

Prayer is communicating with God in normal conversation. Jesus taught His disciples how to pray by example with the Lord's Prayer. God also includes additional Scripture, His willingness to bless us from prayer requests, and to pray with persistency, humility, and compassion. He also desires and blesses corporate prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

Matt 6:6-13 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. "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as *it is* in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

God's willingness to bless

Luke 11:9-10 "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

Persistence

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

Humility

Luke 18:10-14 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Compassion

Matt 18:21-22 Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

Unity

Matt 18:19 "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.

Discussion Item 1: *What is lacking in your prayers to God?*

Discussion Item 2: *Do you feel that God answers your prayers, and if so - how?*

Life Application: *Try praying in the order that Matthew lines out; to praise, learn His will, receive power to overcome, ask protection against temptation, and deliverance from temptations. Try asking for your spiritual needs first before your physical needs. Always take time to worship and thank God first before listing your needs.*

Helpful Definition:

pray- To make request with earnestness or zeal, as for something desired; to make entreaty or supplication; to offer prayer to a deity or divine being as a religious act; specifically, to address the Supreme Being with adoration, confession, supplication, and thanksgiving. (*Webster*)

Notes:

Proverb 8:17 I love those who love me, And those who seek me diligently will find me.

Psalm 34:10 The young lions lack and suffer hunger; But those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good *thing*. **Psalm 22:26** The poor shall eat and be satisfied; Those who seek Him will praise the LORD. Let your heart live forever!