



1.06 - Prayer – Communication, Intimacy & Relationship.

(1.06 - Prayer_Communication, Intimacy & Relationship)

1. Effective Prayer

(Scriptures from KJV unless noted otherwise)

Foundation scripture

James 5:16

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 avails much. (KJV)

For prayer to be successful, it must be **based on the Word of God** and **prayed in faith.**"

Heb 11.6

⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that comes to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him (KJV)

- **God responds to faith, not emotions.** Faith comes from hearing the Word of God. (Rom 10:17)
- The Word of God plays a vital role in our prayer life. If we pray according to the Word, we can be sure we have the answer

1 John 5:14-15

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he hears us: ¹⁵ And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him. (KJV)

2. To Whom do we Pray?

John 16:23-24 (Jesus Speaking)

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.** ²⁴ Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. (KJV)

- It is God's good pleasure and will to give you the desires of your heart!
- God will not answer selfish prayers or prayers **that are amiss** or out of line with His will or Word! (James 4:3)
- Learn to pray the will of God in every situation by His Word or by asking the Holy Spirit!
- When we are just "Born Again" God answers our prayers quickly but He expects us to mature and learn to pray as mature spiritual adults!

3. The Force of Righteousness

Our foundation scripture says that it is the prayer of the righteous man which avails (accomplishes) much.

- We have been made the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 5:21)
- Therefore we have the confidence that God hears us: "*The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous and his ears are open unto their prayers.*" (NKJV) (1 Peter 3:12)
- We can approach our Father God with boldness because of what Jesus has achieved for us in dying as our substitute and paying the penalty for our sins.
- We can come "boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Heb. 4:16)

Our righteousness is **not based** on **who we are** or **what we do**. It is based purely on the victory over sin and death won for us by Jesus Christ. We can never be more righteous. It is a finished work in Christ and therefore a solid foundation for prayer. In Jesus we are made the Righteousness of God.

⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: (KJV) (Eph. 2:8)



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4. Believing We Receive When We Pray.

God has set spiritual principles on the earth just as there are physical ones.

- His Word then reveals those principles to us so that we can operate in them to establish His kingdom in our lives and on the earth.
- It is impossible to please God without faith (Heb. 11:6) and **therefore everything we do must be based on faith**, which comes only from **hearing** the Word of God.

In Mark 11:23-24, God reveals one of the spiritual principles of prayer which guarantees answers:

²² And Jesus answering said unto them, Have faith in God. ²³ For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be you removed, and be you cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he says shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he says. ²⁴ Therefore I say unto you, What things so ever you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them. (KJV)

- When you believe, at **the moment of prayer**, that God has heard and answered your request, you have the guarantee that you have already received the thing you asked for.
- Praying **the same prayer over and over is really doubt & unbelief**, thinking that God has not heard our prayer or He will not answer until we have prayed enough, this is in the direction **of works and not grace**.
- Prayer is **not based on what our five senses** tell us but is based on the Word of God and our heart or spirit.

This kind of prayer is known as the **prayer of faith** - believing what you cannot see.

5. Other Types of Prayer

The Word tells us that there is **much spiritual power in agreement**. For this reason, when believers agree on anything in prayer, God guarantees that what they pray for will be done.

5.1 The prayer of agreement - Mat 18:19 (Jesus speaking)

¹⁹ Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. (KJV)

- Coming into agreement with another “Believer” or group of “Believers”.

5.2 The prayer of binding and loosing - Mat 18:18 (Jesus speaking)

¹⁸ Verily I say unto you, What soever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. (KJV)

- This tells us that we must exercise our God-given authority in Christ, based on His Word, to stop the devil’s work on earth and loose the work of God.

5.3 Prayer in Tongues is essential for our own spiritual growth as well as for ministry and for praying the will of God into people’s lives, into organisations cities and nations. (1 Cor.14:4, 14: Rom.8:26)

- Used when we do not know how or what to pray.
- Holy Spirit prays through us the perfect will of God for the situation but uses our vocal organs.

