

GUIDELINES FOR PRAYER

(Daniel 9; II Chronicles 7:14: 15; Mark 11: 24)

When one of the disciples asked the Lord to teach them how to pray, He gave them the model of how we should pray. He said, "When you pray, say:

Our Father Who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us daily our bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And bring us not into temptation but rescue us from evil.

Our prayer should be directed to God the Father; we should pray for His name to be sanctified through the way we live, the words we speak, and the way we behave. They must represent the character that His name denotes: holiness, loving-kindness, faithfulness, mercifulness.

Our prayer should be that (1) His kingdom come, (2) to have His will done in us, as it is done in heaven; everything that concerns us should be surrendered to His will. (3) Our prayer should be concerning today's physical needs and not tomorrow's, (4) our prayer should be with confession of sins asking for forgiveness, in the measure that we forgive others. For that we must make things right with those who offended us or with those we have offended before we pray. (5) Our prayer should be recognizing God's sovereignty in temptation and with perseverance in faith to be able to stand our ground firmly with feet shod and ready to face the trials without falling into the evil of unbelief and fear and their consequences.

When we pray in observance to the Word of God, believing all His promises with a contrite heart and a renewed mind, in submission to His Holy Spirit we are praying in agreement with Him. This is a prayer of a righteous person and carries a tremendous power, according to James 5:16.

Confession and repentance in prayer move our God to forgiveness and healing. He said, "If my people who are called by my name, shall **humble themselves, pray, seek, crave and require of necessity My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive and heal their land. (II Chronicles**

7:14). This healing is not only physical, but also spiritual unto salvation. With a contrite and repentant heart the tax collector prayed, “O God, be merciful to me, the especially wicked sinner that I am” (Luke 18:13b, 14b)! Yahshua said that he “went down to his home justified ... for he who humbles himself will be exalted”. In his prayer of confession Daniel said, “While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God, yes, while I was speaking in prayer, **the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in former vision, being caused to fly swiftly, came near to me and touched me about the time of the evening sacrifice**” (Daniel 9:20-21). Daniel’s way of praying gives a good example for us to follow, to receive the blessing of the answers to our prayers.

A prayer of confession and true repentance of sins, cause God’s eyes and ears to be attentive to it to answer us; it gives us the position of found favor with Him.

The Apostle Paul gives us guidelines in the letter to Timothy, concerning how to pray, “I desire therefore that in every place **men should pray without anger or quarreling or resentment or doubt, lifting up holy hands**” (I Timothy 2:8).

Yahshua told the disciples to make things right with those who offended them and with those whom they had offended before they went to pray. When we enter the presence of God, we must remember that we are in holy ground. Our hearts then should be free of bitterness, anger and doubt and only then we can lift holy hands in the presence of God in submission to His will and surrendering all to Him. He, in return, will extend His scepter of approval, showing us that we have obtained favor in His sight.

When In sickness, we are told to call in the church elders – the intercessors to pray over us. It is interesting here that God’s Word does not say to call in the physicians. There is an account in the book of II Chronicles 16:12 concerning this matter that reads, “In the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa was diseased in his feet- until his disease became very severe; **yet in his disease he did not seek the Lord, but relied on the physicians**”. It is right to seek the Lord’s healing through the prayer of faith. If there is sin in the person’s life he should then confess it, for him to be forgiven and healed. “Confess to one another therefore your faults and pray for one another, that you may be healed and restored” (James 5:16)

Our prayers of supplication should be with thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6).

If we stop to count our blessings, we will see how much we are blessed, for we were chosen to be blessed in Christ with all the Spiritual blessings, as Paul told the Ephesians. Because of our ignorance of the Word we find ourselves asking for blessings God has already given us and not only that, but we also tell Him how we want them and when. For example, when we ask for His protection, we must remember what the Bible says about it and thank Him for it, for the Bible says we are hidden in Christ; and when we are found abiding in the shelter of the Most High, we are secured from all evil around us. No need to ask Him to send angels to protect us, when He has said that He will give His angels charge over us to accompany and defend us and preserve us in all our ways of obedience (Psalm 91:11); and He tells us that the angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him and each of them He delivers (Psalm 34:7). So let's pray that we will be found knowledgeable of the Word of God to know how to pray intelligently. Consider Psalm twenty-three and be blessed every time you read this Psalm. It will change the way you pray.

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not lack”: I shall not lack in my physical life, for He provides green pastures (the Word of God) and water (the Holy Spirit) to refresh and to restore my body and soul; He teaches me to walk in His path of righteousness so I will be in relationship with Him for the glory and honor of His name; because His presence is with me even when I walk the deep dark valley of the shadow of death, I will not be afraid of death; for I am protected and corrected with His rod and comforted and guided with his staff to my destination where He has prepared a table for me in celebration of my victory in Him and there He anoints me with oil, (the ministry of the Holy Spirit) setting me aside to be holy; with surety His goodness and mercy and love shall follow me as long as I live and forever I will abide in the shadow of His wings.

