

100 KEY BIBLE VERSES ON PRAYER

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT

Prayer

- ♦ Basics on How to Pray
- ♦ Does God Hear All Our Prayers?
- ♦ Why Is Prayer Important?
- ♦ What about Unanswered Prayers?

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Four Kinds of Prayer

There are many types of prayer. Below are several main categories of prayer. A person may pray one or all of these in a single prayer time, and in any order. You can remember these categories with the acronym ACTS.

Adoration

Prayer, first and foremost, ought to be about worship. God alone is worthy of undiluted praise. That would be true even if God never gave us a thing, and that is why adoration is distinct from thanksgiving. Notice that the Lord's Prayer begins with "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name" (Matt. 6:9). Holding up God's name for praise is our prime duty in prayer. Examples: 1 Chron. 29:10; 2 Chron. 6:26–27; Luke 2:37.

Confession

"Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us" (Luke 11:4). Knowing that human sin blocks communication with God, Jesus taught his disciples to pray this way to make sure that there are no stumbling blocks between God and them. Examples: 2 Chron. 7:14; Dan. 9:4–19; 1 John 1:8–9.

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is praise for something God has done for us or given to us—or for what we trust him to do. The apostle Paul thanked God for the believers in Philippi: "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now" (Phil. 1:3–5). Examples: Ps. 100:4; 107:1; 118:21; Matt. 14:19; Eph. 1:15–16; 1 Thess. 1:2; 5:16–18; 1 Tim. 4:4.

Supplication (Also called Petition)

Our heavenly Father wants his children to bring their requests to him (Phil. 4:6). Jesus taught, "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!" (Matt. 7:11). Intercession is a type of supplication where we pray for the needs and concerns of others. And we should not just pray for our friends, but also "...pray for those who persecute you" (Matt. 5:44). Examples: Gen. 24:12–15; 1 Sam. 7:8.



What the Bible Says about Prayer

PRAYER IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF HOW WE RELATE TO GOD. Many religions recognize the need for prayer, but what does the Bible say about it? Does God hear all our prayers? Do some people get special access to God? Is there a prayer technique that will get you what you want? God's Word answers these questions, and also gives us guidance as we struggle with tougher questions such as, Why didn't God answer my prayer? Why should I pray at all?

Three Things to Know Before You Pray

- 1. GOD CARES FOR YOU.** Because of God's unfailing love for us, we can bring anything and everything in our hearts to God in prayer. Prayer is a safe place of trust.

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.—1 Peter 5:7

I trust in God's unfailing love for ever and ever.—Psalm 52:8

- 2. GOD HEARS YOUR PRAYERS.** God Almighty is listening. Because we are his beloved children, no prayer is too small for him to hear.

He will respond to the prayer of the destitute; he will not despise their plea.—Psalm 102:17

How gracious he will be when you cry for help! As soon as he hears, he will answer you.—Isaiah 30:19

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer.—1 Peter 3:12a

- 3. YOU CAN PRAY WITH CONFIDENCE.**

You don't have to be a prayer giant to come confidently to God in prayer. As believers, we can all equally approach God because of our unique standing in Jesus.

In him [Jesus] and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.—Ephesians 3:12

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.—Hebrews 4:16

What Is Prayer?

At its base, prayer is talking with God. We can pray alone or in a group; silently or aloud; using a written prayer or a spontaneous one. But to be in prayer is more than just speaking words. Scripture portrays a life of continual prayer, meaning a kind of openness toward God in all we do (1 Thess. 5:17). Our entire lives should be prayers to God, exhibiting the praise and love of our Creator and Savior.

Why Pray?

PRAYER IS IMPORTANT. God's Word instructs believers to make prayer a high priority. God wants to hear from his children.

Devote yourselves to prayer.—Colossians 4:2

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people.—1 Timothy 2:1 (Also see verse 8)

Prayer should not be regarded "as a duty which must be performed, but rather as a privilege to be enjoyed, a rare delight that is always revealing some new beauty."—E.M. Bounds

PRAYER DRAWS US CLOSE TO GOD. In prayer, we worship, confess our sins, bring our requests to God, and wait and listen for him to speak. In short, we enter deeply and directly into relationship with God. Through communion with God, our hearts and minds will be changed to be more like our Lord, and we will grow to know his perfect will for our lives.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.—Romans 12:2

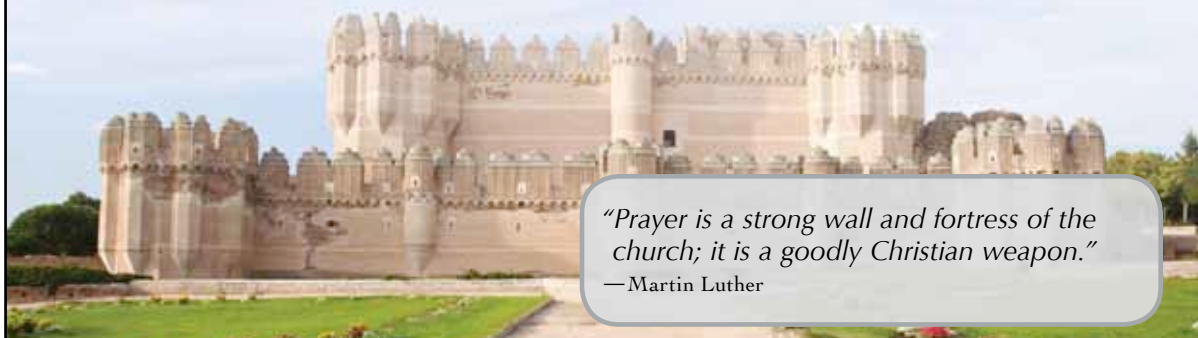
So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.—2 Corinthians 3:18 NLT

