

Following are 15 PRINCIPLES on PRAYER that summarize much of what the Bible teaches about prayer. There are many other scriptures that can be found to support these, but a few verses are provided for each principle. See if you can think of any other principles, or additional scriptures supporting these, based on your study of the Scriptures.

I. Prayer is ORDAINED and COMMANDED by God as the means by which we receive from Him.

1. **JER 33:3** 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'
2. **MAT 7:7** "Ask (aiteo), and it will be given to you; seek (zeteo), and you will find; knock (krouo), and it will be opened to you. 8 "For everyone who asks receives (lambano), and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.
3. **PHI 4:6** Be anxious for nothing, but **in EVERYTHING by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;** 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
4. **JAM 4:2** You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. **You do not have, because you do not ask God.**

II. Prayer CHANGES US, not God. God often will bring to mind things we must do or change in order to receive the answer for which we are praying.

5. **ISA 58:6** "Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free, And that you break every yoke?" 7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him, And not hide yourself from your own flesh? 8 THEN your light shall break forth like the morning, Your healing shall spring forth speedily, And your righteousness shall go before you; The glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.
6. **MAT 5:23** "Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 "leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. FIRST be reconciled to your brother, and THEN come and offer your gift.
7. **MAR 11:25** "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. 26 "But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."

III. All prayer is based on PROMISES in GOD's WORD. We have NO basis for prayer other than on GOD's WORD.

8. **NUM 23:19** God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?
9. **ISA 55:9** "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. 10 As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, 11 so is my WORD that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.
10. **JER 1:12** The LORD said to me, "You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my WORD is fulfilled."
11. **MAR 16:20** And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the WORD through the accompanying signs. Amen.
12. **JOH 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. 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.
13. **ROM 10:8** But what does it (the word of faith) say? "The WORD is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the WORD OF FAITH which we preach): 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
14. **ROM 10:17** So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the WORD of God.

IV. In general, we are to pray PRIVATELY or IN AGREEMENT with others who are of like faith.

15. **AMO 3:3** Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?
16. **MAT 6:5** "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. 6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done IN SECRET, will reward you.
17. **MAT 7:6** "Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.
18. **MAT 18:19** "Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth AGREE about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

V. Depend on the HOLY SPIRIT in prayer.

19. **ROM 8:26** In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. **We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.** 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because **the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.**
20. **LUK 11:11** "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 **If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!**"
21. **1CO 12:11** All **these are the work of one and the same SPIRIT, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.**
22. **1CO 14:15** So what shall I do? **I WILL PRAY WITH MY SPIRIT, but I will also pray with my mind;** I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.
23. **EPH 6:18** And **pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.** With this in mind, be alert and always **keep on praying for all the saints.**
24. **JUD 20** But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and **PRAY IN THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

VI. We are to be SPECIFIC in our requests made in prayer to God.

25. **PSA 37:4** **Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the DESIRES OF YOUR HEART.** 5 Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: 6 He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.
26. **1JO 3:21** Dear friends, **if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God** 22 **and receive from him ANYTHING WE ASK, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him.**
27. **MAR 11:24** Therefore I tell you, **WHATEVER you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.**

VII. We are to pray in JESUS' NAME.

28. **JOH 14:12** I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 And **I will do whatever you ASK IN MY NAME,** so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. 14 **You may ask (demand) me for anything in my name, and I will do it.**
29. **JOH 16:23** In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, **my Father will give you whatever you ask IN MY NAME,** 24 Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. 26 **In that day you will ask IN MY NAME.** I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. 27 No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me & have believed that I came from God.
30. **PHI 2:9** Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and **gave him THE NAME THAT IS ABOVE EVERY NAME,** 10 **that at THE NAME OF JESUS every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,** 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

VIII. We are to EXPECT IN FAITH TO RECEIVE what we have requested from God in prayer AT THE TIME OF PRAYER, despite any apparent evidence in the natural to the contrary.

31. **MAR 11:24** Therefore I tell you, **whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.**
32. **1JO 5:14** **This is the CONFIDENCE we have in approaching God: that if we ask ANYTHING according to his will, he hears us.** 15 **And if we know that he hears us--whatever we ask--we know that we HAVE what we asked of him.**
33. **HEB 4:16** **Let us then approach the throne of grace with CONFIDENCE, so that we may RECEIVE mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.**
34. **MAT 7:9** "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 **If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!**
35. **HEB 11:1** Now **faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things NOT SEEN.**
36. **HEB 11:6** But **without faith it is IMPOSSIBLE to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**
37. **MAR 11:20** Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. 21 And **Peter, remembering, said to Him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away."** 22 So **Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God.** 23 **"For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.** 24 **"Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask WHEN YOU PRAY, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.**
38. **PHI 4:19** And **my God will meet ALL your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.**

IX. Make sure we have FORGIVEN others for any sin or grievance against us.

39. **MAR 11:25** And **when you stand praying, if you hold ANYTHING against anyone, FORGIVE him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."** 26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

X. Other HINDERANCES to answered prayer can include UNCONFESSED SIN, DISOBEDIENCE in some area of our lives, lack of harmony in our FAMILIES, etc.

