

Prayer – Knowing How to Pray

A. What do we understand about prayer?

Eight things we must know about prayer:

- Prayer is relationship.
- Attitude of the heart.
- Hearing the voice of the lord.
- Praying the scripture.
- Tool for intercession.
- Your prayer anointing.
- Pray for the unsaved, husbands and children.
- Watchman on the wall (*Isaiah 62:6-7; Revelation 21:1-4*).

When people pray, things happen! Except for God's grace; [prayer is the most abundant, yet underused, resource available to the church](#). Where prayer has been emphasized, the church has grown. Jesus said: "Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened ([Matthew 7:7-8](#))." In intercessory prayer, there are 8 things we must remember:

1. Wait on the Lord ([Luke 24:49](#)).
2. Enlist others to pray with you ([Matthew 18:16-20](#)).
3. Set aside a place for prayer ([Matthew 6:6](#)).
4. Make time to pray ([Psalms 32:6](#)).
5. Intercede for others ([Isaiah 59:16, Ezekiel 22:30](#)).
6. Make a budget ([Romans 14:12, Luke 16:2](#)).
7. Train others to pray ([Matthew 28:20](#)).
8. Hold each other accountable ([Matthew 16:27, Romans 2:6](#)).

B. 10 things the Holy Spirit does to evangelize the community through prayer.

The Holy Spirit of God, who lives, breathes, and dwells in each one of us; works through us to:

1. Impart compassion for the lost.
2. Bring repentance to the church and community.
3. Teach us how to effectively reach our community.
4. Empower Christians to witness.
5. Bring forth laborers from the harvest.
6. Guide our outreach to the community.
7. Give means and resources to accomplish what is commanded of us.
8. Give vitality and life to the church.

9. Bring forth UNITY, and
10. Fill us with the love of God.

C. 12 ways to spend quality time with God our Father.

1. Praise

Start your prayer hour by praising the Lord. Praise Him for things that are on your mind right now. Praise Him for one special thing He has done in your life in the past week. Praise Him for His goodness to your family. ([Psalm 34:1](#))

2. Wait

Spend time waiting on the Lord. Let Him pull together reflections for you. Think about the hour before you, and the things you want the Lord to do in your life. ([Psalm 27:14](#))

3. Confession

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you anything in your life which might be displeasing to Him. Ask Him to point out attitudes that are wrong, as well as specific acts for which you have not yet made a prayer of confession. Now confess that to the Lord and claim [1 John 1:9](#); so that you might be cleansed for the remainder of the hour before you; then pick up your Bible, and read the Word. ([Psalm 51:1-19](#))

4. Read the word

Spend time reading the promises of God in the Psalms, in the books of the prophets, and in the passages concerning prayer located in the New Testament. Check your concordance. ([Psalm 119:97](#))

5. Petition

This is general request for others, praying through the prayer list, the prayer cards, or personal prayer interest on behalf of yourself and others. ([Hebrews 4:16](#))

6. Intercede

Specific prayer on the behalf of others. Pray specifically for those requests of which you are aware ([Romans 15:30-33](#)). Other scriptures include:

- [Isaiah 53:12](#) (first time the term intercession appears in the Bible).
- [Romans 8:26-27, 34](#) (the Holy Spirit guides us in our prayer, and in how we should pray).
- [1 Timothy 2:1](#) (our prayer should be for all people, not just for ourselves).

- [1 Timothy 2:5](#) (there is one mediator between God and man...).
- [Matthew 6](#) (Jesus tells us how to pray to our Father).
- [John 17](#) (Jesus prays for his disciples to his Father).

7. Pray the word

Now, take the Scriptures, and start praying the Scriptures. Certain sections of Psalm 119 lend themselves beautifully to prayer expression. ([Psalm 119:38-46](#))

8. Thanksgiving

Spend these minutes giving thanks to the Lord for things in your life, things on behalf of the church, things on behalf of your family. ([Philippians 4:6](#))

9. Singing

Take your hymnal and sing a prayer song, sing a praise song, sing a song regarding soul winning or witnessing. Let it be a time of praise. ([Psalm 59:17](#))

10. Meditate

Ask the Lord to speak back to you, and keep a paper and pen handy; be ready to relate the impressions that He makes upon your life. ([Psalm 63](#))

11. Listen

Spend time merging the things you have read from the Word, the things you have prayed, the things you have thanked the Lord for, the things that you have been singing, and see how the Lord brings them all together to speak to you. ([I Samuel 3:9-10](#))

12. End with praise

Praise the Lord for the time you have had, to spend with Him. Praise Him for the impressions that He has given you. Praise Him for the prayer requests He raised up in your mind. ([Psalm 145:1-13](#))

D. Don't forget to pray for yourself.

If you are facing an important decision, you may want to put this before prayer for others. Again, let your prayer be ordered by scripture, and ask the Lord for understanding ([Psalm 119: 10-24](#)).

E. Praying yields specific answers to specific questions, and it yields specific instructions from our Lord.

When Paul (Saul) was on the road to Damascus, according to the scripture; Jesus met him there. Jesus asked Saul, why do you persecute me? Paul asked the Lord; "Who are you Lord?" The Lord replied, "I am Jesus ([Acts 9:3-22](#))."

In prayer, you will seek to know Jesus; you will come to know who he is. Paul also asked Jesus; "What shall I do Lord?" Jesus answered him specifically in what he required of him. If you ask Jesus for guidance and instruction, he will provide you with what you have asked of him.

F. Going before the throne of God.

From your mind's eye, what does your prayer look like in the spiritual realm, when you go before the throne of God in prayer? The Lord gives us a clear description concerning this in:

- [Revelation 4:1-6](#) (*The throne room of God is described*).
- [Psalm 118:5-8](#); [1 John 5:11-15](#) (*Going before the Lord with confidence*).
- [Hebrews 11:6](#) (*Your faith before the throne*).

G. How should we pray?

In [Matthew 6:5-15](#), Jesus provided to us very specific instructions on how we should pray. In each verse, he tells us what we should say in reverence to our Father in Heaven. Jesus tells us to:

- Acknowledge that God is our Father in heaven.
- Honor the Holy name of God.
- Pray for His Kingdom to come.
- Acknowledge that God's perfect will is done.
- Profess the Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.
- Pray for our daily bread (spiritual food).
- Lift all nations and people up in prayer.
- Ask for forgiveness and forgive others as God forgave us.
- Ask that we not be led into temptation.
- Ask that we be delivered from evil.

In [John 17](#), Jesus prays for all that are his; in verses:

- Verses [1-5](#) Jesus prays for himself.
- Verses [6-19](#) Jesus prays for His Disciples;
- Verses [20-26](#) Jesus prays for all believers.