5.4 The prayer of committal - 1 Pet. 5:7

⁷ Casting all your care upon him; for he cares for you. (KJV)

- The **prayer of committal** is entrusting our cares and worries to God so that He can be Lord in our lives.



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5.5 The prayer of supplication - Phil 4:6

⁶ *Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. (KJV)*

- The **prayer of supplication** is handing our cares over to God. (Phil 4:6; 1 Tim2:1) We are instructed to "be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God".
- The scripture we have already quoted in 1 John 5:14-15 is another example of this kind of prayer.

5.6 The prayer of Intercession - Rom 8:26

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. (KJV)*

- **Intercession** is prayer on behalf of others. While we can pray with our understanding, this limits us, since we do not know all the circumstances, neither the will of God for each person and situation. This is why it is essential to intercede in tongues, so that the Holy Spirit can pray God's perfect will through us. (Rom 8:26; 1 Tim 2:1-4)

The armour of God which we find described in Ephesians 6:10-18 is **all for the purpose of prayer**.

This shows us very clearly that prayer is a serious business - not something to grasp at in a crisis. We are dealing here with the power of God, the will of God and the ways of God against the forces of darkness in the world.

The angels listen for and act upon the Word of God in prayer – Ps 103:20

²⁰ *Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word. (KJV)*

- The angels listen to and act upon the Word of God coming out the mouth of a believer.

6. Hindrances to Prayer

- An **unforgiving heart** will stop your prayers from being answered. Jesus told us (Mark 11:25-26) that when we stand praying, we must forgive. (See also Matt. 6:14-15)
- **Wrong relationships** with partners or other believers puts a brake on our prayer life (1 Pet 3:7; Matt 5:23-24)
- **Wrong motives** will hinder prayer. God looks on the heart and is strong on the behalf of those whose heart is pure before him. *You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. (James 4:3; Mat. 6:5-7; Luke 18:9-14)*
- If you are constantly **speaking words that deny your prayer** or say the opposite what you are asking God for, you yourself are short-circuiting your own prayer! Your words must reflect your faith in God's faithfulness to His Word.
- **Doubt and unbelief** will stop your prayer from being answered. (James 1:6-7; Mark 11:24)
- **Not realising who you are in Christ** can hinder your faith in God's willingness or ability to answer your prayer. (2 Cor. 5:21)

7. The Deeper Meaning of Prayer

Note > Prayer is walking and talking with God.

While He has provided various kinds of prayer to ensure that our every need is met, prayer is more than a list of requests or commands.



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It is in prayer that we start to develop our intimate relationship with God.

- As we talk to Him, share with Him, open our heart to Him and discuss thoughts and feelings with Him, His Holy Spirit brings us closer to God.
- He will reveal Himself in a greater measure. We will **grow more sensitive to His voice**.
- Through relationship our **confidence and trust** in Him grows.
- We can **pray continuously** throughout the day in small amounts as like having a conversation with a friend.

Praying in the spirit develops our own spirit and helps us to recognize and respond to Him more readily.

- We will start to receive greater revelation of the Word of God and the anointing on our lives will increase.

In prayer:

- We start to grow back into the **intimacy and trust** that God intended for us right from the beginning.
- It is in prayer that we **begin to know Him** and learn to love Him more,
- It is in prayer that we can **praise and worship** Him for who He is and what He has done for us.

8. The Life & Ministry of Jesus

(Our example to follow always – the bible says we are to be conformed in His image)

- He always used the written Word of God to **defeat** Satan.
- He spoke accurately, never crooked speech (doubt & unbelief). **His conversation always consisted of what God said.**
- He spent much time in prayer, but He never the problem; he prayed the answer. **What God said in the answer (the Word of God).**
- He always spoke the end results, **not the problem**. Never did He confess **present** circumstances. He spoke the **desired results**.

