

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

I. THE "WHY" OF PRAYER

REVELATION 3:20: Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him and eat with him and he with me.

There are many reasons to pray, but the primary reason is that God wants to be intimate with you.

God wants to know you and he wants you to know him.

"... I will come into him and eat with him and he with me."

II. THE ATTITUDES OF PRAYER

A. **BE real.**

*"... if anyone hears my voice and **opens the door** ..."*

What does it take to open the door of our lives to God?

Honesty (telling the truth) and openness (telling a lot).

It is foolish to be any other way with God.

HEBREWS 4.13: And before Him no creature is hidden, but all are open and laid bare to the eyes of him to whom we must give an account.

B. **BE reassured.**

*"... I **will** come into him ..."*

We can be confident when we seek God in prayer because he has promised to be with us when we pray -- not just when we pray well.

Our words, our tone of voice, our fluency in prayer -- none of that impresses God.

What does impress God is our heart.

1 SAMUEL 16.7: The Lord sees not as man sees. Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.

C. **BE reverent.**

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock ..."

In prayer we are meeting with the Lord of the universe. We are coming into the presence of the Holy.

D. **BE removed from others.**

MATTHEW 6.6: But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is unseen. Then your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

III. THE "HOW" OF PRAYER

*“This, then, is **HOW** you should pray ...” Matthew 6:9-15*

THE SIX PARTS OF PRAYER

1. PRAISE: I BEGIN BY expressing my love for God.

“OUR FATHER WHICH ART HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME...”

TWO KINDS OF PRAISE:

- “ADORATION” - Praising God for who *he is*.
- “THANKSGIVING” - Praising God for *what he has done*.

PSALM 100.4: *Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise. Be thankful unto him, and bless his name.*

HOW TO PRAISE GOD:

1st: As you read your Bible, make a list of God's character qualities that you discover and then review them when you pray. *(See Prayer Guide # 1)*

Examples:

God is patient	Numbers 14:18
God is merciful	Numbers 14:18
God is forgiving	Numbers 14.18
God knows everything	1 Samuel 2:2
God is loving	1 John 4:8

KEY: God's character is the basis for our boldness in making requests in prayer. **God answers the prayers that acknowledge who he is!**

2nd: Remind yourself and affirm the promises God has made that are contained in the meaning of his name. *(See Prayer Guide #2)*

3rd: Make a list of all that you are thankful for and review them when you pray. *(See Prayer Guide #3)*

2. PURPOSE: I COMMIT MYSELF to God's will for my life.

“YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE, ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN ...”

Pray for God's will to be done ... in my family ... my church ... my ministry ... my job ... my future ... my city ... the nation ... the world.

ROMANS 12:2 (GN): Offer yourself as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This the true worship that you should offer ...

3. PROVISION: I ASK GOD TO provide for my needs.

“GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD ...”

What needs can I pray about? All of them.

PHILIPPIANS 4:19 (LB): God will supply **all** your needs from his riches in glory because of what Christ Jesus has done for us.

ROMANS 8:32: Since God did not spare even his own Son for us but gave him up for us, won't he also surely give us everything else?

JAMES 4:2: You do not have ... because you don't ask God!

THE KEY: be specific

Write down our requests, with a promise you are claiming from the Bible, and expect an answer! (*See Prayer Guide #4*)

PHILIPPIANS 4:6: Don't worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

4. PARDON: I ASK GOD TO forgive my sins.

"FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS ..."

4 STEPS TO FORGIVENESS**1. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal every sin.**

PSALM 139:23-24: Examine me, O God, and know my mind; test me, and discover my thoughts, find out if there is any evil in me.

2. Confess each sin specifically.

PROVERBS 28:13 (GN): You will never succeed in life if you try to hide your sins. Confess them and give them up; then God will show mercy to you.

3. Make restitution to others when necessary.

MATTHEW 5:23-24 (GN): When you remember your brother has something against you ... go at once to make peace with him, then come back and offer your gift to God.

