

## PRAYER

*"And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed."*

*Mark 1:35*

*And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; ... Luke 18:1*

*Pray without ceasing. 1Thessalonians 5:17*

### **I. Prayer is the backbone of the ministry.**

**A. Because of his unique relationship with God, the scriptures say of Moses that "there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto" him, "whom the Lord knew**

- **face to face."**

Deuteronomy 34:10 (See also Exodus chapters 32-33 and Deuteronomy chapter 9.)

**B. Jesus Himself spent much time alone in prayer.**

- Matthew 14:23
- Mark 1:35; 6:46; 14:32-40
- Luke 3:21-22; 5:16; 6:12-13; 9:18, 28-29; 11:1; 22:31-32, 39-46; 23:34
- John 6:15
- Hebrews 5:6

**C. The New Testament epistles reveal an intense devotional life of prayer in the ministry of Paul the apostle.**

- Romans 1:9 "... without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers."
- Corinthians 12:8
- Ephesians 1:16 "Cease not ... making mention of you in my prayers."
- Philippians 1:3, 4 "Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy."
- Colossians 1:9 "... since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you ..."
- Philemon 4 "... making mention of thee always in my prayers."

## **D. The early church knew the importance of prayer and intercession in behalf of its leaders.**

- Acts 2:42 "And they continued steadfastly ... in prayers."
- Acts 1:14 "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication ..."
- Acts 12:5, 12 "... but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him."
- 2 Corinthians 1:11 "Ye also helping together by prayer for us ..."

## **II. Scripture teaches that we are to have a regular and consistent life of prayer.**

- Luke 18:1 "... men ought always to pray, and not to faint."
- Luke 21:36 "Watch ye therefore, and pray always .."
- Acts 6:4 "But we will give ourselves continually to prayer ..."
- Acts 12:5
- Ephesians 6:18, 19 "Praying always ..."
- Colossians 1:3 "... praying always for you."
- Colossians 4:2 "Continue in prayer, and watch ..."
- 1 Thessalonians 1:2 "always"
- 1 Thessalonians 5:17 "without ceasing"
- 2 Timothy 1:3 "... without ceasing ..."

### **A. Daily.**

- Psalms 86:3
- Acts 2:46

### **B. In the early morning.**

- Psalms 5:3 "My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee and will look up."
- Psalms 88:13; 119:147

while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed."

### **C. In the evening.**

- Genesis 24:63 "And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide ...."

### **D. Three times a day.**

- Psalms 55:17 "Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice."
- Daniel 6:10, 13 "Now [Daniel] ... kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed ..."
- Acts 2:1, 15; 10:9, 30

### **E. Day and night.**

- Psalms 22:1, 2 "O my God, I cry in the daytime ... and in the night season, and am not silent."
- Psalms 77:2 "In the day of trouble I sought the Lord: my sore ran in the night, and ceased not ..."
- Psalms 88:1
- Nehemiah 1:6
- Luke 18:7
- 1 Thessalonians 3:10 "Night and day praying exceedingly ..."
- 2 Timothy 1:3

### **F. At midnight.**

- Psalms 119:62 "At midnight I will rise to give Thanks unto thee ..."
- Acts 16:25 "And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God ..."

### **G. All night.**

- Psalms 63:6 "When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches."
- Isaiah 26:8, 9 "With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early ..."

• Luke 6:12-13 and concluded an night in prayer to God."

### **III. For whom and for what should we pray?**

#### **Scripture says we should pray?**

- "for all men " 1 Timothy 2:1
- for anything (Philippians 4:6).

#### **A. For those in spiritual leadership.**

- 2 Corinthians 1:11
- 1 Thessalonians 5:25
- Hebrews 13:17-18

##### **1. For boldness to speak the truth.**

- Ephesians 6:19, 20

##### **2. For their divine protection.**

- Acts 12:5
- 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2

##### **3. For an open door of ministry.**

- Romans 15:30-32
- Colossians 4:3
- 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2

#### **B. For fellow-believers.**

- Romans 1:9
- Ephesians 6:18

##### **1. For their healing.**

- Acts 28:8
- James 5:16

##### **2. For their spiritual development and maturity.**

- Ephesians 3:14-16
- Colossians 4:12
- 1 Thessalonians 3:10-13
- 2 Thessalonians 1:11
- 1 Peter 5:10

##### **3. For unity.**

- John 17:9, 11, 20-22

##### **4. For divine protection, spiritual strength, and victory over the enemy.**

- John 17:15

### **C. For ourselves.**

- 1 Chronicles 4:10 "And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested."
- Psalms 106:4, 5
- Hebrews 5:7

