2 Ki 20:1-11 (extended life, when told about terminal illness) 4. Nehemiah: 1:5-11 (Resolve a "joy robbing" problem) 5. Gideon: Judg 6:17,36-40 (evidence of God's direction in personal life) 6. Eleazar: Gen 24:12-14 (evidence of God's direction in personal life and thanksgiving when prayer answered) 7. Elijah 1 Ki 18:24, 36-37, 41f ; Jas 5:17 (make God's people evident to unbelievers; show the world the advantages of being a Christian) 8. Hannah: 1 Sa 1:9-12,18 (The barter prayer, similar to but distinct from, a fox hole prayer; make sure you keep what you vow) 9. Daniel: 6:10; 9:5-22 (prayer of confession of sin; to answered because of God's grace, not our holiness or merit cf. v18) 10. Jonah's prayer for deliverance from sea monster: Jonah 2:1-10 (prayer of repentance after God has chastened you for your sin, cf. Heb 12:4-12) 11. Jesus great example: Lk6:12;9:18;Mk 1:35;Lk 5:15-16;11:1 12. Jesus: Jn 11:41-42 Lazarus raised (Answered prayer, not on the basis of our holiness, but because it will cause faith in unbelievers) 13. Jesus: Jn 17 (intensity of prayer: sweat like blood: Luke 22:44) 14. Christians for Peter's release from prison: Acts 12:5-17 (The great prayer meeting where they didn't believe even after God answered the prayer!) 15. Apostles prayer for boldness protection against enemies: Acts 4:24-31 (Prayer for boldness based upon the fact that Christians are suffering servants, whereas the world is not) |

**F. We must not only follow in the footprints of Jesus, but in the knee prints as well.**

1. Jesus always found time for prayer:
2. Jesus was sometimes too busy to: Eat: Jn 4:31; Sleep: Lk 6:12
3. Jesus was never too busy to pray although many demanded his time: Lk 5:15
4. Examining the Lord's model prayer:

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| Our Father who is in heaven | Address Jehovah God as the one you are talking to |
| Hallowed be Your name | Adoration & praise with emphasis on honor |
| Your kingdom come (Kingdom came in 33AD) | Spiritual requests: save the lost, wisdom, harmony in church |
| Your will be done | Selflessly acknowledge God as supreme, |
| Give us this day our daily bread | Physical requests: food, job, health |
| Forgive us of our debts as we forgive others | Confession of sin and request for forgiveness |
| Lead not into temptation, deliver from evil | Expectation of God's providential guidance |
| Yours is the kingdom, power and glory | Adoration & praise with emphasis on being all in all |
| Amen | Close of prayer: Literally, "so be it". |

**Mary teaches the ministers**

A group of ministers had assembled for the discussion of difficult questions. Among other, it was asked how the command to "pray without ceasing" could be complied with. Various explanations were given. It was finally agreed that one was appointed to write a lengthily essay on it which would be read at the next meeting.

The entire discussion was overheard by a young woman who had been serving the tea. She said, "What? A whole month to tell the meaning of that text? Why it is one of easiest and best texts in the Bible!"

"Well, well, Mary", said an old minister, "what can you say about it? Let us know how you understand it. Can you pray all the time without ceasing?"

"Oh yes, sir!" "What?" the old minister coughed back, "when you have so many things to do?" "Why, sir, the more I have to do, the more I can pray!" "Indeed", he replied, "Well Mary, let us know how it is. Most of us think the answer is otherwise."

"Well, sir", she said, "when I first open my eyes in the morning, I pray 'Lord, open the eyes of my understanding'; and while I am dressing, I pray that I may be clothed with the robes of righteousness; when I wash, I ask for the washing of regeneration; as I work, I pray that I may have the strength equal to my day; as I sweep out the house, I pray the my heart may be cleansed from all impurities; while preparing and eating of breakfast, I pray to be fed with the hidden manna and the sincere milk of the Word; as I am busy with the little children, I ask God to make me become as a child; and so on, all day. Everything I do furnishes me with a thought for prayer."

"Enough, enough", cried the old minister, "these things are revealed to babes and his from the wise and prudent. Go on , Mary, pray without ceasing. May we all do the same!"



Steve Rudd feb 2021