4. By faith, accept God's forgiveness.

1 JOHN 1:9: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins, and purify us from all unrighteousness.

5. PEOPLE: I PRAY FOR others.

"... AS WE HAVE ALSO FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS."

1 TIMOTHY 2:1 (LB): Pray much for others; plead for God's mercy upon them; give thanks for all he is going to do for them.

IF YOU WANT TO PRAY FOR OTHERS:

*Ephesians 1:15-19, Colossians 1:3-12, 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3,
2 Thessalonians 1:11-12*

Make a prayer list of people you want to pray for. You might pray for different people on different days of the week. (*See Prayer Guide #5*)

6. PROTECTION: I ASK FOR spiritual protection.

"AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION BUT DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE." (vs.13)

Believers face a spiritual battle every day. Satan wants to defeat you through temptation and fear. By praying for protection, you will have the confidence to face every situation during the day.

1 JOHN 4:4 (GN): The Spirit who is in you is more powerful than the spirit who is in those who belong to the world.

IV. THE COMMON MISTAKES OF PRAYER

A. WE PLACE TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON feelings.

Prayer is not about feelings; it's about fellowship.

Jesus has promised that when we open the door, he will meet with us. He is with us whether we feel him or not.

B. WE ACT AS IF PRAYER IS BASICALLY OUR SPEAKING TO GOD.

Two-way communication is necessary for intimacy.

JOHN 16:13: When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth; for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears **he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.**

JESUS WANTS TO SPEAK TO US THROUGH HIS SPIRIT.

HOW?

1. Through the scriptures.
2. Through our circumstances.
3. Directly.
4. Through other people.

C. WE VIEW PRAYER PRIMARILY AS A WAY OF "GETTING."

INSTEAD, THINK IN TERMS OF RECEIVING.

Ephesians 1:3: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who **has blessed** us in Christ with every spiritual blessing.

WHAT KEEPS US FROM RECEIVING GOD'S BLESSINGS?

1. FEELINGS OF UNWORTHINESS.
2. SPIRITUAL IMMATURE.

PRAYER GUIDE 1

CHARACTER TRAITS OF GOD

<i>TRAIT</i>	<i>REFERENCE</i>
Faithful	II Corinthians 1:20
Righteous	II Timothy 4:8
The Light	John 8:12

PRAYER GUIDE 2

THE NAMES OF GOD

Did you know that God has several names? They are all in the Bible and each name describes a facet of his character. You can take each of these 8 names and focus individually on what God is really like! Pray the names of God as affirmations of praise!

EIGHT HEBREW NAMES OF GOD - DECLARE WHO GOD IS

Jehovah-Shammah- "God is Present with me" (Ezekial 48:35)

You are here! I am never alone!

Jehovah-Rohi- "God is my Shepherd" (Psalm 23:1)

You lead me and feed me and protect me!

Jehovah-Jireh- "God is my Provider" (Genesis 22:14)

You see what I need before I even ask!

Jehovah-Rophe- "God is my Healer" (Exodus 15:26)

You can heal my body, emotions, and relationships!"

Jehovah-Tsidkenu- "God is my Righteousness" (Jeremiah 23:6)

You accept me and forgive me because of Jesus!

Jehovah-M'Kiddish- "God is my Sanctification" (Leviticus 20:8)

You make me holy and like Jesus!

Jehovah-Shalom- "God is my Peace" (Judges 6:24)

You give me peace in spite of circumstances!

Jehovah-Nissi- "God is my Banner" (Exodus 17:15)

You are my victory in conflict and confrontation!

Think on the implications of these names and you'll have plenty to praise God for!

PRAYER GUIDE 3

MY THANKSGIVING LIST

PRAYER GUIDE 5

PEOPLE I'M PRAYING FOR

FAMILY _____

CHRISTIAN FRIENDS _____

FRIENDS I'D LIKE TO SEE BECOME CHRISTIANS _____

SPIRITUAL LEADERS _____

GOVERNMENT LEADERS _____

OTHERS _____