#### **1. For material needs.**

- Matthew 6:11
- Proverbs 30:7, 8

#### **2. For guidance.**

- Psalms 27:11; 31:3
- Jeremiah 33:3
- Daniel 2:17-19
- Colossians 1:9, 10
- James 1:5

#### **3. For victory over temptation.**

- Matthew 6:13
- Luke 22:40

#### **4. For wisdom.**

- 1 Kings 3:5-12
- Proverbs 2:3
- James 1:5

#### **5. For forgiveness of sin.**

- Numbers 5:6, 7
- 1 Kings 8:47-50  
Ezra 9:15; 10:1
- Psalms 25:11; 32:5; 51:1
- Daniel 9:4-5, 20
- Matthew 6:12  
Luke 11:4; 18:13
- Acts 8:22

**6. For physical healing.**

- 1 Samuel 1:5, 10-20
  - 1 Kings 13:4-6
  - 2 Kings 20:1-6 (Isaiah 38:1-5; 2 Chronicles 32:24)
  - Psalms 30:2
  - James 5:14
- Matthew 8:2-3 (Mark 1:40-43; Luke 5:12, 13)

**D. For temporal rulers.**

- 1 Timothy 2:1-3

**E. For the unsaved, whether an individual, a city (Psalms 122:6; Jeremiah 29:7; Daniel 9:3, 16-19), or a nation (Romans 10:1); that God will send laborers into the harvest (Matthew 9:38).**

**F. For our enemies.**

- Matthew 5:44
- Luke 6:28; 23:34
- Acts 7:59-60

**IV. How are we to pray?**

**This is not such an unreasonable question. The disciples asked Jesus how to pray (Luke 11:1). Jesus answered them by giving them a model prayer (Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4), often called The Lord's Prayer.** However, this was never intended to become "vain repetition" to them (Matthew 6:7). Jesus did not say, "Repeat after Me ..." Rather, He said, "After this manner" – that is, "in this way" – prayer should be offered to God (Matthew 6:9).

**A. Secretly, or alone**

- Matthew 6:5-6; 14:13, 23
- Mark 1:35; 6:46, 47
- 1 Kings 4:33; Acts 9:4 as well as in the presence of others (1 Kings 8:22-23; Matthew 18:19-20; Acts 12:5, 12; Romans 15:30; 2 Corinthians 1:11).

**B. In Jesus' name (as His representative).**

- John 14:14; 16:23-24

**C. In faith.**

- Matthew 21:22
- Mark 11:24
- Hebrews 11:6
- James 1:5-7; 5:15

#### **D. According to the will of God.**

- Mark 14:32-36
- John 15:7
- Romans 8:27
- 1 John 5:14, 15

#### **E. In the spirit**

- Romans 8:26-27
- 1 Corinthians 14:2, 14-15
- Ephesians 6:18
- Jude 20
- as well as with the understanding
  - 1 Corinthians 14:9, 13-17

#### **F. In any position physically.**

##### **1. Kneeling.**

- 1 Kings 8:54
- 2 Chronicles 6:13
- Ezra 9:5
- Daniel 6:10
- Matthew 17:14
- Mark 1:40
- Luke 22:41
- Acts 7:60; 9:40; 20:36; 21:5
- Ephesians 3:14

##### **2. Standing.**

- Isaiah 38:2-3; Mark 11:25; Luke 18:13

##### **3. Sitting.**

- Nehemiah 1:4
- Acts 2:2; 16:13

##### **4. Lying down (prostrate), face to the ground.**

- Numbers 16:22
- Joshua 7:6, 10
- Ezra 10:1

- Matthew 26:39

**5. Kneeling with face between the knees.**

- 1 Kings 18:42

**G. In any place (1 Timothy 2:8 "everywhere"), not necessarily in a building specifically designated for worship. God "does not dwell in temples made with hands."**

- 1 Kings 8:27
- 2 Chronicles 6:18
- Isaiah 66:1-2
- Jeremiah 7:4
- Mark 13:1-2
- Acts 7:48-50; 17:24-25, 29-30
- 2 Corinthians 5:1

**1. At home.**

- Daniel 6:10
- Acts 9:11; 12:12

**2. On the battlefield.**

- 1 Chronicles 5:20
- 2 Chronicles 13:13-16

**3. In a mountain.**

- Matthew 14:23
- Mark 6:46
- Luke 6:12; 9:28

**4. On a housetop.**

- Acts 9:9

**5. In a garden.**

- Matthew 26:36
- Mark 14:32-40
- Luke 22:39-40

**6. In a desert or secret place.**

- Matthew 14:13
- Mark 1:35
- Luke 5:16

**7. In a field.**



- Genesis 24:63

### **8. On a riverside.**

- Acts 16:13; 21:5

### **9. In the belly of a fish.**

- Jonah 2:1

### **10. In a closet. Private or secret place**

- Matthew 6:6

### **11. In jail.**

- Acts 16:25

## **V. What hinders the answers to our prayers?**

### **A. It was a Satanic hindrance that withheld the answer to Daniel's prayer for 21 days (Daniel chapter 10, especially vv. 12-13).**

- See Ephesians 6:12.

