



World Christian Fellowship

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Types of Prayer

1 Timothy 2:1, *Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,*

1. Supplications - Prayers for averting evils of every kind.

Supplication is more a prayer for oneself. We see this prayer often in the Psalms where David is asking God for help in a particular area of his own life.

If you do a search for the word supplication in the Bible you will find almost 60 instances of the word. In almost every case it is talking about the person asking God for something on their own behalf.

“Do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.” This prayer adjusts us correctly to the powers of evil working in the world.

First, pray to be kept from evil. This protects us from unnecessary trials and temptations (some are unavoidable in doing God’s will - Luke 4:1).

Jesus said in

Luke 22:40, *When He came to the place, He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation."*

This prayer makes us alert to evil, helping us avoid it.

Secondly, we command deliverance, by taking authority in Jesus' Name over any evil power working against us, casting it out and commanding it to be removed (**John 14:12-14, Mark 11:23**).

2. Prayers

Prayers for obtaining the good things, spiritual and temporal, which we ourselves need.

3. Intercessions - Prayers in behalf of others.

To intervene between two people, to speak on behalf of someone to another person. Another word that is found in the Bible that is used in this way is the word intreat. It means to beg or implore. Many times, in the Bible it is used in the same way as the word intercede.

Paul tells Timothy in **1 Timothy 2:1** that intercessory prayer (along with several other types of prayer) should be given on behalf of all men.

4. Giving of thanks - Praises to God

Praise God as the parent of all good, for all the blessings which we and others have received.

A prayer of thanksgiving is a prayer that recognizes the good things God gives us and offers thanks for them:

- our lives,
- our health,
- our families, and
- our faith.

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18, *Rejoice always,¹⁷ pray without ceasing,¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

A part of what it means to live faithfully is to live out of a deep sense of gratitude for all that God has done for us. Prayers of thanksgiving help us to do that. They give proper thanks to God and also shape us into thankful people at our core.

5. Adoration

A prayer of adoration is a prayer that praises God's goodness and majesty.

Praising God for his greatness and admitting dependence on Him.

Psalms 111:1-4, *Praise the Lord! I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, In the assembly of the upright and in the congregation. ²The works of the Lord are great, Studied by all who have pleasure in them. ³His work is honorable and glorious, And His righteousness endures forever. ⁴He has made His wonderful works to be remembered; The Lord is gracious and full of compassion.*

6. Confession

Owning up to sin and asking for God's mercy and forgiveness.

A prayer of confession is a searching prayer of the heart. When we confess, we bare our souls before God about our sins and shortcomings.

Confession to God is also a model for the kind of mutual confession that believers in the body of Christ are called upon to make to one another.

James 5:16, *Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*

But ultimately, since all sin is sin against God, we are called to confess our sins to God. A key part of the good news of Jesus is that repentance can bring forgiveness and new life. Indeed, the

Bible assures us that sincere confession before God will be met with forgiveness.

1 John 1:9, *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

So, prayers of confession ought to be a regular part of our spiritual lives, as we become transformed into the people God would have us be.

7. Private Prayer

Matthew 6:5-6, *“And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ⁶ But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly*

The Lord tells His disciples to pray privately. Certainly, there is nothing wrong with public prayer, but we should not pray to be seen of men.

The example that Christ uses is the hypocrites who pray out loudly so that they can be seen by others. Private prayer is a time of personal relationship with the Lord.

8. Corporate or Public Prayer

The book of Acts teaches much about corporate prayer. The disciples and the early church were involved in public prayer.

In the first couple chapters of Acts it seems that the church services were mainly made up of prayer. Decisions in the early church were accompanied by prayer.

This is seen in the choosing of the first deacons (**Acts 6:1-6**) and when they sent out the first missionaries (**Acts 13:1-3**).

9. Praying in Tongues

The more technical word for praying in tongues is Glossolalia. It is a prayer of words in that it comes from the mouth, and the words may be of another earthly language as found in Acts 2: 1-11.

Or it may be of a heavenly language that no one may interpret without the help of the Holy Spirit. Paul writes about both human and angelic tongues.

1 Corinthians 13:1, *Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.*

Both tongues and the interpretation of tongues are a gift from God.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11,

Paul clearly saw the use of praying in tongues as important. He tells the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 14:18, *I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all;*

it does seem at times that a special grace of God is given when people pray in tongues. However, it has also been a gift that has divided churches and made some Christians feel inferior if they do not have the gift. In reality the gift of tongues may be given by God to a brand-new Christian or to a Christian of many years.

It is not a sign of spiritual maturity. We may certainly ask God for the gift of tongues if it is on our heart to do so, but we cannot demand the gift. If we could demand the gift of tongues it would, by definition, not be a 'gift'.

10. Prayer of Consecration

This is a type of prayer that the Lord used as a confirmation and dedication to the will of the Father in **Matthew 26, Luke 22 and Mark 14.**

Jesus is our example in this area. On the night before His death, He prayed one of the profound prayers.

Matthew 26:39, *He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."*

We see another example of this in Hannah's prayer dedicating Samuel to the Lord.

1 Samuel 1:24-28, *Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bulls, one ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the Lord in Shiloh. And the child was young. ²⁵ Then they slaughtered a bull, and brought the child to Eli. ²⁶ And she said, "O my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood by you here, praying to the Lord. ²⁷ For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition which I asked of Him. ²⁸ Therefore I also have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the Lord." So they worshiped the Lord there.*

11. Prayer of Faith

James says the prayer of faith will save the sick.

James 5:15, *And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.*

This is a prayer that is offered in confidence knowing that the Lord will answer.

1 John 5:14, *Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.*

We know that God hears us and will answer when by praying in His will. When our prayers are in line with His will, then we can have that confidence of the prayer of faith.

12. Dedication

Matthew 6:10, *Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.*

We pray this first over our own life.

The Kingdom (the answers to prayer that we want - righteousness, joy, peace, healing, wisdom) comes through the active presence and working of the Spirit.

Romans 14:17, *for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

The Kingdom comes according as God's will is done. 'On earth as in heaven' signifies wholehearted and complete believing obedience from the heart allowing heaven's power and presence to come. Finding and doing God's will in our lives is

based on this prayer in which we adjust and set our will to God's will.

This leads to knowing God's will.

John 7:17, *If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.*

Then when we do His revealed will, the Kingdom comes, as with Jesus. He prayed these 3 times in the Garden.

Luke 22:42, *saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."*

Having dedicated to God and confirmed His will, He did it and as a result the Kingdom of God came through His sacrificial death.

13. Casting our cares on the LORD.

Matthew 6:13, *"For Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen."*

This adjusts us correctly to the problems of life.

1 Peter 5:7, *"Casting all your care upon Him (once and for all) for He cares for you"*

Psalm 37:5, *Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.*

Psalm 55:22, *Cast your burden on the Lord, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.*

Conclusion:

Prayer is Communicating with God

God wants to have a relationship with us. We are given several different types of prayer in the Bible. You may lump some of these prayers together as one type and you may also find other types of prayer than what I have listed. That is fine.

What is important is that we have the relationship with the Lord through prayer in the way He desires.

Spend time studying God's Word and the many examples of communicating with Him.

Philippians 4:6, *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;*