God, the Creator encompasses the earth girding it with His presence and His strength from the rising of the sun to its setting, to show His faithfulness and love to those whom fear and love Him. In Him we have our peace and the calmness of heart, because Yahshua gave us the promise that He is preparing a place for us, and directed our heart to be at peace believing and trusting in Him in this end time for He said after He finishes our place, He will return for us to take us where He is. If God's presence is in every particle of the earth displaying His wisdom, power, love and faithfulness, we must believe that He is also in us desiring to fulfill His promises in His own time.

Prayer is like a telephone call when dialed the right number to the person we desire to talk to. Prayer opens heaven and unlocks doors of iron when prayed according with the Word of God and in fellowship with Him; Prayer should not be in a monolog, but in a dialog, when we allow the Holy Spirit to speak to us at that time. When we pray in agreement with Him, He convicts us of sins, He shows us the sufferings of others and speaks to the Father through us, and many times we cry, because we see with Him the sufferings sins can bring. It is a beautiful experience to be in agreement with the Holy Spirit when we pray, as the Bible says, “The Holy Spirit Himself goes to meet our supplication and pleads in our behalf with unspeakable yearnings and groaning too deep for utterance” (Romans 8:26b).

“Pray without ceasing thanking God in everything, for that is the will of God for you; do not suppress or subdue the Holy Spirit; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved sound and complete blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; faithful is He Who is calling you and utterly trustworthy and He will also do it” (I Thessalonians 5:17, 18, 19, 23b, 24).

When we call on the Lord by prayer and supplication, confession and thanksgiving, He not only hears us, but He will answer us with blessings beyond our desires. He will reveal His secret reserved for those who seek Him with all their hearts and with faithfulness, as Psalm twenty-five verse fourteen says, “The secret of the Lord have they who fear Him and He will show them His covenant and reveal to them its meaning. When we are in prayer, we enter the Holy of Holies, the presence of the one and only God. It is not in our outlook appearance that He is interested, but it is in a broken and contrite heart, as said Isaiah, “But this is the man to whom I will look and have regard: he who is humble and of a broken or wounded spirit and who trembles at My word and reveres My commands” (Isaiah 66:3b).

When the Shunamite woman shut the door and removed herself from the problem she was facing- the death of her son, and gave it to God she freed herself from doubt and fear and took hold of faith to believe God to bring her son to life. She did not have a funeral for her son, instead she ran to the prophet Elisha on a day that was not set for her to go to see him – Sabbath or New Moon, and told her husband that “**It will be all right**”. Seeing her, Elisha sent his servant Gehazi to inquire of her well being and of her husband’s and of her son’s. To that she

answered, “**All is well**”. The question was directed to her well being first: “Is it well with you”? **Yes, it is well**, was the reply, circumstances don’t show to be so, but because she trusted God to perform a miracle on her son, she saw beyond the reality of his death; she saw his resurrection and believed with an extraordinary faith and God rewarded her with the life of her son. It was well indeed! Her anguish was not revealed until she had gotten near the Prophet of God, and to him she revealed the anguish of her heart. “She clung to Elisha’s feet, and said, Did I desire a son of my Lord? Didn’t I not say, Do not deceive me? As the Lord lives and as my soul lives, I will not leave you”. Understanding the seriousness of her sorrow, Elisha gave Gehazi instructions to bring the child to life; however, she had decided not to leave Elisha until he went with her. Gehazi could not bring the child to life and said, “The child has not awakened”. We hear of no mention of the word death here, just as Yahshua’s words, many years later, after the death of Lazarus. He said, “Our friend Lazarus is at rest and sleeping, I am going there to awake him out of his sleep”. When arriving at her house, Elisha **shut** the door of his bedroom where the child was lying. He needed the time with God alone, behind closed door, for the matter was now between God and Elisha, for he was there doing the work of a priest interceding for the Shunammite’s son. Behind that closed door God showed Elisha His glory and through the resurrection power the boy was brought to life (II Kings 4:8-37)!

The shutting of door is necessary for us to be alone with God to experience His resurrection power. With it shut to the world of doubt and unbelief, we allow the Holy Spirit to convict us of our own sins that hinder the strength of our faith and hinder us from receiving the healing or miracles we desire. Answers do not come through the many noisy voices coming from different directions and with different views contrary to the Word of God, neither with voices of doubt and fear! NO, we must gird ourselves with the truth of His Word to receive the answers to our prayers. The intercessor must learn to be alone with God, clear from all that distracts him from the calling to pray for others; the intercessor must be found pure before God, before he takes the task of interceding. The ministry of intercession should start with oneself.