

Prayer [Acts 17:11 Bible Studies]

CONVERSING WITH GOD

1. Luke 11:1 (NIV) One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."
2. In this study we discuss insights into the meaning of the Lord's example prayer; the difference between the "prayer of faith" and "thy will be done"; on righteousness; humility; and posture. It is hoped that the Holy Spirit will use this study to rekindle our passion and discipline to pray.
3. Mat 6:7-8 (Phi) "And when you pray don't rattle off long prayers like the pagans who think they will be heard because they use so many words. Don't be like them. For your Father knows your needs before you ask him."
4. A.W. Tozer: "When we become to glib in prayer we are most surely talking to ourselves."
5. 1 Kings 18:25-40 (Read from NIV of Elijah and the prophets of Baal, and notice Elijah's simple but earnest prayer in verse 36-37 in contrast to the "circus" style of the followers of Baal. They are counting on their action, Elijah is counting on God's.)

THE LORD'S EXAMPLE PRAYER

1. Let as us look at the prayer outline [in ALL CAPS & BOLD] Jesus gives us. Rather than racing through this by rote, let us meditate on each element so that we might pray with understanding. (1 Cor 14:15)
2. Mat 6:9-13 (NIV) "THIS IS HOW YOU SHOULD PRAY: (Phi) "PRAY THEN LIKE THIS -
3. (KJV) OUR FATHER WHICH ART IN HEAVEN, (Phi) OUR HEAVENLY FATHER
4. Gal 4:6 (NIV) Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out "Abba, Father".
5. Luke 11:13 (Jer) "If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"
6. 1 Pet. 1:17 (NIV) Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.
7. (KJV) HALLOWED BE THY NAME. (Phi) MAY YOUR NAME BE HONORED;
8. Many find it useful to meditate on God's nature as revealed in adjectives associated with His name in Hebrew.

SHALOM Peace/Rest/Contentment Is 53:5, Hb 4:9-10, Jn 14:27, Ph 4:7, Cl 1:20

ZIDKENU Righteousness/Perfection 2 Cor 5:21, 1 Cor 1:30, Rom 1:17

M'KADDESH Sanctifies/Purifies 1 Cor 6:9-11, 1 Thes 5:23, Rom 8:29

SHEMA Is There Ex 3:13-15, Ez 48:35b, Ep 2:21-22, Hb 13:5b

ROPHE Heals 1 Pet 2:24, Rom 8:2, Gal 3:13, Col 2:13-14

YIRA Who Sees/Provides 2 Chr 16:9a, Gen 22:14, Ps 34:15,18

NISSI Banner/Security/Captain Ex 17:15, 1 Cor 15:56-57

ROHI Shepherd/Companion/Friend Prov 18:24b, Ps 23, 1 Pet 2:23

1. Prov 18:10 (NIV) The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous run to it and are safe.

(KJV) THY KINGDOM COME. THY WILL BE DONE IN EARTH, AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.

2. Luke 17:20-21 (NIV) "...the kingdom of God is within you."
3. Mat 26:39,42 (NIV) "...Yet not as I will, but as you will... May your will be done."
4. C.S. Lewis: "Thy will be done, by me now!"
5. Jn 4:34 (NIV) "My food", said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me..."
6. Eph 5:10,17 (NIV) ...find out what pleases the Lord... understand what the Lord's will is.
7. Mat 16:19 (Phi) "...whatever you forbid on earth will be what is forbidden in Heaven and whatever you permit on earth will be what is permitted in Heaven!"

(KJV) GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD (Phi) GIVE US EACH DAY THE BREAD WE NEED FOR THE DAY,

1. Prov 30:8 (NIV) Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty or riches, but give me only my daily bread.
2. Exod 16:14-16 (NIV) When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" ["Manna", in Hebrew] For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat. This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Each one is to gather as much as he needs.'"
3. John 6:33-35 (NAS) Jesus therefore said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world." They said therefore to Him, "Lord, evermore give us this bread." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."
4. Plp 4:6-7 (Phi) Don't worry about anything whatever; whenever you pray tell God every detail of your needs in thankful prayer, and the peace of God, which surpasses human understanding, will keep constant guard over your hearts and minds as they rest in Christ Jesus.
5. (KJV) AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS, AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS. (TEB) FORGIVE US THE WRONGS WE HAVE DONE, AS WE FORGIVE THE WRONGS OTHERS HAVE DONE US.
6. Lk 11:4 (KJV) And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us.