PRAYER IS POWERFUL. God not only hears our prayers, but he is acting on them. Our prayer requests bring about real change in the world and in the lives of the people we pray for.

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.—Matthew 7:7–8

If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.—Matthew 21:22 (Mark 11:24; John 15:7, 16)

And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well.... The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.—James 5:15–16



"Prayer is a strong wall and fortress of the church; it is a goodly Christian weapon."
—Martin Luther

Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him.—1 John 3:21–22

PRAYER BRINGS PEACE. When we are at our wit's end, Scripture tells us to turn all those anxieties over to God who will give us peace of mind.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.—Philippians 4:6–7

“Prayer as a relationship is probably your best indication about the health of your love relationship with God. If your prayer life has been slack, your love relationship has grown cold.”—John Piper

PRAYER PROTECTS US. We have Almighty God on our side! Jesus showed believers the importance of praying for protection and deliverance. (Also see 2 Cor. 10:4; Eph. 6:10–18.)

Jesus' prayer for his disciples: My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.—John 17:15

The Lord's Prayer: And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.—Matthew 6:13

Jesus warns his disciples: Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.—Luke 21:36

The Prayers of Jesus

Jesus took time to pray to God the Father. Jesus “often withdrew to lonely places and prayed” (Luke 5:16) and he would pray for long stretches of time (Luke 6:12).

JESUS:

Prayed for his followers. John 17:9

Prayed for the children. Matthew 19:13

Praised the Father in prayer. Matthew 11:25

Prayed for himself. John 17:1

Prayed for Simon Peter. Luke 22:32

Prayed that his Father's will be done. Matthew 26:39; Luke 22:42

Thanked the Father in prayer. John 11:41; Luke 24:30

Asked the Father to forgive sinners. Luke 23:34a

Prayed with his last words on the cross. Luke 23:46



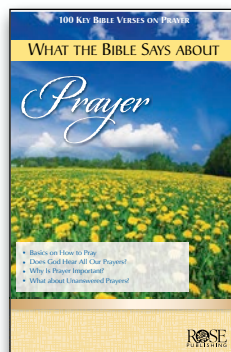
The Lord's Prayer

MATTHEW 6:9-13; LUKE 11:2-4

When Jesus' disciples wanted to know how to pray, he taught them a prayer that is known today as "The Lord's Prayer." But this prayer is not so much Jesus' prayer as it is our prayer—it is how Jesus wants all his followers to pray.

The Seven Petitions

	Petition	Meaning
"Your"	1 Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,	God's holiness comes first. We should set forth God's name as holy.
	2 your kingdom come,	God's sovereignty is a fact affirmed by believers. We pray for the day when the world will see God's rule.
	3 your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.	God's authority extends over all his creation. We pray for his authority to be known and obeyed in all the earth.
"Us"	4 Give us today our daily bread.	God's providence for our daily needs means that we may pray in faith that God will provide what we need or a way to obtain what we need.
	5 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.	God's forgiveness of our sins (debts) is possible because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. We can expect to see God's mercy in our lives according to how merciful we are to others (Mark 11:25).
	6 And lead us not into temptation,	God's protection from the things that will trip us up and undo us is something we need to ask for. Whether in trial or out of trial, we should seek God's protection.
	7 but deliver us from the evil one.	God's deliverance from enemies and especially from death and the Devil are legitimate concerns. We can be confident in our prayers for deliverance because we are more than conquerors through Christ (Rom. 8:37).

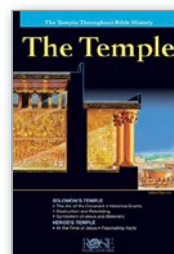


What the Bible Says about Prayer

What the Bible Says About Prayer pamphlet offers help for Christians who want to know how to pray more effectively. *What the Bible Says About Prayer* pamphlet will help you understand the power of prayer and will help you experience the peace that comes from a deeper communication with God. God cares about you and wants a relationship with you through prayer.

This booklet covers the basics of Christian prayer and is perfect for individual study, discipleship groups, small groups or Sunday school classes, Christian or home schools, new believers' class, support groups, prayer circles, church library, prison ministry, and more!

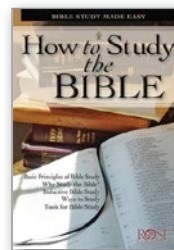
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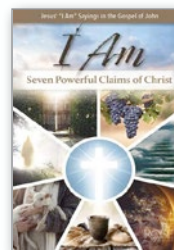
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