



# THE PASTOR'S PEN

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## Concerning the Matter of Prayer (part two)

Last month we began our look at the doctrine or biblical teaching on prayer. It was noted that prayer is conversation and as we all know, a conversation has to go both ways with both parties taking turns speaking and listening to each other. Hopefully it was made very clear that God does hear our prayers and He answers them. Also, the point was made that His answers are not always what we want. Just because God hears our prayers and tells us “No!” or that we need to wait for the right time, does not mean that He does not hear us or that prayer is ineffective. We need to listen to His answers and respond accordingly.

So then, what does the Bible have to say to us about how we should talk with God? To find that answer we have to go to the scriptures. We have to take a look at these verses and study them to see what instructions God’s Word has for us. As we study these passages we can also find the answers to the following four common questions many people have about prayer.

### **Question: How Often Should We Pray?**

**1 Corinthians 1:4** *I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus,*

**Ephesians 6:18** *praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,*

**Philippians 1:3-4** *I thank God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy,*

**Colossians 1:3 (KJV)** *We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,*

**1 Thessalonians 5:17** *pray without ceasing*

**Answer: As often as we can.**

### **Question: How Should We Pray?**

**Psalms 32:5-6a** *Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” And you forgave the guilt of my sin. Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found;*

**Psalm 66:17** *I cried to him with my mouth, and high praise was on my tongue.*

**Psalm 95:2** *Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!*

**Matthew 6:9-13** *After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

**1 Corinthians 14:15** *What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.*

**James 1:6** *But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.*

**Answer:** There are four things that we need to include in our prayers on a daily basis. To help you remember them, use the word “ACTS:” Adoration (Praise), Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication (Requests).

**Question:** What Should We Pray For?

**Psalm 50:14-15** *Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High, and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”*

**Psalm 118:25** *Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success!*

**Psalm 122:6** *Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! May they be secure who love you!*

**Luke 11:2-4** *He said to them, “When you pray, say: ‘Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.’”*

**Romans 10:1** *Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.*

**Answer:** We should pray for God’s will to be done, for our needs (not necessarily our wants), for the needs of others, for others to become Christians and for the peace of God’s people.

**Question:** Who Should We Pray For?

**Romans 15:30** *I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf,*

**2 Corinthians 1:11** *You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.*

**1 Timothy 2:1-2** *First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.*

**James 5:13-14** *Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.*

**James 5:16** *Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.*

**Answer: Ourselves, those who have needs, those who are in positions of authority, those who are suffering and for our fellow Christians.**

As we read and study these passages, I am sure that you can see that we have simply scratched the surface of what the Bible has to teach us about prayer. These passages are just the beginning of what we need to know and understand. It is my hope that you will start with these verses and continue to read and study the scriptures to learn more about what God expects of us when we pray. If you have any questions about these verses or any others you come across, don't forget to ask for help or an explanation. Search out the scriptures and see what else you can find about how and why we pray. You will be glad you did as you put it into practice and see your prayer life become richer and deeper with purpose and fulfillment.

Prayerfully yours,

*James*