



Prayer 1

The place of prayer in the Christian life

What is prayer?

Prayer is an expression of...

- Our relationship with our heavenly Father
- Our gratitude for what God has done for us or for others
- Our dependence on our heavenly Father
- Our trust in our heavenly Father

Prayer should be the most natural activity for the Christian "*Abba, Father*" [Rom.8:15]

A PATTERN FOR PRAYER

- ADORATION
- THANKSGIVING
- CONFESSION
- PETITION
- GOD'S KINGDOM

Adoration:

What does this sort of prayer mean?

Mt.6:9; Ps.145:1-7; Dan.2:20-22; Rev.4:11

How are we to set about it?

Ps.103:1-2

Thanksgiving:

What should we be thanking God for?

a) Act.27:35; 1Tim.4:4

b) Rom.7:24-25; Phil.1:3-5; 1Thess.1:2-3

c) Other things?

Confession:

Why tell God what he knows already? Mt.6:12; 1Jn.1:8-9

What about unrecognised sin? Ps.19:12

Petition:

What sort of things should we be asking God for?

a) Mt.6:11; Prov.30:8b

b) Phil.1:9-10; Col.1:9-12; Jam.1:5

c) Jer.29:7; 1Tim.2:1-2

d) Act.12:5; 2Thess.3:2

God's kingdom:

How should we pray for the kingdom of God?

a) Eph.6:19-20; Col.4:3-4

b) Mt.6:10; Rev.22:20

WHY DO WE OFTEN FIND PRAYER SO DIFFICULT?

Be encouraged! Christians can *learn* to pray – Lk.11:1-2

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When should we pray?

1Thess.5:17; Eph.6:18

Prayer is both an individual and a corporate activity:

Individual - Mt.6:6

Family - 1Cor.7:5; 1Pet.3:7

Church - Act.2:42; Act.4:24; Act.12:5