

What is the purpose and intent of prayer?

Psalm 95:6-7: "Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. For He *is* our God, and we *are* the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand."

How is that accomplished?

With thanksgiving and praise:

Psalm 100:4: "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, *and* bless His name."

Colossians 4:2: "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving."

In trusting God:

Psalm 145:18-19 says: "The LORD *is* near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them."

Philippians 4:6-7: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

The reason Jesus said in John 15:7: "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you."

Do I understand that prayer isn't meant to bring God to my will, but rather to abide in Christ, submit to His will, and trust Him?

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Why must we pray?

2Chron 7:14: "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

Jer. 29:11-12: "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you."

Pro. 15:8: "The sacrifice of the wicked *is* an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright *is* His delight."

Heb. 4:16: "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

What did Jesus teach us on the need for prayer?

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

Luke 21:36: "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The core purpose being:

John 15:5: "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

Do I understand the importance of prayer to abide in Christ and please God?

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Prayer requires attitudes of the heart that worships and honor God. They are:

Reverence and fear of God: Heb 12:28: “Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.”

Abiding in Christ: John 15:7: “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.”

Humility: James 4:6: “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

Commitment: Luke 9:62: “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Unselfishness: Philip. 2:3-4: “Let nothing *be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”

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

Perseverance: Eph 6:18: “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.”

Question: How would the Lord rate my heart attitudes right now?

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What more does the Word of God say about having faith in God, and being humble and steadfast in prayer?

1Tim. 2:8: "I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting."

Mat. 6:5: "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."

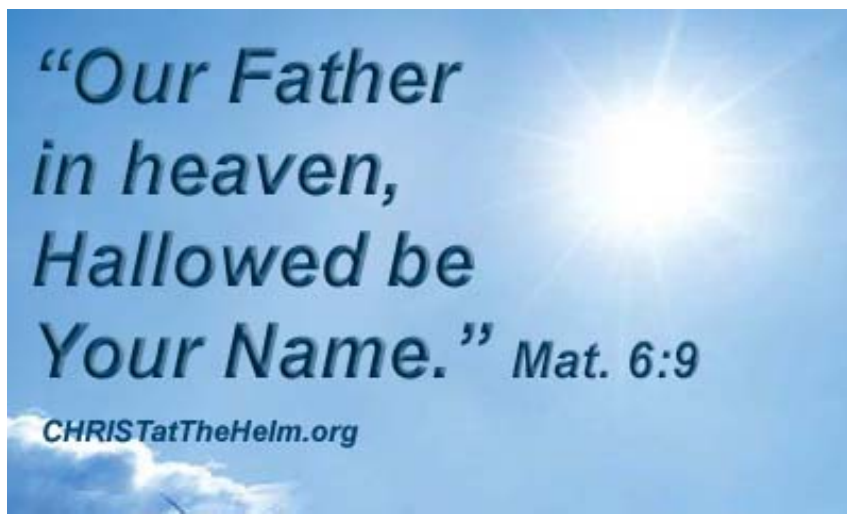
Mat 6:6-7: "But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen *do*. For they think that they will be heard for their many words."

1Kings 8:61: "Let your heart therefore be loyal to the LORD our God, to walk in His statutes and keep His commandments."

Rom 8:26: "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."

Do I understand that prayer requires a humble attitude of the heart and to have faith in God?

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God is our spiritual Father, if we are saved through Christ Jesus. Here's how scripture describe this:

Gal 4:6: “Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”

John 9:31: “Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him.”

Jeremiah 17:10: “I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.”

Therefore, when we go to Almighty God in prayer; we must approach Him with reverence, fear and worship, as described below:

Psalms 95:6: “Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.”

Psalms 95:2-3: “Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. For the LORD *is* the great God, and the great King above all gods.”

Psalms 100:4: “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, *and* bless His name.”

Why?

Rev 14:7: “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”

Do I worship and honor God as my Heavenly Father when I pray?

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If we meditate on how Jesus responded to His disciples when they asked Him to show them how to pray, it is evident that it wasn't to give them a repetitive prayer that they repeat all the time, but rather what elements their prayers must incorporate to honor God for who He is.

Why must we consider God's kingdom and will in our prayers?

1Chron. 29:11: "Yours, O LORD, *is* the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all *that is* in heaven and in earth *is Yours*; Yours *is* the kingdom, O LORD, and You are exalted as head over all."

Joshua 4:24: "All the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the LORD, that it *is* mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever."

How is God's will accomplished in our lives?

Proverbs 16:3: "Commit your works to the LORD, and your thoughts will be established."

Psalms 37:5: "Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring *it* to pass."

Psalms 111:10: "The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever."

1Samuel 12:24: "Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart."

Is my prayer life focused on seeking for God to fulfill my desires, or is God's will at the heart of my life?

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It is evident that part of our prayer life necessitate that we recognize God as our provider, that we seek to carry out His will, and trust Him to fulfill our needs.

How does the Word of God describe this?

Matthew 7:11: "If you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him."

Romans 8:32: "He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"

Hebrews 13:5: "*Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."*

Why?

Romans 8:38-39: "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Philippians 4:19: "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

A word of caution:

Psalm 66:18: "If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear."

Do I trust God for meeting my needs, or am I craving for the things of the world?

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What does God require from us in order that our sins be forgiven?

2Chron 7:14: "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

1John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Are there other commands from God related to forgiveness?

Mark 11:25: "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses."

Mat. 5:44: "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you."

James 5:16: "Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

Eph 4:32: "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."

How faithful am I to forgive others, whether a believer or even those who hate me?

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What does the Word of God teach us about temptations?

James 1:13: "Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone."

2Peter 2:9: "The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the Day of Judgment."

1Peter 3:12: "For the eyes of the LORD *are* on the righteous, and His ears *are open* to their prayers; but the face of the LORD *is* against those who do evil."

What must we do to avoid and reject temptations?

Mat 26:41: "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak."

Gal. 5:16-17: "I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish."

Psalms 119:11: "Your Word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You."

Why?

Pro. 15:29: "The LORD *is* far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous."

Philippians 2:13: "For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure."

How faithful am I to flee the temptations of the flesh and the lusts of the world?

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We know that this world has seen many kingdoms come and go. That was true millenniums ago, as well as now. The Kingdoms of the world also exist in the hearts of men who elevate themselves through pride, and live to satisfy the flesh.

What then should our attitude be towards the Kingdom of God?

Psalm 95:2-3: "Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. For the LORD *is* the great God, and the great King above all gods."

1Tim 1:17: "Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, *be* honor and glory forever and ever."

If we abide in Christ, what should we expect from God in our lives?

John 8:12: "Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

1Cor 15:57: "But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Rom 8:38-39: "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

How anchored am I in the Kingdom of God through Christ Jesus?

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