



# Prayer



## INTRODUCTION:

Webster's definition of prayer is "EARNESTLY ASKING."

Phillips Brooks said, "Prayer in its simplest definition is merely a wish turned God-ward."

John Bunyan said, "He who runs from God in the morning will scarcely find Him the rest of the day."

Hopkins said, "Our prayer and God's mercy are like two buckets in a well, while one ascends the other descends."

*Yes, God give us people tall enough to reach heaven on their knees!*

God's invitation is to come and pray: "Let us therefore come boldly unto the Throne of Grace..." Heb. 4:16

- The word "come" is found some 3,500 times in the Scripture
- The word "come" can best be defined as follows:
  - C-hildren
  - O-lder folk
  - M-iddle aged
  - E-veryone – yes come and pray.
- Peter Deyneka of the Slavic Gospel Mission said: "no prayer – no power; little prayer – little power; much prayer – much power; great prayer – great power." Philippians 4:6-7

## I. PREPARATION FOR PRAYER: Important steps must be taken:

- Confession – Psalm 66:18 *"If I regard iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear me."* – We must be in fellowship with Him to be heard.
- Quietness – Psalm 46:10 *"Be still and know that I am God."* – Leave the turmoil of this world behind and lock into God and His presence.
- Humility – 2 Chron. 7:14 *"If my people...shall humble themselves..."* – God resists the proud – 1 Peter 5:5 – Remember, we are but walking dust piles – Genesis 2:7

## II. PLACE AND TIME OF PRAYER:

- Anywhere
  - Home, work, at vacation time, etc. – 1 Tim. 2:8 – *"I will therefore that men pray everywhere."*
  - A friend and businessman prayed to God in an alley for fellowship, that God would bring another Christian to work in his office. His prayer was answered.
- In the Morning – Start the day with prayer – Psalm 5:3 – *"My voice shalt Thou hear in the morning..."*
- Pray Anytime
  - Recurring Prayer – Psalm 55:17 – *"Evening and morning and at noon will I pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice."*
  - Don't be a Ritualist – praying once a day, same time, same prayer, same boredom.
- Pray Fervently – James 5:16 – *"...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."*

## III. PATTERN FOR PRAYER: Christ is our example:

- He prayed earnestly – asking for His Father's will to be done – Luke 22:42
- We should not do less, for the servant is not greater than his Lord – John 13:16.

**IV. POSITION FOR PRAYER:** Not Limited to Kneeling

- Solomon knelt in dedicating the temple – 2 Chron.6:13. Christ knelt in the garden – Luke 22:31-41
- Hannah prayed from her heart – 1 Sam. 1:13
- Nehemiah prayed while talking to a king (double talked), sent up a telegram to God and rang the bell upstairs – Neh. 2:4
- Solomon stood – 1 Kings 8:22. I have heard Godly people pray stretched out on a hospital bed, etc.

**V. PEOPLE OF PRAYER:** Great men of God became great because of their constant contact with God.

- Finney – Kneeled on a buffalo robe and prayed until the wee hours of the morning
- Luther – Prayed three hours daily
- D.L. Moody – Rose 4:00 a.m. every day to pray
- C.T. Studd – In Africa rose at 3:00 a.m. to pray

**VI. POWER OF PRAYER:** Unlimited power is available to believers.

- Paul and Silas – Acts 16
- Jonah – Jonah 2:2
- Samson – Judges 16:28
- Elijah – 1 Kings 18:37, 38

**CONCLUSION:**

I have left with you a row of SWEET P'S in God's garden, the garden of prayer. Walk with HIM and talk with HIM and hear HIM tell you that you are HIS own. That is, IF you have acknowledged yourself as a sinner and called on the Lord to save you (Romans 10:9-13). God's ears are open to the prayers of those who have truly been BORN AGAIN.

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