



Prayer 2

Approaching God in prayer

**Prayer is an amazing privilege
Don't take it for granted**

Why may we feel we can't approach God in prayer?

- Our smallness – Ps.8:3-4; Jb.25:5-6
- Our sinfulness – Gen.3:8; Is.6:5; Lk.5:8

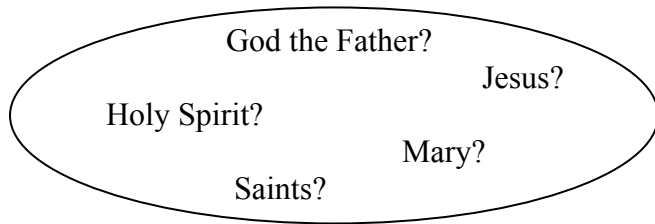
What right have we to approach God in prayer?

Read Heb.4:14-16 & Heb.10:19-22, and then consider these questions:

- Why should a Christian have confidence to approach God in prayer?
- In what ways is the approach of a Christian to God different from the position of a Jew before Christ came?
- Is it presumptuous for Christians to assume they have the “*right*” to approach God in prayer?

**Prayer is not a technique
but a relationship**

Who should Christians pray to?



Prayer is a “Trinitarian” activity - All three Persons of God (Father, Son and Spirit) have a role to play in prayer.

God the Father and prayer

Christians are taught to pray first and foremost to God the Father (Mt.6:9; Rom.8:15)

God the Son and prayer

Christians pray “*in Jesus’ name*” (Jn.14:13-14)
What do we mean?

Christians pray “*for Jesus’ sake*”
What do we mean? (Jn.17:23)

Jesus continues to intercede for Christians in heaven (Rom.8:34; Heb.7:24-25; 1Jn.2:1)
Is he persuading a reluctant Father?

Is it OK to pray to Jesus?

**“We
pray
through
the
mouth
of
Christ”**

[Calvin]

God the Spirit and prayer

There are no biblical examples of prayer to the Holy Spirit, nor instructions to Christians to pray to Him.

Christians pray “*in the Holy Spirit*”
(Eph.6:18; Jude 20)
What does this mean?

- Under the Spirit’s influence (Rom.8:9b; 1Cor.6:19)
- With the Spirit’s assistance (Rom.8:15, 26)

Christian prayer is offered:

TO the Father

THROUGH the Son

IN the Holy Spirit

Where should Christians pray?

Are there special places for prayer? Is there a difference between Christians and God’s Old Testament people?
(Ps.84:1-2 vs. 1Cor.6:19)

What does this mean for us in practice?
(1Thess.5:17; Eph.6:18)

