



Prayer Masterclass

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Prayer is communication with God. Prayer is a dialogue, not a monologue. Communication is complete when there is a sender and receiver; therefore, when we pray, we talk to God, and He speaks to us. We pray to the Father in the name of Jesus. The *only* way to access the Father is through His Son, Jesus.

- **John 14:6** - "Jesus said to him, 'I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life; *no one comes to the Father but through Me.*'"
- **John 14:13-14** - "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it."
- **John 15:7** - "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."
- **John 15:16** - "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."
- **1 John 5:14-16** "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."

When Jesus prayed, He prayed to the Father!

Matthew 6:9-13

- 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.

Types of Prayer: Supplication, request, petition, and thanksgiving are all forms of prayer.

Supplication -- is a form of prayer, humble petition or an entreaty to God. Supplication often involves earnest, sincere, and heartfelt petitioning before God

- 1 Timothy 2:1 (KJV): "I exhort, therefore, that, first of all, **supplications**, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men."
- **Philippians 4:6 (KJV):** "Be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and **supplication**, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God."

Petition -- a formal written request appealing to authority with respect to a particular cause.

Request - an act of asking politely or formally for something; supplication; prayer

Thanksgiving -- prayers of thanksgiving

- Psalm 100:4 "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, *and* into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, *and* bless his name.
- Psalm 95:2 - "Let us enter His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him in song.
- Psalm 116:17 - "I will offer to You a sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.
- 1 Chronicles 16:34 - "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."
- Colossians 4:2 NLT - "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."

Intercession -- Intercession comes from the word *intercede*. It means to intervene on someone's behalf. Intercession is a form of prayer where someone stands in the gap on behalf of others, bringing their needs, concerns, or requests before God.

Ezekiel 22:30 (KJV): "And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none."

Attributes of an Intercessor:

- **Advocate:** The intercessor represents others before God, advocating for them in prayer. This reflects a sense of compassion and empathy for the needs of others.

- **Selflessness:** Intercession is a selfless and sacrificial act rooted in love for others. In Matthew 9:36, Matthew 14:14, Mark 6:34, and Mark 11:41, Jesus was moved with compassion to act on behalf of others.
- **Faith:** Intercessory prayer is grounded in faith, trusting that God hears and responds to the pleas made on behalf of others. Hebrews 11:6 says without faith, it is impossible to please God. The intercessor prays because they believe God hears and answers.
- **Prays in alignment with God's Will:** Effective intercession seeks alignment with God's will. Intercessors should pray according to God's word. Put me in remembrance; let us argue together; set forth your case, that you may be proved right. Isaiah 43:26

Jesus is an intercessor. Hebrews 7:25 says, "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Jesus demonstrated intercession in Luke 22:31-32: "And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:" "But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."

Jesus demonstrated intercession on the cross: "Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34

The Holy Spirit makes intercession on our behalf. ~ "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the

mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God." "Romans 8:26-27 (KJV):

Prayer of Agreement - there is power in agreement

- **Matthew 18:19-20 (KJV):** "Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."
- **1 Corinthians 1:10 (KJV):** "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."
- **Philippians 2:2 (KJV):** "Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."
- **Amos 3:3 (KJV):** "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"
- **Ephesians 4:3 (KJV):** "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."
- **Colossians 3:14 (KJV):** "And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness."
- **Matthew 5:23-24 NLT-** "So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God."

Prayer of Faith -- James 5:14-15 KJV. 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: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

When Should We Pray? - Luke 18:1- "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; **1 Thessalonians 5:17, "Pray without ceasing."**

Why Do We Pray? - Communication w/God - This typically refers to the act of praying, where one speaks to God, either aloud or silently. Communication can include asking for guidance, seeking forgiveness, expressing needs, giving thanks, or simply talking to God. It is a verbal exchange, similar to how one might communicate with another person.

Commune w/God - Communing is often seen as a deeper, more intimate interaction with the Father. It goes beyond verbal communication to include a deep sense of connection and fellowship with God. Communing with God might be experienced during meditation and worship. It's less about speaking to God and more about being in His presence.

Commandment - Scripture tells us to pray!

- **1 Thessalonians 5:17:** "Pray without ceasing."
- **Philippians 4:6:** "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

- **Luke 18:1:** "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;"
- **Ephesians 6:18:** "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;"
- **Matthew 6:9:** This verse introduces the Lord's Prayer: "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name."
- **Colossians 4:2:** "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;"
- **Matthew 26:41:** "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."
- **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."

Hindrances to Answered Prayer:

2 Peter 3:9 (KJV): "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

2 Corinthians 1:20 (KJV): "For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us."

John 14:13-14 (KJV): "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it."

- **Lack of Faith:** Matthew 21:22 - "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." 1 Thessalonians 5:17, "Pray without ceasing."
- **Unconfessed Sin:** Psalm 66:18 - "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:" "If I were to cherish sin in my heart, the Lord would not listen to my prayer." (To "regard" iniquity in one's heart is not just committing sin, but holding onto it, cherishing it, or refusing to repent. It's about knowingly embracing or tolerating sin in one's life.)
- **Motives: James 4:3** - "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." (Doing the right thing for the wrong reason is still wrong)
- **Not According to God's Will:** 1 John 5:14 - "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:"
- **Lack of Persistence:** Luke 18:1-8 - "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own

elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" **Galatians 6:9**, "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

- **Relationships:** 1 Peter 3:7 - "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered." (NLT In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.") **Mark 11:25-26**, "Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions."
- **Doubt:** James 1:6-7 - "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord." **Matthew 21:21 (KJV)**: "Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done." **James 1:6 (KJV)**: "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and

tossed." **Mark 11:23 (KJV)**: "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." **James 1:6-7 (NIV)**: "But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord."

- **Ignoring the Poor**: Proverbs 21:13 - "Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard."
- **YOU HAVE NOT ASKED** - You do not have because you do not ask." (**James 4:2**)
- **Unbelief** - Matthew 17:20 (KJV): "And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you"

Unbelief vs Doubt - **Unbelief** generally refers to a more profound and often willful rejection or denial of faith, belief, or the truths of God. It's not just a fleeting moment of questioning but rather a state of disbelief. Biblically, unbelief is often associated with a lack of faith. For example, those who rejected Jesus' teachings and miracles. **Hebrews 3:12 (KJV)**, says, "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God."

Doubt, on the other hand, is often depicted as a moment of questioning, uncertainty, or wavering in faith. It's more about hesitancy or indecision rather than outright denial. Doubt can be a natural part of one's faith journey, where an individual grapples with questions or uncertainties about

their beliefs. Believers are encouraged to overcome doubt through faith and trust in God. For example, **Matthew 14:31** (KJV), Jesus addresses Peter's doubt, "And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?"