

Doctrine of Prayer

General Notes on Prayer

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. It is first used in 1 Kings 8:28. The word *tephillah* describes many of the Psalms (1-72).

2. 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.”*

3. Prayer is to be addressed to God the Father and to God the Son.
 - 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:

- 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.

4. Prayer is to be offered in the name of Jesus (John 14:3), in a spirit of submission and dependency to God the Father.

- Asking in 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.

John 16:26 At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you:

- The Father.

Matthew 11:26 Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.

Luke 22:42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

5. 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.*

6. 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.*

7. The understanding is to be engaged in prayer and the will.

- The understanding.

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.

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.

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.

8. 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.