A Better Way To Pray

9. Hypocrites Love To Pray

Mat.6:5-8

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. 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.** (KJV)

- Before Jesus taught on prayer **He taught what prayer was not** – he had to counter the traditions of the day.
- The Lord is more **interested in your motivation/ heart attitude** behind the prayer rather than the words you pray, man looks upon the outer man where God looks upon the Heart or the inner man.
- If you pray and it is **not motivated by Love** it profits you nothing - (1Cor.13:1-3)
- The **normal concept** of prayer – it is how to get or make God to do something (when it is already done) this is unbelief – people beg and do not receive.
- God is saying it is **not a matter of how long you pray** – long prayers **are not better** than short prayers.
- The **shorter the prayer** the greater the faith!



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In Mat.10:5-8

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: ⁶ But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. ⁸ **Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.** (KJV)

- **Not to pray** for the sick **but to heal** the sick. (also Mark 16:17-18) – a command by the Lord!

Prayer is communication with God – 24 hours a day, through His word also or just talking to God.

- Prayer is **not to inform God** how bad your situation is (rehearsing the problem)!
- Most prayer is not praying **but complaining!**
- If you are not getting results the way you are praying then **review your methods** – possibly religious bondage or tradition of man making the word of God to no effect!

The Model Prayer Matthew 6: 8-15

- **Is not New Testament** prayer because it is not asked in the name of Jesus – John 16:26.

Psa.100:4-5

⁴ Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. ⁵ For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endures to all generations. (KJV)

- Before you start to pray – **start this way.**
- Praise – Request – Thanksgiving.

10. Jesus Is The Only Mediator

Mat.6:5-8

- The **amount of time** you pray is **not the focus** – people start to relate to God answering prayer based on performance – move out of Faith and move to works and legalism.
- Doing devotions etc. **does not make God love you more or less** if you do them or not – that is for your self-discipline.

Luke 11:5-8 (A Friend Comes at Midnight)

- Traditionally taught that we have to **continuously bombard God** until we make Him give us what we want.
- Also said that we **need to get other people to help** us bombard God until He releases revival.
- Jesus is teaching, that this is not the way God treats you (like a worldly friend) – **it is not a comparison but a contrast.** God is better that this friend He will answer without making Him!

The Difference between the Old and New Covenant way of praying.

Gen.18:23-24

- Old Testament God judged Sodom and Gomorrah – God was angry against sin and there was no payment for sin but in the New Testament Jesus paid the price.
- Abraham was a mediator (Moses was also a mediator Ex.32:10-14).
- People are taught in Intercessory prayer that this is what must be done to stop God pouring out his anger in judgement (Example - Old Testament).

1 Tim.2:5

⁵ For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; (KJV)

- In the New Covenant, Jesus is the only mediator between God and Man.
- Sin is no longer a problem by God as Jesus paid the price (atoned).
- God is not angry and ready to destroy places.
- You cannot be a mediator and intercede as in the Old Testament as Moses and Abraham did. We have the impression that God is still the same as in the Old Testament, angry and wants to destroy.



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Luke 11:9-13

⁹ And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. ¹⁰ **For every one that asks receives; and he that seeks finds; and to him that knocks it shall be opened.** ¹¹ If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? ¹² Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him? (KJV)

- God is saying when you ask you will receive immediately.
- We do not have to continue to beg God for what we need – it is already done – just receive!
- We approach Him as though He does not want to answer our prayers.
- The problem is not in Him answering but our receiving (faith).
- You are approaching God in unbelief.

How To Pray To Get Someone Saved

2 Cor.4:4

⁴ In whom **the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not**, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. (KJV)

2 Peter 3:9

⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; **but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish**, but that all should come to repentance. (KJV)

1 Peter 1:23

²³ Being **born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible**, by the word of God, which lives and abides for ever. (KJV)

Mat. 9:38

³⁸ Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, **that he will send forth labourers** into his harvest. (KJV)

John 14:26

²⁶ But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. (KJV)

You can be a channel for God to flow through but the lost person can continually cancel your prayer - do not stop.

11. What Is The Primary Purpose Of Prayer

The real reason of prayer is to have communication and fellowship with God – to love Him.

- Conversation in a **two way dialogue**.
- It is right to ask God for your and other peoples` needs to be met but **should not be the main focus**.
- When you spend time with God in fellowship **He then gets involved in your affairs** of life even without you asking Him.
- My example while on holidays spending time in the morning praying and spending time in His Word and He becoming involved in my next week back at work.

