

PRAYER

(revised Feb 1999 EKB)

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land, *2Chr 7:14*. Prayer is a major part of the much needed revival we are all seeking.

1. **Importance of Prayer and what Prayer is.**

Prayer is conversing with God. It is communion and communication between God and man. It is a two way contact. *Ps27:4, Heb 4:16, Lk 18:1, Jer 33:3, Is 30:19*.

Prayer recognises Jesus Christ and God the Father as the Centre of all things, and our total Source of Supply, *Lk 11:2-13, Ps 34:10, Phil 4:19*.

Prayer expresses our total dependence upon the Lord, *Heb 5:7, Ps 73:25,26,Ps 16:5-9*. Our prayer life is the measure of our dependence upon God. What breathing is to our natural bodies, prayer is to our whole beings, *Lk 18:1, Heb 10:19-23, Heb 4:14-16*.

Prayer is the God ordained means whereby God's purposes are brought to pass on earth, and whereby we receive from God the meeting of our needs, *Phil 4:6,7,19, Mat 7:7-11, Lk 11:2, Ps 84:11*.

In prayer God reveals His will and His glory, we offer up spiritual sacrifices of worship, praise and thanksgiving, we pray, and believe God for the fulfilment of His purposes in the earth and the meeting of needs. *Ac 13:2, Heb 13:15, 1Tim 2:1-4, Jn 16:23,24, Mk 11:24*.

2. **The Church is God's House.** *1Tim 3:15, Eph 2:19-22*.

It is the assembly of His people. It is the place of His Name in the earth today. *Heb 6:10, Mat 18:17-20*. **God says that His dwelling place is to be the House of Prayer** for all nations. The house of God's dwelling where He will hear the cry of His people, *Mk 11:17, Is 56:7*.

3. **Jesus was a man of prayer on earth.**

Lk 3:21-22 As He prayed at His baptism, **the Holy Spirit came down upon Him.**

Lk 5:15-17 When crowds came for healing He withdrew to pray, and after He prayed, the power of God descended to heal.

Lk 6:12-16,17-19 He prayed all night and **received guidance and wisdom** in choosing the twelve apostles. Also He was filled with power so that all the sick who touched Him were healed.

Lk 9:18-20 As He prayed **revelation, was given to His disciples** as to who He was.

Lk 9:29 As Jesus prayed He was changed and filled with God's glory.

Lk 11:1 As He prayed others wanted to know how to pray like Him.

Lk 11:1-4 **The Lord's Prayer.**

Heb 5:7 He prayed earnestly with strong crying and tears to the Father.

Lk 22:39-46 As Jesus faced death on the Cross, He prayed earnestly to God in the Garden before being arrested.

Jn 17:1-26 Jesus's prayer for Himself, for His disciples and for all believers.

4. **Jesus is the Man of Prayer in Heaven. now.**

Heb 3:1 He is our Great High Priest and Mediator, *1Tim 2:5*.

- Heb 7:25* He is able to save us completely because He ever lives to make intercession for us.
- Rom 8:34* Jesus is at the Father's right hand praying for us.
- 1Jn 2:1* He speaks to the Father on our behalf. *Heb 9:24*.

5. **The Holy Spirit intercedes for us also.**

- Rom 8:26* He makes intercession for us earnestly.
- Rom 8:27* He intercedes for us according to God's will.

6. **Kinds of prayer.** (Pray with others if you can - in agreement, *Mat 18:19,20*.)