7. Lk 11:4 (Phi) And forgive us our failures, for we forgive everyone who fails us;
8. Mat 6:14-15 (NIV) "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."
9. Luke 6:27-28 (Phi) "But I say to all of you who will listen to me: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who treat you spitefully."

(KJV) AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL: (Phi) KEEP US CLEAR OF TEMPTATION, (Jer) BUT DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE.

1. Luke 22:40 (NIV) ..."Pray so that you will not fall into temptation."
2. Eph 6:11-17 (Wey) Put on the complete armour of God, so as to be able to stand firm against all the stratagems of the Devil... Therefore put on the complete armour of God, so that you may be able to stand your ground on the day of battle, and, having fought to the end, to remain victors on the field. Stand therefore, first fastening round you the girdle of truth and putting on the breastplate of uprightness as well as the shoes of the Good News of peace-- a firm foundation for your feet. And besides all these take the great shield of faith, on which you will be able to quench all the flaming darts of the Wicked one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.

(KJV, only) FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY, FOR EVER."

1. 1 Chr 29:11 (NIV) "Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all."
2. 1 Cor 4:20 (NIV) For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.
3. Eph 6:10 (NIV) Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.
4. Ps 145:10-13 (NIV) All you have made will praise you, O Lord; your saints will extol you. They will tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, so that all men may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations...
5. Is 42:8 (NAS) I am the Lord, that is My name! I will not give My glory to another...

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE "PRAYER OF FAITH" AND "THY WILL BE DONE"

1. Mark 11:24-25 (NIV) "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you will receive it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."
2. John 14:12-14 (TEB) "I tell you the truth: whoever believes in me will do the works I do - yes, he will do even greater ones, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask for in my name, so that the Father's glory will be shown through the Son. If you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it."
3. Commentary on Mk 11:24 and John 14:14 by C.S. Lewis: "How are these astonishing promises to be reconciled (a) With the observed facts? (b) With the prayer in Gethsemane, and (as a result of that prayer) the universally accepted view that we should ask everything with a reservation, 'if it be Thy will?'"
4. Mat 26:39 (NIV) [Jesus in Gethsemane] "Yet not as I will, but as you will... "
5. James 4:15-16 (Jer) The most you should ever say is: "If it is the Lord's will, we shall still be alive to do this or that." But how proud and sure of yourselves you are. Pride of this kind is always wicked.
6. "As regards (a) no evasion is possible. Every war, every famine or plague, almost every death-bed, is the monument to a petition that was not granted... They have sought and not been granted. They have knocked and the door has not been opened."
7. "But (b), though much less often mentioned, is surely an equal difficulty. How is it possible at one and the same moment to have perfect faith... that you will get what you ask... and yet also prepare yourself submissively in advance for a possible refusal? If refusal is possible, how can you have simultaneously a perfect confidence that what you ask for will not be refused? If you have that confidence, how can you take refusal into account at all?"
8. "I'm not asking why our petitions are so often refused. Anyone can see in general that this must be so. In our ignorance we ask what is not good for us or for others, or not even intrinsically possible. Or again, to grant one man's prayer involves refusing another's. The real problem is... not why refusal is so frequent, but why the opposite result is so lavishly promised?"
9. "1) These Scriptures are the worst possible place at which to begin Christian instruction... You remember what happened when the Widow started Huck Finn off with the idea he could get what he wanted by praying for it. He tried the experiment and then, not unnaturally, never gave Christianity a second thought. We had better not talk of the Prayer of Faith as "elementary". It is a truth for very advanced pupils indeed. It is a coping stone, not a foundation. For most of us the prayer in Gethsemane is the only model. Removing mountains can wait."
10. Jam 4:3 (NIV) When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.
11. "2) We must not encourage in ourselves or others any tendency to work up a subjective state which, if we succeeded, we should describe as "faith", with the idea that this will somehow insure the granting of our prayer. We have probably all done this as children. But the state of mind which desperate desire working on a strong imagination can manufacture is not faith in the Christian sense. It is a feat of psychological gymnastics."
12. "How or why does such faith occur sometimes, but not always, even in the perfect petitioner? My own idea is that it occurs only when the one who prays does so as God's fellow-worker, demanding what is needed for the joint work. It is the prophet's,