### **B. The fault may lie within the petition itself.**

#### **1. Unbelief.**

- James 1:6, 7

#### **2. A wrong motive.**

- James 4:3

### **C. Sin or disobedience may be the barrier.**

- Psalms 66:18
- Proverbs 15:29; 28:9
- Isaiah 59:1, 2
- Jeremiah 5:25
- John 9:31

#### **1. Selfishness.**

- Proverbs 21:13

#### **2. Pride.**

- Hosea 5:5-7

#### **3. Unforgiveness.**

- Mark 11:25-26

#### **4. Disharmony in the home.**

- Matthew 5:23-24
- 1 Peter 3:7

#### **5. Religious hypocrisy.**

- Isaiah 1:11-15, esp. v. 15

**6. Rebellion against hearing God's word.**

- Proverbs 1:24-25, 28; 28:9
- Zechariah 7:11-13 (stubbornness)

**7. Idolatry.**

- Ezekiel 14:1-7

**8. Deceit; injustice.**

- Jeremiah 5:25-31

**9. Neglect of Mercy**

- Proverbs 21:13

**10: Iniquity**

- Isa. 59:2; Mi.3,4

**D. An effective prayer life is conditional upon our personal walk and relationship with Jesus Christ.**

**1. Obedience.**

- John 9:31
- 1 John 3:22

**2. Righteousness.**

- Psalms 34:15, 17
- Proverbs 15:8, 29
- James 5:16

**3. Humility.**

- 2 Chronicles 7:14-15
- Psalms 9:12; 10:17; 102:17
- Matthew 23:5, 14, 27-28
- Luke 18:13-14

**4. Faith.**

- Matthew 21:22
- Mark 11:22-24
- 1 Timothy 2:8
- James 1:6-7
- 1 John 5:13-15

**5. The fear of the Lord.**

- Psalms 145:19

**6. Abiding in Christ.**

- John 15:7

## **VI. Sometimes God chooses to delay the answers to our prayers.**

- Jeremiah 42:7, 2-4
- Luke 18:7

**A. Though Job was "perfect and upright in the sight of God (see chapter 1:1, 8; 2:3), the Lord allowed him to suffer tremendously – but not without purpose. Job 23:10**

**B. God's intention in delaying an answer to a request may be to work into our character a specific quality desirable in His sight.**

### **1. Patience.**

- James 5:11

### **2. Obedience.**

- Hebrews 5:8

### **3. Humility.**

- 2 Corinthians 12:7-9, etc.

**C. God answers prayer according to His time (see Psalms 40:1). But we must be persistent in seeking Him for answers to our requests.**

- Genesis 32:26-29 "I will not let thee go, except thou bless me ... And He blessed him there."
- Song of Songs 3:14; 5:2-6
- Isaiah 62:6-7 " ... keep not silence, and give Him no rest ... "
- Matthew 7:7 "Keep on asking ... keep on seeking ... keep on ..." (The Greek tense denotes continual action.)
- Matthew 15:22-28 "... kept praying ..."  
Luke 11:5-13, esp. v. 8 "... because of his importunity ... "
- Luke 18:1-8 "...by her continual coming ..."

## **prayers.**

- 2 Chronicles 7:15 "... Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attentive unto the prayer that is made in this place."
- Psalms 10:17 "Lord, thou has heard the desire of the humble ... thou wilt cause thine ear to hear."
- Psalms 18:6
- Psalms 34:15, 17 "... his ears are open unto their cry ... The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth ..."
- Psalms 102:17 "He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer."
- Psalms 66:19, 20; 106:44
- Psalms 116:1, 2 "I love the Lord, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications. Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live."
- Psalms 141:2; 145:19
- Psalms 32:6 "For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found..."
- Proverbs 15:8, 29 "... the prayer of the upright is his delight."
- James 5:16b "... The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

### **A. Our prayers rise like incense before Him.**

- Exodus 30:8
- Psalms 141:2
- Revelation 5:8; 8:3, 4

### **B. He promises an answer.**

- Matthew 7:7-11; 21:22
- Mark 11:24
- Luke 11:9-13
- John 15:7, 16; 16:23-24
- 1 John 3:22; 5:14-15

### **D. It requires discipline on the part of the flesh to submit to**

**65:24; Matthew 6:8), and we have the promise of His provision (Psalms 84:11; Matthew 6:33; 2 Corinthians 9:8; Philippians 4:19), then why should we pray?**