John 3:16

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but **have everlasting life**. (KJV)



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John 17:3

³ *And this is life eternal, that they might know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. (KJV)*

- The purpose of salvation was to so that you **could know Him** in an intimate personal relationship.
- Being saved is **also very important** and necessary but not the primary reason.

1 John 4:7-8

⁷ *Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loves is born of God, and knows God. ⁸ He that loves not knows not God; for God is love. (KJV)*

- Love has a need – a need to be loved in return. God also being love, has a need to be loved and this is the way we bless and minister to Him.
- If the object of your love does not love you back, that is miserable.
- Our number one purpose in life is to love and blessing Him.

12. Speak To The Mountain

Mark 11:12-14, 20 – (The Lesson of the Withered Fig Tree)

¹² *And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry: ¹³ And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet. ¹⁴ And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it. (KJV) ²⁰ And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree **dried up from the roots.** (KJV) ²¹ And Peter calling to remembrance said unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursed is withered away. (KJV)*

- After Jesus spoke (answered), the Fig tree dried up instantly from the roots but it took about 12 hours to manifest or become real in the natural or physical world – often it may take time for the prayer to be seen in the natural realm.

²² *And Jesus answering said unto them, **Have faith in God.** ²³ For verily I say unto you, **That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he says shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he says.** ²⁴ Therefore I say unto you, What things so ever you desire, when you pray, **believe that you receive them, and you shall have them.** (KJV)*

- Even in prayer **God operates within laws** that He established and put in place.
- We need to understand these laws the same as we understand gravity and electricity.
- Speaking words of **doubt and unbelief are operating outside** the laws of Faith.
- Jesus said speak to the mountain (or problem) – v. 24 **Jesus calls this prayer by speaking to the mountain.**
- **Most people are speaking to God about the mountain, they should be speaking to the mountain about God.**
- **1st Praise** God then thank him for the answer to your problem – **2nd then speak** to the problem.
- From the time you pray that you have believed that you have received and the manifestation of the prayer – there is a time period often governed by you.

13. Prayer Is A Process

Luke 11:9-10

⁹ *And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. ¹⁰ For every one that asks receives; and he that seeks finds; and to him that knocks it shall be opened. (KJV)*

- **God answers prayer instantly but** the problem is not knowing how to receive it.



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Daniel 9:19-23

¹⁹ O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, listen and do; delay not, for your own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name. ²⁰ **And while I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy mountain of my God;** ²¹ **Yea, while I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation.** ²² And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give you skill and understanding. ²³ **At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to show you; for you art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.** (KJV)

- Daniel starts praying and while Daniel is still praying Gabriel appears to give him the answer (approx. 3mins).
- God gave the commandment at the very beginning of Daniel's prayer.

Daniel 10:12-13

¹² Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for **from the first day** that you did set your heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, **thy words were heard**, and I am come for thy words. ¹³ **But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.** (KJV)

- God answered both prayers instantly – but one time it took 3 mins. and the other time it took 3 weeks for the answer to come **because of demonic opposition.**
- The **time period that it takes** to have the answer to your prayer **can depend on** the spirit world or our own doubt and unbelief or just giving up because the answer did not manifest instantly.
- In the Old Testament the person did not have authority of the demonic forces as we have today in the New Testament.
- We can use our spiritual weapons that God has given us to shorten the time.
- Some things will manifest in time due to our maturity (example Ministry).

14. Final note on Prayer - Traditions of Man.

Mark 7:13 (Jesus speaking)

¹³ Making the word of God of none effect **through your tradition**, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye. (KJV)

- It is important that we learn to pray the bible way and as Jesus prayed and therefore we must look and many of the established traditional ways of prayer that have been handed down through church history to the church of today and to separate the religion and tradition and then have the courage to pray another way, a better way.
- Real prayer is Communication, Intimacy & Relationship with God on a continual basis!

Prayer – Communication, Intimacy & Relationship With God

Jesus is Lord!