

Prayer and Thanksgiving

Key verses

● “And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut the door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.” Matt.6:5-7

● “And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.” Matt.21:22

God remembers our prayers

● “...he was afraid, and said, 'What is it, Lord?' So he said to him, 'Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God.’” Acts 10:4

Prayer is one of the most important facets of our worship. God refers to prayer as something He “remembers”. The word “memorial” in the verse above means, “a reminder” or “memorandum”. In Revelation we are shown how incense is a symbol of our prayers (Rev.5:8, ch8:3-4).

Talking with Angels

● “See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. **Worship God.**” Rev.22:9

Adam, Eve, Abraham and many other Bible characters at various times had direct conversations with the angels (elohim) who are God's messengers or representatives. Talking to the angels should not be confused with prayer, as we are instructed in Scripture that we are **not to worship angels** (Col.2:18; Rev.22:8-9).

Pray without ceasing

The Apostle Paul said we should, “Pray without ceasing” (1Thess.5:17). This means that we should immediately pray when the need arises without holding back. God says, “Do I not fill heaven and earth?” (Jer.23:24), so there is no place nor reason to hold back from praying to God, wherever or whenever the need arises.

No vain repetitions

● “And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.” Matt.6:7

Jesus warns us to avoid vain repetition in prayer as this is a tradition of the “heathen” nations who think that their false god will hear them if they continually repeat their request. Our Heavenly Father knows our needs even before we make our request, so there is no need for repetition, although there is a need to ask for some things on a **regular basis** and this is particularly the case when asking for forgiveness for ourselves and others (Matt.6:14-15, ch18:35; Phil.4:6-7; Psa.50:14-15).

Our Heavenly Father

● “Giving thanks always for all things to **God the Father** in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Eph.5:20

● “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” 1 Tim.2:5

Jesus has left us the example many times of addressing God in prayer as our Heavenly Father, the inference being that we are His children, and because Jesus is our Mediator **we must address all prayer through Him.**

Pray for all our needs

● “Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not to lose heart.” Luke 18:1

● “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.” Phil.4:6

James says that “the prayer of faith shall save the sick” and that, “The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” (James 5:15-16). There are many instances in Scripture that we can follow, where the prayers of faith are answered. A prayer of faith (Matt.21:21-22) means that we ask God, without doubting that **He will answer our prayer in the best possible way for us.**

Two of the most famous prayers of faith were:

Hezekiah praying for deliverance from Assyria (Isa.37:15-20), and the prayer of Abraham's servant Eliezer (Gen.24:12).

Giving thanks

● “In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thess.5:18 See also Luke 22:17,19

We should also give thanks to God every day for His provision of the necessities of life including a prayer before our meals.

Praying for God's Kingdom

Jesus prayed,

● “Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” Matt.6:10

We should also pray for God's coming Kingdom and the day we will be united with His Son at the marriage supper of the Lamb. This will be the time when the words of the Lord's Prayer are fulfilled, when God's Kingdom has come and **God's will is done on earth.**

Some Bible Prayers to consider

The Lord's Prayer Luke 11:1-4

Jesus praising God's revelations Matt.11:25-26

Jesus praying for His disciples John ch17

Hannah after Samuel's dedication 1 Sam.2:1-10

David confessing his sin Psa.51

Solomon asking wisdom 1 Kings 3:5-9

Daniel confessing his sins Dan.9:3-19

Elijah facing the Baal challenge 1 Kings 18:36-37

Jeremiah after his release Jer.20:7-18

All Scripture quoted on this sheet is from the NKJV