- a. **Worshipping, praising, thanking, glorifying, adoring God.**
Ps 100, Ps 118:19, Ps 107:1,2, Heb 13:15, Lk 11:2, Ac 4:24-28, Rev 5:12-14, Ps 95, Dan 2:19-23, Ac 16:25, Is 61:10, 2Chr 20:6,21,22.
- b. **Petition (Supplication).** Making request for personal needs to be met.
Phil 4:6,7, Mat 7:7-11, Lk 11:9-13, 1Chr 4:10, Ps 61:1,2, Mk 11:24, Mat 21:22, Jn 16:23,24, Ps 55:22, Ps 50:15, Ps 34:17, Lk 11:3,4, Phil 4:19, Rom 10:13.
- i. **Ask specifically.** Say exactly what you desire.
Mk 10:51, 1Chr 4:10, Col 1:9, Mat 8:6, 1Jn 1:9.
- ii. **Ask in God's will, and by the Spirit's leading.** *1Jn 5:14,15*, i.e. according to His promises. *2Pet 1:4, 2Cor 7:1, Heb 10:23, Gal 3:18, 2Cor 1:20, Num 23:19.*
- iii. **Ask in faith.** *Mat 21:21,22, Mk 11:24,23, Jam 1:5-7, Mat 17:20, Heb 11:6, Rom 1:17, Mk 9:23, Jn 11:40, Lk 1:45.* When we pray and ask in His will, (by His promises), **we must believe we receive what He has promised**, (nothing doubting).
- iv. **Ask expecting to receive.** *Phil 4:6, Ps 34:17, Ps 84:11, Lk 11:13, 1Sam 30:6, Ps 62:5, Ps 27:13, 1Thes 5:24, Heb 10:23, Jer 33:3, 1Jn 5:14,15, Is 30:19, Jn 16:23,24, Phil 4:19, Mk 11:24, Rom 8:32, Phil 4:6,7, Rom 15:29.*
- v. **Ask with persistence** - keep on. *1Thes 5:17, Lk 11:9,10(Amp), Heb 10:36, Lk 18:1-8, Heb 3:6,14, Heb 10:23, Lk 21:19(Amp), Mk 10:47, 48, Lk 11:5-8, Jam 5:7,10,11.*
- vi. **Ask earnestly.** *1Sam 1:10,15,17,20, Jam 5:16, Heb 5:7, Mk 10:48.*
- vii. **Ask in humility.** *Ps 66:18, 2Chr 7:14, Lk 18:9-14, Dan 9:3-15.*
- c. **Intercession.** praying for others. Standing in the gap. *1Sam 12:23, Ezk 13:5, Ezk 22:30 Num 14:11-24.*
- i. **Praying on behalf of God.**
God's Name to be kept holy, *Lk 11:2.*
God's will be done, *Lk 11:2*
God's Kingdom come, on earth, as it is in heaven, *Lk 11:2.*
God's harvest to be reaped, *Lk 10:2.*
God's labourers to be thrust out now, *Lk 10:2*
- ii. Pray for the **lost** to be saved, *2Pet 3:9.*
- iii. Pray for the **Jewish people**, *Ps 122:6.*
- iv. Pray for the **Government**, *1Tim 2:1-4.*
- v. Pray for **the Church** and the believers, *Col 1:9-14, Eph 1:17-23, Phil 1:4,9,19, Eph 6:18,19.*
- vi. Pray for **church leaders** - to be unified, *Jn 17:21-23.*
- vii. Pray for your **family, partner and all your children.**
- viii. Pray for your **street** and neighbours.

- ix. Pray for **missionaries and missions.**
- x. Pray for the **countries of the world.** (Use “Operation World” W.E.C. by Patrick Johnson - W.E.C. P.O.Box 27264., Mt. Roskill, Auckland 4)
- xi. Pray for **friends** in need.

7. **Spiritual warfare prayer.** (See also “Spiritual Warfare” No 128.)

Jam 4:7, 1Pet 5:8,9, Eph 6:10-20, Jer 20:11, Mat 18:18-20, Mat 16:19, Ps 149:6-9, 2Chr 20:22, Rev 12:11, 1Jn 3:8, Heb 2:14, Col 2:15, Mat 12:29, Lk 11:20-22, Mk 16:17, Is 10:27.

Frequently as we are praying, the Holy Spirit leads us to resist the presence, influence and works of satan, and of evil spirits.

Jam 4:7 says “Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you,” *1Pet 5:8,9.*

The devil is a defeated foe. Jesus accomplished his defeat at Calvary and in His resurrection. *Heb 2:14,15, Col 2:15, 1Jn 3:8b, Eph 4:8-10, Mat 12:28,29.* Also Jesus defeated satan in every encounter, during His earthly ministry. *Mat 4:1-11, Mat 8:16, Mat 8:28-32, Mat 9:32,33.* Jesus preached the Gospel, taught His disciples, cast out demons and healed the sick, *Ac 10:38.*

When Jesus commissioned His disciples, He gave them His authority over the powers of darkness, *Mat 10:1-8, Lk 10:17,19, Mat 18:17-20.*

This authority has been in the church and with each believer to this day. *Rev 12:11, 1Jn 4:4, 1Jn 2:13,14, Ac 8:7, 2Cor 10:3-5, Ac 16:18.*

It is important that we come to a place of freedom from the fear of the devil and evil spirits before we start to exercise our authority in Jesus Christ to resist evil spiritual influences, *2Tim 1:7.*

Col 1:13 is a key. It says that God has delivered us from the power, (authority, actually), of darkness and has transferred us into the Kingdom of the Son of His love. This means that we were under satan’s authority before we came to Christ, but now we are under Christ’s authority. Satan has no authority over us.

Under the leading of the Holy Spirit, and in the area of our God given responsibility and ministry, we have authority in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ to bind the work of the enemy, to break its power, to resist, reject and repel it. *Mat 18:18-20, Jam 4:7, 2Cor 10:3-5, Lk 10:19, Eph 6:10-18, Rev 12:11.*

Where a believer is being influenced by a demon, they will be set free provided that they:

- a. Affirm that Jesus Christ is Lord of their lives and that they have submitted their lives fully unto Him, *Col 1:13, Lk 9:23.*
- b. Believe that Jesus died for their sins, rose again the third day, and is now seated on the Throne of God as their Saviour, Lord and Redeemer. *1Cor 15:3,4, 1Pet 3:18, 1Pet 2:24, 1Pet 1:18,19.*
- c. Confess all known sins, repent and turn from them unto the Lord for forgiveness, *1Jn 1:9, Pro 28:13.*
- d. Forgive every other person for their wrongs and hurtful actions, *Mat 6:14,15, Mk 11:25,26.*

