

# Great Prayers of the Bible



- **Prayer** n. (selected definitions from Ask.com) Middle English *preiere*, from Old French, from Medieval Latin *precaria*, from feminine of Latin *precarius*, obtained by entreaty, from *precari*, to entreat.
  - + A reverent petition made to God, a god, or another object of worship.
  - + An act of communion with God, a god, or another object of worship, such as in devotion, confession, praise, or thanksgiving.
  - + A specially worded form used to address God, a god, or another object of worship.
  - + A fervent request.
  - + The thing requested: His safe arrival was their only prayer.
  - + One who prays

- “ACTS” **Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication**

**Adoration** “Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.” -Psalm 36:5

- + Praise Jesus for His attributes (e.g., sovereign, gracious, holy, perfect, merciful, all knowing, loving, just, powerful, ever present, creative) both generally or as it applies to your circumstances.

**Confession** “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” -1 John 1:9

- + Be honest with the Lord about what you have said or done, or what you have failed to do. Honestly and earnestly seek forgiveness.

**Thanksgiving** “Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men” -Psalm 107:15

- + Express your gratitude to Jesus for His love, mercy, grace, leading, sustenance, discipline, and blessings.

**Supplication** “...Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain.”

-1 Chronicles 4:10

- + Ask Jesus to guide, heal, protect, comfort, sustain, or provide for you, or intercede for someone else.

- “PRAY” **Praise, Repent, Ask, Yield**

**Praise** “Enter his gates with a song of thanksgiving. Come into his courtyards with a song of praise. Give thanks to him; praise his name.”

-Psalm 100:4

- + Praise the Lord and be thankful! Be joyful!

**Repent** “Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.” -Acts 3:19

- + Confess before God, yes, but repent, that your heart may be refreshed!

**Ask** “And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.” -Luke 11:9

- + Be bold before the Lord in prayer! God is a God of generosity and possibilities!
- + God will help us be more open, more selfless, and more understanding!

**Yield** “Now do not be stiff-necked, as your fathers were, but yield yourselves to the LORD; and enter His sanctuary, which He has sanctified forever, and serve the LORD your God, that the fierceness of His wrath may turn away from you.” -2 Chronicles 30:8

- + As we strive to captain our own ships and depend on our own strengths, we find that peace, contentment, purpose, satisfaction, and relational connections become more elusive.
- + True freedom comes from bondage to the Lord our God.
- + FROG: “Fully rely on God!” Trust in God! Let go! Relax and be refreshed!

- “How should I pray?”

We have talked about the structure of prayer, but Jesus cautioned against becoming too practiced or patterned in certain prayers or types of prayers. Be creative! Be yourself! Here are some suggestions

*A personal approach:*

- + Think of a personal situation in your life, or of someone you love or care about.
- + Dare to believe that God can refresh, renew, and transform life!
- + Ask God for forgiveness, understanding, blessings, and peace
- + Talk to God as though you're sharing a park bench. Be honest and open. Listen for God!

*A disciplined approach to prayer:*

- + Read a scripture, devotional, or prayer.
- + Choose a word or phrase that speaks to you or that jumps out at you.
- + Consider everything that word or phrase could mean in your life.
- + Repeat the word or phrase prayerfully while listening for God.

*A meandering approach to prayer:*

- + Begin by offering God a familiar or memorized prayer.
- + When your mind wanders, follow it. Trust that God will lead you.
- + Our thoughts often bring us somewhere that needs forgiveness, letting go, or renewed endeavor. Consider what God wants you to learn, or how God wants you to grow.

*Revel in the holiness of God:*

- + Ponder the power and wonder of our creator God.
- + Give thanks for being given life and breath!
- + Consider that God created us in his own image, and gave us his son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- + Revel in the joy of knowing that Jesus really does love you!
- + Allow yourself to feel surrounded by the presence of the Holy Spirit!

- “Why doesn't God answer my prayers?”

God always answers prayer, but we don't always recognize the answer.

- + We focus on ourselves, our requests or on our problems instead of seeking God and offering praise and thanksgiving.
- + The answer is sometimes, “No.”
- + The answer is sometimes, “Wait.”
- + We're not always ready or willing to go where God's answer would take us.

- “How do I find the time to pray?”

- + The more Martin Luther had to accomplish in his day, the more time he set aside for prayer!
- + Steal time from empty hours: television, driving (don't close your eyes!.) bathroom/shower, exercise, household tasks, shopping, times when you can't sleep, etc.
- + Be more disciplined. Set certain times and places as regular prayer times.

- “Why pray, when God knows our thoughts, God knows the future and God is already in control of everything?”

- + Prayer is a form of serving God
- + Jesus thought it was worthwhile to pray.
- + Prayer opens our hearts to God's will.
- + Prayer prepares us for what lies ahead.
- + God promises that our prayers are not in vain.
- + Prayer strengthens our faith.
- + We have all seen prayer make a difference!

- “Is it OK to keep praying for the same things?”

- + We shouldn't ONLY pray for the same things over and over again.
- + Persistent prayer is commended by Jesus.
- + God's time is easier for us to grasp if we've continued to pray over a problem or need.

- “How do I know that what I'm thinking, hearing, or feeling is actually God speaking?”

- + God's answers are always consistent with the essential truths of scripture.
- + The more we are devoted to prayer, repentance, Bible study, and seeking a humble spirit, the more familiar God's leading will be.