

The Purpose of Prayer

Prayer is a conversation with God. Conversations are never just one way. God speaks to us in His holy word, the Bible and we speak back to God in prayer. We know what the lack of communication does to any relationship so it is very important in our relationship with God that we keep these two things going in our lives; Reading of God's Word the Bible and Prayer.

Prayer is the expression of faith in God. Hebrews 11:6 *“for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*

Acceptable prayer to God comes after a correct understanding of His Truth. Believers approach to Him through their mediator, Jesus Christ and it is only after study and knowledge of God can effective prayer be made to Him. 1 Tim. 2:5 *“For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus”*

Jesus taught his disciples to pray Luke 11:2-4

“And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.”

Jesus is the ultimate example to consider. Jesus poured out all his heart in prayer to God knowing that God knew and understood his anguish there. Hebrews 5:7-8

“Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared. Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;”

Then there is one of Jesus' prayers near the time of his trial. It is short but full of heart-felt meaning and spoken at the most challenging time of his life: Mark 14:36 *“And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.”*

We can learn from the prayers of other faithful people mentioned in the Bible also: one such example is Daniel. Daniel 6:10

“Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.”

Another is Nehemiah. 2:4-5

“Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven. And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it.” This was a silent prayer, on the spot, a request for extra help and guidance before speaking to the king.

Prayer can be an expression of praise and thanks to God, requesting guidance, pleading forgiveness or requesting for something beyond our understanding or power to do. We can find examples of all of these in the book of Psalms.

So the purpose of prayer is:

To thank God for His goodness.

To praise Him.

To make a request of Him.

Always it must be accompanied by faith, reverence and in our era (after Christ) we must always pray through Jesus Christ, our only mediator.

1 Thessalonians. 5:17-18 *Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

Note: all quotes are from the King James Version of the Bible.