

## Doctrine of Prayer

### General Notes

1. The most frequently used word for prayer in the Old Testament is, **tephillah** (tef-il-law), which means, intercession, supplication, and by implication a hymn, which is why Psalms 1-72 are described this way.
2. The word tephillah is first used in 1 Kings 8:28.
  - *1 Kings 8:28 Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O Lord my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer, which thy servant prayeth before thee to day:*
3. In the New Testament there are several words for prayer, but most of them have the same basic meaning, which is to ask. Dr. John R. Rice wrote a large book with this understanding, with the title, *Prayer, Asking And Receiving*.
  - *Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you*
  - *Matthew 7:8 For every one that asketh receiveth.*
  - *John 16:24 Ask, and ye shall receive.*
  - *James 4: 2 Ye have not, because ye ask not.*
  - *Matthew 7:11 How much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?*
  - *Matthew 21: 22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing ye shall receive.*
  - *Luke 11:13 How much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?*
  - *John 14:14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.*
4. Prayer is to be addressed to God the Father, and to God the Son.

### Pray to God the Father

- *Matthew 6:6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.*

- *John 16:23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.*
- *Ephesians 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:*

### **Pray to God the Son**

- *Acts 7:59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.*
  - *2 Corinthians 12:8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.*
5. Prayer is to be offered in the name of Jesus, in a spirit of submission and dependency.
    - The name of Jesus. *John 14:13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*
    - A spirit of submission. *Luke 22:42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.*
  6. The Holy Spirit makes intercession for the believer in the hour of prayer.
    - *Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*
  7. Believers are exhorted to pray at all seasons in the Spirit.
    - *Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*
    - *Jude 20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,*
    - *James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*
  8. The understanding is to be engaged in prayer, as well as the will, and the emotions.
    - The mind is to be engaged. *1 Corinthians 14:15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.*

- The will is to be engaged. *Galatians 4:12 Brethren, I beseech you, be as I am; for I am as ye are: ye have not injured me at all.*

*Acts 12:5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.*

- The emotions are to be engaged. *Luke 22:44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*

9. Faith is essential to prayer.

- *Matthew 21:22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.*
- *Mark 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*
- *James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. 7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. 8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*