**A. It builds up our faith.**

- Jude 20

**B. It humbles us.**

- 2 Chronicles 7:14

**C. Prayer strengthens us.**

- Psalms 27:14
- Psalms 138:3
- Isaiah 30:15

**D. It gives us an inner peace.**

- Philippians 4:6-7
- Isaiah 26:3

**E. Scripture says "ye have not because ye ask not."**

- John 16:22
- James 4:2

**F. We are exhorted to make mention of our needs before God (Philippians 4:6) so that, when the answer comes,**

## **GOD DOES NOT LISTEN TO YOUR PRAYER IF...**

- A. You have unconfessed sin in your life. (Psalm 66:18)
- B. There is ought between husband and wife (I Peter 3:7)
- C. There is ought between brethren (Matthew 5:23,24)

### **2. EVERYTHING THAT WE ASK OF OUR HEAVENLY FATHER SHOULD BE:**

- A. In the name of Jesus (John 14:14)
- B. According to the word and will of God (I John 5:14)
- C. In Faith believing (Matthew 21:22)

### **3. PERMANENT *CROWN*RIDGE CHURCH PRAYER TARGETS**

A. **For governmental leaders:** President, Vice President, Senate, state and local government (I Timothy 2: 1):

B. **For church leaders:** Pastor & family, staff, musicians  
Sunday School teachers, outreach ministries, youth Leaders

B. **For lost souls to be won to Christ this week.** Write ten names of people you know in our city who need to be saved, and begin to pray for them UNTIL they confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. (John 15:16)

- |    |     |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 6.  |
| 2. | 7.  |
| 3. | 8.  |
| 4. | 9.  |
| 5. | 10. |

- C. Pray for the church building program: Except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that built it. (Psalm 127: 1)**
- D. Pray for every family in our church that you know of by name with a marriage problem, health or financial problem. (James 5:16)**
- F. Pray for your child's Sunday school teacher**
- G. Pray the Holy Spirit be poured out upon our services this Sunday and that our congregation will come into spiritual maturity. (Spiritual maturity means they pray and fast regularly. They tithe 10% of their income. They are filled with the Holy Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is manifested in their daily walk. (Matthew 6:1-7)**
- H. Pray for the improvement, expansion, and anointing of the Lord on our outreach ministry to reach our city, surrounding towns, our country and the world. (Col. 4;20)**
- I. Pray for each outreach ministries by name**
- J. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6; Isaiah 62:6,7)**
- K. Pray that the Lord raise up COMMITTED leaders and teachers in our Church (Matthew 10:38)**
- M. Pray for yourself that you:**
1. Enter not into temptation (Luke 22:40)
  2. Do no evil (11 Corinthians 13:7)
  3. That your speech (James 3) and your conduct Ephesians. are godly
  4. Love the brethren in greater measure (Phil. 1:9)
  5. Be CONTINUOUSLY filled with the spirit (Ephesians 5:18)
  6. Have Godly Goals (Psalm37:4) (Mark 11:24)

**18. Pray for daily church needs that are made known to you in each service and needs you see all around you.**

#### **4. Bless the name of the Lord (Psalm 100:4)**

<b>HIS NAME IS:</b>	<b>IT'S MEANING IS:</b>	<b>BENEFIT:</b>
1. Jehovah-Nissi	" The Lord Our Banner"	Security
2. Jehovah-Rohi	" The Lord Our Shepherd"	Security
3. Jehovah-Shalom	" The Lord Our Peace"	Peace
4. Jehovah-Shammah	" The Lord Is There"	Confidence
5. Jehovah-Jereh	" The Lord Our Provider	Success
6. Jehovah-Rophe	" The Lord Our Healer	Soundness
7. Jehovah-M'Kaddesh	" The Lord Who Sanctifies	Cleansing "

#### **QUICK OVERVIEW OF SOME CAUSES OF FAILURE IN UNANSWERED PRAYER**

**Disobedience, (De. 1:45,) (1 Samuel 14:37;28:6)**

**Secret Sin, (Psalm 66:18)**

**Indifference, (Proverbs 1:28)**

**Neglect of Mercy, (Proverbs 21:13)**

**Despising God's law, (proverbs 28:9)**

**Blood-guiltiness (Is.1:15)**

**Iniquity, (Is. 59:2) (Mi. 3,4)**

**Stubbornness (Zec. 7.13)**

**Instability, (James 1:6,7)**

**Self-Indulgence, (James 4:3)**

**Unforgiveness**

**Disputes between brethern (Matthew 5:23,24)**

**Disputes between husband and wife (I Peter 3:7)**

#### **PROMISES OF ANSWERED PRAYER**

**Job 22:57**

**Psalm 65:2,5**

**Psalm 69:33**

**Psalm 19:10**

**Psalm 86:5,6**

**Psalm 18:3**