the apostle's, the missionary's, the healer's prayer that is made with this confidence and finds the confidence justified by the event... The colleague of God is so united with him at certain moments that something of the divine foreknowledge enters his mind. Hence his faith is the "evidence" - that is, the evidentness, the obviousness - of things not seen."

13. 1 John 5:14-15 (Phi) We have such confidence in him that we are certain that he hears every request that is made in accord with his own plan. And since we know that he invariably gives attention to our prayers, whatever they are, we can be quite sure that what we have asked for is already ours.
14. "A far inferior degree of faith is, I hope, acceptable to God. Even the kind that says "Help thou my unbelief" may make way for a miracle..."
15. "As the friend is above the servant, the servant is above the suitor, the man praying on his own behalf. It is no sin to be a suitor. Our Lord descends into being a suitor, of praying on His own behalf, in Gethsemane. But when He does so - the certitude about his Father's will is apparently withdrawn."
16. John 15:14-17 (Jer) "You are my friends, if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learned from my Father. You did not choose me; no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name."
17. John 15:7-8 (NIV) "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

THE GOOD MAN'S PRAYER

1. 1 Pet 3:10-12 (TEB) As the Scripture says, "Whoever wants to enjoy life and wishes to see good times, must keep from speaking evil and stop telling lies. He must turn away from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it. For the Lord keeps his eyes on the righteous and always listens to their prayers; but he turns against those who do evil."
2. John 11:41-42 (NIV) ...Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they might believe that you sent me."
3. John 9:31 (NIV) [The just healed blind man] "We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will."
4. Ps 66:16-20 (NIV) Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me. I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue. If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer. Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!
5. James 5:13-16 (Phi) If any of you is in trouble let him pray. If anyone is flourishing let him sing praises to God. If anyone is ill he should send for the church elders. They should pray over him, anointing him with oil in the Lord's name. Believing prayer will save the sick man; the Lord will restore him and any sins that he has committed will be forgiven. You should get into the habit of admitting your sins to each other, and praying for each other, so that you may be healed. Tremendous power is available through a good man's earnest prayer.
6. James 5:16-18 (NEB) ...A good man's prayer is powerful and effective. Elijah was a man with human frailties like our own; and when he prayed in earnest that there should be no rain, not a drop fell on the land for three years and a half; then he prayed again, and down came the rain and the land bore crops once more.
7. 1 John 3:21-22 (Phi) And if, dear friends of mine, our conscience no longer accuses us, we may have the utmost confidence in God's presence. We receive whatever we ask for, because we are obeying his orders and following his wishes.

HUMBLE PRAYER

1. 2 Chr 7:13-14 (NIV) "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locust to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."
2. Luke 18:9-14 (Read from the Phillips of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector)
3. Jam 4:2-10 (Phi) You don't get what you want because you don't ask God for it. And when you do ask he doesn't give it to you, for you ask in quite the wrong spirit - you only want to satisfy your own desires. You are like unfaithful wives, never realizing that to be the world's lover means becoming the enemy of God! Anyone who chooses to be the world's friend is thereby making himself God's enemy. Or do you think what the Scriptures have to say about this is a mere formality? ...Be humble then before God... You are sinners: get your hands clean again. Your loyalty is divided: get your hearts made true once more. You should be deeply sorry, you should be grieved, you should even be in tears. Your laughter will have to become mourning, your high spirits will have to become dejection. You must humble yourself in the sight of the Lord before he will lift you up.