40. **PSA 66:18** If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; 19 but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer.
41. **PRO 21:13** If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, HE TOO WILL CRY OUT AND NOT BE ANSWERED.
42. **ISA 59:1** Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. 2 But YOUR INIQUITIES have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will NOT HEAR.
43. **JAM 4:2** You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. 3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with WRONG MOTIVES, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.
44. **IPE 3:7** Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will HINDER YOUR PRAYERS.
45. **IJO 3:21** Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God 22 and receive from him anything we ask, because WE OBEY HIS COMMANDS and DO WHAT PLEASES HIM.
46. **PRO 21:13** If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered.

XI. VAIN REPETITION is not necessary and actually hinders faith in receiving.

47. **MAT 6:7** And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for THEY THINK THEY WILL BE HEARD BECAUSE OF THEIR MANY WORDS. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

XII. Our CONFESSION should reflect our faith that God has answered our prayer. However, this confession is often best kept private to ourselves or to those with whom we are agreeing in faith in prayer.

48. **HEB 10:23** Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we PROFESS (CONFESS), for he who promised is faithful.
49. **JAM 1:5** If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. 6 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. 7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. 8 A DOUBLE MINDED man is unstable in all his ways.
50. **MAR 11:23** 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. 24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

XIII. We then offer THANKSGIVING, PRAISE and WORSHIP to God for His promised provision.

51. **MAR 11:24** Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you HAVE RECEIVED it, and it will be yours.
52. **1TH 5:16** Be joyful always; 17 pray continually; 18 GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

XIV. Be PERSISTENT in prayer, but in faith.

53. **LUK 11:5** Then he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, 6 because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.' 7 "Then the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' 8 I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs. 9 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

XV. We then exercise PATIENCE from the time of prayer to the actual manifestation of the answer from God.

54. **HEB 10:36** You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.
55. **HEB 4:14** Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.
56. **HEB 6:12** We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who THROUGH FAITH AND PATIENCE inherit what has been promised. 13 When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, 14 saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants." 15 And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.
57. **ECC 11:1** Cast your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will find it again.
58. **LUK 8:15** But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by PERSEVERING produce a crop.
59. **MAR 4:26** He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. 27 Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. 28 All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. 29 As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."

One definition of prayer: Finding the will of God, and agreeing with it.

Andrew Murray: "It's not good taste to ask God for the same thing over and over again."

Smith Wigglesworth: "If you pray seven times for any one thing, you prayed six times in unbelief."

In general, we are to pray **privately** or **in agreement** with others who are of like faith. Cast not your pearls before swine. Do not give what is holy to dogs.

Prayer **changes us**, not God. We enter into His gates with **thanksgiving** and into His courts with **praise**, because we

know that what we ask of God, He gives us.

We are to be **specific** in our requests made in prayer to God. We are to **expect in faith to receive** what we have requested from God in prayer **at the time of prayer**, despite any apparent evidence in the natural to the contrary. God intervenes in the earth **only** through the prayers of Christians. The Holy Spirit **only** prays through the body of Christ. Jesus operates in the earth **only** through His body.

The scriptures speak of at least 8 different kinds or types of Prayer:

I. PRAYER OF FAITH

JAM 1:5 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. 6 But **let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.** 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

HEB 11:6 But **without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**

II. PRAYER OF AGREEMENT

MAT 18:19 "Again I say to you that **if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.** 20 "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

AMO 3:3 **Can two walk together, except they be agreed?**

III. PRAYER OF PRAISE & WORSHIP

PSA 100:1 Psalm of Thanksgiving. Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! 2 Serve the Lord with gladness; **Come before His presence with singing.** 3 Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. 4 **Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.** 5 For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.

IV. PRAYER OF CONSECRATION & DEDICATION

MAT 26:39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "**O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.**"

PSA 37:5 **Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.**

JAM 4:15 Instead **you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."** 16 But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

V. PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

EZE 22:30 "So **I sought for a MAN among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it;** but I found no one. 31 "Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads," says the Lord God.

ACT 2:46 Every day **they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,** 47 **praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.** And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

ROM 8:34 Who is he who condemns? **It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.**

GAL 4:19 **My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you,**

VI. PRAYER OF BINDING & LOOSING

MAT 16:18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and **whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.**"

VII. CORPORATE (UNITED) PRAYER

ACT 4:24 So when they heard that, **they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them,**

ACT 12:5 Peter was therefore kept in prison, **but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.**

VIII. PRAYER IN THE SPIRIT

EPH 6:18 **praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,** being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

1CO 14:14 For **if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.** 15 What is the conclusion then? **I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.**

ROM 8:26 Likewise **the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes INTERCESSION for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.** 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of **the Spirit** is, because He **makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.**

JUD 20 But **you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, PRAYING in the Holy Spirit,**