

Doctrine of Prayer

Jesus Told us What to Pray For

1. Pray for those who hurt and persecute you.
 - *Matthew 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;*
2. Pray for Christian workers to harvest the spiritual fields which are white unto harvest.
 - *Matthew 9:38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.*
3. The believers of the great tribulation period were to pray for travelling mercies.
 - *Matthew 24:20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:*

Special Note.

Beginning in the summer of AD 66 to AD 70 when Jerusalem fell to the army of Rome, many devout Christians did pray for travelling mercies. The great tribulation that Jesus predicted in Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21 came upon the nation of Israel for killing their Messiah. These were days of vengeance.

4. Pray that temptation is not entered into.
 - *Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

Jesus Taught Us to Whom We are to Pray

5. Pray to 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.*

Jesus Taught Us How to Pray

6. Pray according to a definite pattern: adoration, seeking of God's will, making one's personal requests made known, confession of sin, request for divine protection, praise.

The Model Prayer

- *Matthew 6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.*

7. Pray in faith.

- *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.*

8. Pray with a watchful heart for the coming of Christ.

- *Mark 13:32 But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. 33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.*

9. Pray continually and without becoming weary.

- *Luke 18:1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;*

10. Pray that God will be pleased to allow the believer to escape His wrath when national judgment falls.

- *Luke 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.*

Special Note.

In AD 70, many Christians did escape the slaughter of Jerusalem when they remembered the words of the Lord and fled to the mountains.

Jesus Taught Us How Not to Pray

11. Do not pray to be seen of men but pray in the privacy of one's home.

- *Matthew 6:5 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.*

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.

12. Do not pray with empty and meaningless repetitious words.

- *Matthew 6:7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. 8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.*

Special Note.

The church should be concerned about repeating ritual prayers in liturgical services, as well as the mindless and repetitive emotional utterances manifested in the Charismatic movement. While repetitive chants are emotionally stimulating, they violate the will of the Lord.