

Prayer and Worship

Countryside Bible Church

Prayer

What is Prayer?

From a biblical point of view, prayer is related to everything that we are and everything that God is. God does not respond to our prayers. God responds to us: to our whole life. What we say to Him cannot be separated from what we think, feel, will and do. Prayer is communication from whole persons to the Wholeness which is the living God. Prayer is misunderstood until we see it this way. *The God Who Hears*, Bingham Hunter

Prayer

What is Prayer?

A classic definition of Christian prayer is “an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies” (Westminster Shorter Catechism).

Prayer

What is the Purpose of Prayer?

To worship God

We show our love for Him

It shows that we depend on Him

It shows that we trust Him

We promote His purposes

We exalt His Name

Prayer

The Practice of Prayer?

Colossians 4:2–3

² Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving;

³ praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned...

Prayer

The Practice of Prayer?

Acts 2:42

⁴² They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

¹⁷ pray without ceasing;

Prayer

The Pattern of Prayer?

John 14:13–14

¹³ “Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

¹⁴ “If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.

John 15:7

⁷ “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

Prayer

The Pattern of Prayer?

John 15:16

¹⁶ “You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

Prayer

The Pattern of Prayer?

1 John 3:21–22

²¹ Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;

²² and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

Prayer

The Pattern of Prayer?

1 John 5:14–15

¹⁴ This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

¹⁵ And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

Prayer

Objectives of Our Prayer?

James 1:5

⁵ But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

Prayer

Objectives of Our Prayer?

Matthew 5:44

⁴⁴ “But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Prayer

Objectives of Our Prayer?

Ephesians 6:18

¹⁸ With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

Prayer

Objectives of Our Prayer?

1 Peter 5:6–7

⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,
⁷ casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

Prayer

Objectives of Our Prayer?

Colossians 1:3–4

³ We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints;

Prayer

Prayers to Emulate

Philippians 1:9–11

⁹ And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment,

¹⁰ so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ;

¹¹ having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Prayer

Prayers to Emulate

Colossians 1:9–12

⁹ For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,
¹⁰ so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;
¹¹ strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously
¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

Prayer

Prayers to Emulate

2 Thessalonians 1:11–12

¹¹ To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power,
¹² so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer

When You Don't Know How to Pray

Romans 8:26

²⁶ In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words...

Prayer

God's Provision

Ephesians 3:20–21

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,

²¹ to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

Worship

What is Worship?

Psalm 95:6–7

⁶ Come, let us worship and bow down, Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

⁷ For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand. Today, if you would hear His voice...

Worship

What is Worship?

"To great sections of the church, the art of worship has been lost entirely, and in its place has come that strange and foreign thing called the "program." This word has been borrowed from the stage and applied with sad wisdom to the type of public service which now passes for worship among us." Tozer "The Pursuit of God"

Worship

What is Worship?

"The whole transaction of religious conversion has been made mechanical and spiritless. Faith may now be exercised without a jar to the moral life and without embarrassment to the Adamic ego. Christ may be "received" without creating any special love for Him in the spirit of the receiver. The man is "saved," but he is not hungry or thirsty after God. In fact, he is specifically taught to be satisfied and encouraged to be content with little."

Tozer "The Pursuit of God"

Worship

What is Worship?

"Everything is made to center upon the initial act of "accepting" Christ (a term, incidentally, which is not found in the Bible), and we are not expected thereafter to crave any further revelation of God to our spirit. We have been snared in the coils of a false logic which insists that if we have found Him, we need no more seek Him."

"God's gifts now take the place of God, and the whole course of nature is upset by the monstrous substitution."

Tozer "The Pursuit of God"

Worship

What is Worship?

Nothing is more important than our understanding of worship, for our concept of worship is inescapably tied to our understanding of God and His sovereign authority to reveal the worship He desires, deserves, and demands. Al Mohler, *Worship According to the Word*, Table Talk, Jan. 2005, p. 63.

Worship

What is Worship?

Genesis 22:5

⁵ Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go over there; and we will worship and return to you.”

Worship

What is Worship?

Luke 4:8

⁸ Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.’ ”

Worship

What is Worship?

Romans 12:1

¹ Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

Worship

The Future of Worship?

Revelation 4:11

¹¹ “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.”

Worship

The Future of Worship?

Revelation 5:9

⁹ And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

Worship

The Future of Worship?

Revelation 5:12

¹² saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.”

Spiritual Privileges

Love for God is Essential

Matthew 22:37

³⁷ And He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’

Spiritual Privileges

Love for God is Essential

Luke 14:26

²⁶ “If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.

Spiritual Privileges

Love for God is Essential

Matthew 10:37

³⁷ “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

Spiritual Privileges

Do You Love Our Lord?

John 21:15–17

¹⁵ So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Tend My lambs.”

¹⁶ He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Shepherd My sheep.”

¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Tend My sheep.”