

Why Do We Pray in Worship?

Matthew 6:9-3

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Through the Bible God speaks to us . . . Through prayer we speak to God.
 - 1. “Prayer moves the arm that moves the world.”
 - 2. “Prayer changes things . . . And men.
 - 3. “Prayer is the soul’s sincere desire and may be expressed audibly or inaudibly.”
 - 4. “Prayer is the offering up of our desires to God for things agreeable to His will, in the name of Christ.”
- B. The foundation of prayer rests on our understanding of God.
 - 1. God is personal.
 - 2. God is able.
 - 3. God cares.
 - 4. God has a purpose and destiny for our lives.
- C. Righteous people have always been praying people.
 - 1. Abraham
 - 2. Moses
 - 3. David
 - 4. Daniel
 - 5. Christ believed in prayer.
 - 6. The disciples believed in prayer.
 - 7. The apostle Paul believed in prayer.
 - 8. James believed in prayer.
 - 9. The apostle Peter believed in prayer.
- D. Christians are commanded to pray.
- E. Prayer is vital to the Christian life and is appropriate any time and any where.

PURPOSE OF PRAYER

- A. To achieve fellowship with God.
- B. To praise and glorify God.
- C. To express thanksgiving for past favors and blessings.
- D. To confess sins and receive forgiveness.
- E. To seek God’s guidance.
- F. To request God’s continued blessings
- G. To seek God’s help in solving problems or difficulties.
- H. To intercede for others.

THE CONTENTS OF ACCEPTABLE PRAYER

- A. Addressed to God . . . Not Christ

- B. Praise
- C. Thanksgiving
- D. Confession
- E. Requests . . . Petitions
- F. Offered “in the name of Christ”
 - 1. This means:
 - a. By the authority of Christ.
 - b. For Christ’s sake.
 - c. According to the will of Christ.
 - 2. **John 14:14** – “If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”
 - 3. **John 16:23-24, 26** – “And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.
Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”

THE MODEL PRAYER. Christ gave His disciples a Model Prayer.

- A. According to **Luke 11:1**, the disciples came to Jesus and said, “Teach us to pray.”
- B. We are told in Matthew 6:5-6 that we are not to pray to be seen of men.
- C. We are told in Matthew 6:7 that we are not to use “vain repetitions.”
- D. The Model Prayer. **Matthew 6:9-13** – “In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.
10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On 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 do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”
 - 1. This prayer is a model in . . .
 - a. **Brevity** . . . Contains 66 words . . . Can be prayed in less than one minute.
 - b. **Scope** . . . Man’s needs, both physical and spiritual, are included.
 - c. **Simplicity** . . . It is easily understood.
 - d. **Directness** . . . It is not vague.
 - 2. Analysis of the prayer.
 - a. **It is addressed to God.**
 - b. Contains three petitions concerning heavenly things.
 - 1. “Hallowed by Your name.”
 - 2. “You kingdom come.”
 - 3. “Your will be done.”
 - c. Contains three petitions concerning earthly things.
 - a. “Give us this day our daily bread.”

- b. “And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.”
- c. “And do not lead us into temptation.”

JAMES TAUGHT US HOW TO PRAY. Seven types of prayers are mentioned in the Book of James. James 5:13-18

A. INDIVIDUAL PRAYER. “Let him pray.”

- 1. **James 5:13** – “Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray . . .”
- 2. We are to pray as individuals. No one is too insignificant to talk to God.
- 3. Every Christian must learn to pray.

B. UNITED PRAYER. “Let them pray.”

- 1. **James 5:14** – “Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him.”
- 2. We are to pray together.

C. BELIEVING PRAYER. The Prayer of faith.”

- 1. **James 5:15** – “And the prayer of faith will save the sick . . .”
- 2. James 1:5-8 also says we must ask in faith.

D. Intercessory Prayer. “Pray one for another.”

- 1. **James 5:16** – “. . . And pray for one another.”
- 2. We are to pray for each other for this is a part of loving the brethren and bearing one another’s burdens.

E. Fervent Prayer.

- 1. **James 5:16** – “. . . The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”
- 2. A fervent prayer is marked by warmth and deep feeling.
- 3. Man must be righteous in order to have his prayers heard.

F. DEFINITE PRAYER. “That it might not rain.”

- 1. **James 5:17** – “Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.”
- 2. This was a definite request. Too often we deal in vague generalities which are meaningless.

G. REPEATED PRAYER. “And he prayed again.”

- 1. **James 5:18** – “And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.”
- 2. According to Luke 18:1-7, we must not stop with just one request.
- 3. When Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, we are told in **Matthew 26:44** – “So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.”

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTABLE PRAYER.

A. Faith.

- a. Matthew 21:22

- b. James 1:5-8
- B. **Humility.**
 - a. Luke 18:10-14
- C. **Reverence.**
 - a. Hebrews 12:28-29
- D. **Obedience.**
 - a. John 15:7
 - b. John 9:31
 - c. James 5:16
- E. **Sincerity.**
 - a. Matthew 6:5
- F. **Submission.**
 - a. Matthew 26:38-39
- G. **Thankfulness.**
 - a. Philippians 4:6-7

HINDRANCES TO ACCEPTABLE PRAYER.

- A. Lack of faith.
- B. Wrong attitudes.
 - 1. Unforgiving spirit.
 - 2. Indifference.
 - 3. Pride
 - 4. Self-satisfaction.
 - 5. Envy.
 - 6. Insincerity.
- C. Lack of concentration.
- D. Not enough time.
- E. Sin in one's own life.
- F. Improper motive . . . Praying to be seen or heard of men.
- G. Selfishness . . . Just asking for ourselves.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Prayers without words are better than words with prayers.
- B. God answers prayer in one of three ways.
 - 1. Yes
 - 2. No.
 - 3. Wait a while.
- C. The Bible is God's way of speaking to us . . . And prayer is our way of speaking to Him.

D. God's Plan for Man's Salvation