Doctrine of Prayer

Prayer According to Divine Command

1. Jesus has taught His disciples to pray in specific ways.

2. The Christian is to pray that he not enter into temptation.
   - *Matthew 26:41* Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.
   - *Luke 22:40* And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation.

3. The Christian is to pray for those who abuse them.
   - *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;
   - *Luke 6:28* Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.

4. The Christian is to watch and pray for the hour of impending Divine judgment.
   - *Mark 13:33* Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

5. Jesus commanded others to pray as He prayed Himself. Specifically the Lord prayed for His own in John 17.
   - *John 17:9* I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.

6. Also according to divine command the apostle Paul has instructed Christians to pray over specific matters.
   - *1 Timothy 2:1* I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

7. The Christian is to pray for an interpretation of any ecstatic utterance.
   - *1 Corinthians 14:13* Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret.
8. Paul prays for love to abound. And all Christians should pray for the same.

- Philippians 1:9 And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;

9. According to divine command individuals are to pray for something or someone.

- Abraham prayed for Abimelech. Genesis 20:7 Now therefore restore the man his wife; for he is a prophet, and he shall pray for thee, and thou shalt live: and if thou restore her not, know thou that thou shalt surely die, thou, and all that are thine.

- Samuel prayed for his nation.

  - 1 Samuel 7:5 And Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Mizpeh, and I will pray for you unto the Lord.

  - 1 Samuel 12:19 And all the people said unto Samuel, Pray for thy servants unto the Lord thy God, that we die not: for we have added unto all our sins this evil, to ask us a king.

- King Jeroboam pleaded for a man of God to pray for him. 1 Kings 13:6 And the king [Jeroboam] answered and said unto the man of God, Intreat now the face of the Lord thy God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored me again. And the man of God besought the Lord, and the king's hand was restored him again, and became as it was before.

- Job prayed for his friends according to Divine command. Job 42:8 Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept: lest I deal with you after your folly, in that ye have not spoken of me the thing which is right, like my servant Job.

- All Christians are to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Psalms 122:6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.

- Jeremiah prayed for the military. Jeremiah 42:1 Then all the captains of the forces, and Johanan the son of Kareah, and Jezaniah the son of Hoshiaiah, and all the people from the least even unto the greatest, came near, 2 And said unto Jeremiah the prophet, Let, we beseech thee, our supplication be accepted before thee, and pray for us unto the Lord thy God, even for all this remnant; (for we are left but a few of many, as thine eyes do behold us:)

10. It is possible to sin by not praying for something or someone according to Divine design.

- 1 Samuel 12:23 Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:
11. When God’s people pray according to gospel terms, even the non-believing take notice. Some seek prayer for themselves, as king Cyrus commanded the Jews.

- *Ezra 6:8* Moreover I [king Cyrus] made a decree what ye shall do to the elders of these Jews for the building of this house of God: that of the king’s goods, even of the tribute beyond the river, forthwith expenses be given unto these men, that they be not hindered. 9 And that which they have need of, both young bullocks, and rams, and lambs, for the burnt offerings of the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, and oil, according to the appointment of the priests which are at Jerusalem, let it be given them day by day without fail: 10 That they may offer sacrifices of sweet savours unto the God of heaven, and pray for the life of the king, and of his sons.

12. Sometimes Christians do not know what they should pray for and so need the special assistance of God the Holy Spirit.

- *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.

13. In keeping with the apostolic example, Christians must never cease to pray for others.

- *Colossians 1:9* For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

14. The heart of every believer should petition the prayers of others.

- *1 Thessalonians 5:25* Brethren, pray for us.

- *2 Thessalonians 3:1* Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:

- *Hebrews 13:18* Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.

15. If there is one issue Christians are exhorted not to pray for is the matter of dying a premature death.

- *1 John 5:16* If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.