- e. Break every contact with the occult and all false religions such as Freemasonry etc.
- f. Believe for full release from every curse, *Gal 3:13, Is 54:17*.
- g. Are willing to stand in faith on the Word of God and resist, repel and expel the demonic influence in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, *Jam 4:7, 1Pet 5:9*

After deliverance, pray for the fulness of the Holy Spirit. Encourage the person to continue in prayer, the Word of God, the fellowship of believers, to witness to the unsaved, and to live for Christ in all they do. (See "They Shall Expel Demons" Derek Prince.)

The weapons of our warfare, *2Cor 10:4,5*, (the Word of God, the Power of the Anointing of the Holy Spirit, the Blood of Jesus, the Name of Jesus Christ the Lord, our God, our Saviour,) **are mighty through God**, to pull down strongholds, to cast down arguments, lies, reasonings, speculations, to throw down every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and to bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

8. **Pray with the Spirit** (in tongues). *1Cor 14:4,14,15, Jude 20, Eph 6:18, Rom 8:26*. The importance of praying in tongues cannot be overemphasised. It is a mighty weapon of prayer.
9. **Pray in the Spirit** - as the Holy Spirit directs, *Eph 6:18*.
10. **Pray according to God's promises.** (His Will - in faith).
Jer 1:12(Amp) God is watching over His Word to perform it.
Is 55:11 God's Word will not return void, it shall accomplish what He pleases, and prosper in what He sent it to do.
Lk 1:37(Amp) No word from God shall be without power.
2Pet 1:3,4 God has given us exceeding great and precious promises, that through these we may be partakers of His divine nature.
2Cor 7:1 By His promises we are able to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and the spirit.
Num 23:19 Has He said and will He not do it?
Gal 3:18 God gave Abraham his inheritance by promise. There are 3000-9000 promises, (it has been said), in God's Word. There is a list of about 600 of these promises under various headings, and areas of need. (Notes No. 27)
11. **Avoid directive prayer at all costs.**
 Do not pray to God, to get Him to do **what you think is right**, in another person's life. This is soulish and soon leads to witchcraft. Evil spirits soon start to work. Do not try and control what another person does by your prayers. This is witchcraft and satanic.
Pray positively for others that God will bless them, guide them, strengthen them, keep them from evil, give them peace and so on. (Witchcraft is control, manipulation, domination of one person by another.)
12. If God does not answer prayer, it is silly to pray.
 If God does answer prayer, it is silly not to pray.
13. It is time for churches, and groups of believers to gather together and to pray, and act on *2Chr 7:14*. NOW!
 This is God's army on the march.

This is invading the impossible.
 This is the Church's main work.
 This is the centre of God's government in the earth.
 This is warfare against all evil.
 This is the heartbeat of the Church.
 This is entering the Holiest, *Heb 10:19*.

14. God has ordained that believing prayer, in His will, is the way His purposes are to be fulfilled in the earth. Things do not "just happen". Prayer is necessary to get the job done. God has limited Himself to work through our prayers. Prayer desires God's will, and prays it into being.
15. **Hindrances to Prayer.**
- a. The flesh - tiredness, wandering thoughts, distractions.
 - b. Busyness - preoccupation with many duties, *Lk 10:41*.
 - c. Known sin. *Ps 66:18, Is 59:1,2, Jam 4:1-4, Prov 28:13*.
 - d. Unbelief - mixing faith and doubt of God's Word, *Jam 1:5,6*.
 - e. Not praying in God's will, *Jam 4:3, 1K 19:4, Jer 14:11*.
 - f. Unforgiveness, bitterness, resentment, hatred. *Mk 11:25,26, Mat 18:21-35, Mat 6:14,15*.
 - g. Failure to persist, *Mat 26:36-46*.
 - h. Fear and unbelief - doubt of God's word through fear or other causes. *Mat 14:31, Mat 17:20, Mat 8:26, 2Tim 1:6,7, Mk 11:23, 1Jn5:10*.
 - i. A curse can greatly hinder prayer and the obtaining of God's blessing. God's answer to every curse is in His Son our Lord Jesus Christ, *Gal 3:13, Is 54:17*.
 - j. Demonic influence and oppression, *Ac 10:38, 1Thes 2:18, 1Pet 5:8*.
 We need to resist the powers of darkness by believing and confessing the Word of God. *1Jn 3:8, Heb 2:14, Col 2:15, Rev 12:11, 1Jn 4:4, Eph 6:12, Jam 4:7*.
 - k. Involvement in the occult, *Deut 18:10-12, Deut 7:26, Num 33:52,55*.
 - l. Reasonings and speculations of the natural mind, *Mat 16:8, 1Cor 2:14*.