ON POSTURE...

1. Ps 95:6 (NIV) Come let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.
2. Rom 14:11 (NIV) ..."Every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God."
3. Acts 21:5 (NIV) ...and there on the beach we knelt to pray.
4. Ps 134:2 (NIV) Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the Lord
5. Ps 63:4 (NIV) I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.
6. 1 Tim 2:1,8 (NIV) I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone... want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer...

ENCOURAGEMENT

1. Jude 1:20 (NIV) But you, dear friends, build yourself up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.
2. Eph 6:18 (Jer) Pray all the time, asking for what you need, praying in the Spirit on every possible occasion. Never get tired of staying awake to pray for all the saints.
3. Eph 6:18 (NIV) 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.
4. Romans 8:26-27 (Phi) The Spirit also helps us in our present limitations. For example, we do not know how to pray worthily, but his Spirit within us is actually praying for us in those agonizing longings which cannot find words. He who knows the heart's secrets understands the Spirit's intention as he prays according to God's will for those who love him.
5. Act 6:4 (KJV) But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.
6. Acts 2:42 (NIV) They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer
1 Thes 5:17,19 (Phi) Never stop praying... Never damp the fire of the Spirit.
Duet 4:7 (NIV) ...The Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to him...

MANTRA PRAYERS

1. Mat 6:5-6 (Jer) "And when you pray, do not imitate the hypocrites: they love to say their prayers standing up in the synagogues and at the street corners for people to see them. I tell you solemnly, they have had their reward. But when you pray, go to your private room and, when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in that secret place, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you."
2. Mat 6:7-8 (NIV) "And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him."
3. Mat 6:7-8 (LB) "Don't recite the same prayer over and over as the heathen do, who think prayers are answered only by repeating them again and again. Remember, your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!"
4. Mat 7:22-23 (Jer) "When the day comes many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, cast out demons in your name, work many miracles in your name?' Then I shall tell them to their faces: I have never known you; away from me, you evil men!"
5. Mat 5:44-45 (TEB) "But now I tell you: love your enemies, and pray for them that persecute you, so that you will become the sons of your Father in heaven."

OTHER VERSES NOT USED

1. Job 42: 7-10 (Read from NIV of Job's intercessory prayer for his "friends".)
2. Ps 32:6 (NIV) Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to you while you may be found...
3. Mark 9:29 (NIV) He replied, "This kind can only come out by prayer."
4. Luke 11:9-13 (Read from the NIV the contrast of earthly and heavenly fathers)
5. Plp 1:3-6 (Phi) I thank my God for you whenever I think of you. My constant prayers for you are a real joy, because we have worked together for the gospel from the first day until present. I am confident of this: That the One who has begun his good work in you will go on developing it until the day of Jesus Christ.
6. Rev 8:3-4 (NIV) Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar upon the throne. The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand.

PERSISTENT PRAYER

1. Luke 11:5-8 (Jer) He also said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, 'My friend, lend me three loaves, because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him'; and the man answers from inside the house, 'Do not bother me. The door is bolted now, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up to give it to you.' I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it to him for friendship's sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants."
2. Luke 18:1-8 (Read from the Phillips the parable of the Persistent Widow)
3. Philip 4:6-7 Do not be anxious, in everything, by prayer, present requests
4. 1 Cor 14:1-25 (Read about the gift of speaking in tongues from the Phillips, which translates verse 22: "That means that tongues are a sign of God's power, not for those who are unbelievers but for those who already believe. Preaching the word of God, on the other hand, is a sign of God's power to those who do not believe rather than to believers." This is inverted from most translations, but is, I believe, correct. Either you must change this verse as Phillips did, or make nonsense of the next three verses, 23-25. What do you think?)
5. PASCAL: "God has instituted prayer so as to confer on His creatures the dignity of being causes."
6. C.S. Lewis on asking God to repeat himself: "It would be rash to say that there is any prayer that God never grants. But the strongest is the prayer we might express in the single word ENCORE. And how should the infinite repeat himself? All space and time are too little for Him to utter Himself in them ONCE."