

OREMUS
Prayer Outline
With Scriptures

Col. 4:2 “Devote yourselves to prayer
being watchful and thankful.

By Ernest C. Jett
Copyright 2020

I. Introduction- What is prayer: Prayer is communication between us and God often involving requests. We are born to communicate. Our first words often refer to our mother or father. We are born to communicate with God, our heavenly Father. This communication we call prayer. We begin by speaking and asking. As we become more mature we learn to listen and we learn to express more than our basic needs and feelings. As we become more mature, we enter into a deeper relationship.

In prayer I am speaking to the very God of the Universe. However, by the sacrifice of Christ, I have been adopted into the family of God. I have a personal relationship with God even though my actions do not deserve it. I can call the Most High God “Abba, Father.” The word “Abba” is a Syriac word expressing a warm relationship. What a great blessing to be able to communicate with the Creator and the Savior of the Universe on a personal level. I no longer have to depend upon a human priest to pray for me. Jesus is my priest. When he died and provided a way for me to be a part of the family of God, the wall separating me from the presence of God in The Most Holy Place was torn apart and I get to come into the presence of God and pray to the Most High God. I become a priest myself. Not only do I get to pray for myself but I also get to pray for others-for the lost, for my family, and for my church and even for the government.

We seek directions from God and we endeavor to move the hands of God by prayer. Prayer differs from thanksgiving and worship in which men praise God and honor and worship God through words and song. It is also different from offerings and sacrifices by which men bring a sacrifice to God as a way of honoring God and moving the hands of God by those offerings and sacrifices. There is some cross over such as offering the “sacrifice of praise.”

How do we then pray: (1) We pray with our mouth (2) we pray silently by mouthing words in our hearts (3) we pray by writing things down to God. We pray in the Spirit allowing the Holy Spirit to move through us submitting our tongues and groanings to God even though our words may or may not be intelligible. We can also pray in song and in music without words. Although songs and music can often be a part of thanksgiving and worship they can also be used in prayer including such things as some of David’s prayers set to music or prayer and prophesying done in song. Some have classified prayer into the following types:

- a. Beseeching the Lord-Ex. 22:11
- b. Pouring out our soul to God-2 Chronicles 32:20; Psm 61:8...”pour out your hearts to him for God is our refuge”.

- c. Making supplication-Job 8:5; Psm 55:1-3—“Listen to my prayer, O God, do not ignore my plea; hear me and answer me. My thoughts trouble me and I am distraught at the voice of the enemy, at the stares of the wicked”; Psm. 61:1-2---“Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer. From the ends of the earth, I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I.”
- d. Drawing near to God-Psm. 73:28; James 4:8; Psm. 69:16-18; Psm. 71:12
- e. For some other definitions of prayer, go to Annex 1.

Others divide up types of prayer. One way used in the past is classifying prayer according to A.C.T.S. meaning Adoration and Praise (“A”), Confession (“C”), Thanksgiving (“T”) and Supplication (“S”). Although this may be useful in thinking about classifications of prayer, I find it artificial. When I talk with those I love, I do not classify my conversation into different categories. I just simply speak what is on my heart and I listen and enjoy the presence of the other person. I have conversation and I have relationship and presence. I see prayer with God in the same way.

Here are some basics about God. God is. God is good (Psm. 116:68). Psm. 103:10-13 says “...and he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him....” See also: Psm. 145:13; God shows love and forgiveness. God hears prayer. Psm 65:2 says “O you who hear prayer, to you all men will come (v.4). You answer us with awesome deeds of righteousness. Psm. 61:8—“pour out your hearts to him for God is our refuge.” Another basic is that God answers prayer. Finally, God sent his only begotten son so that we might have eternal life. (Jn. 3:16).

These are the basics. Man needs the help of God and we seek this help through prayer.

Psm. 94:17-19 says: “Unless, the Lord had given me help, I would soon have dwelt in the silence of death. When I said, “My foot is slipped,” your love supported me. When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought joy to my soul.”

God delights to show mercy. Micah 7:18-20 (“...you delight to show mercy; you hurl all of our iniquities into the depth of the sea.”)

Prayer is asking God for his help. It is OK to ask. Hebrews 11:6 says “faith” is believing that God exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek Him. Jesus encourages us to “seek,” “knock” and “ask.” We ask in prayer, we seek in prayer, and we knock in prayer. Our prayers are accompanied by spoken words that are full of faith. As God spoke and things were created out of nothing, so we speak and God creates something (answers) to our prayers. Our words are full of faith and God responds to faith with creation and He answers our prayers often by creating something from nothing. This is indeed miraculous.

Sceptics have said that prayer is in essence praying that when we add two plus two that we do not get four. They are right. We pray for the miraculous. We pray that things are created out of nothing. We pray that our five fishes and two barley loaves will multiply and feed the multitudes. We pray for the miraculous. We pray that natural events will be superseded by the supernatural. We do not pray for the situation to remain as before. Instead we pray that the lame will walk, the blind see, the hungry be

fed and that lives change. We pray that natural consequences of our actions be supernaturally avoided or that supernatural results replace natural results and consequences. Our God is “the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.” (Romans 4:17). Two plus two does not always equal 4 in God’s mathematics. He takes the few and turns them into the many. He takes Abraham and turns him into a nation giving birth to Isaac when Abraham is near 100 years old and his body is as good as dead. Where there is nothing; He makes something. He is the God of miracles. He heals the sick, raises the dead, feeds the multitudes with a few loaves and a few fish, parts the sea, calms the waves, provides a coin in a fish’s mouth to pay taxes, cleanses the leper and causes the sun to reverse itself.

Here are some basics as we begin our journey to learn more about prayer. It is OK to make mistakes. God looks at the heart not just about what is said. It is OK to pray often, you will not wear God down with your prayers. Pray for things important to you. Prayer is just something you do and is as natural as eating and drinking. Don’t just pray for yourself but pray for others too. Prayers should be simple. A good example of a simple prayer is if you are running from a bear, it is natural to pray “Help!” So don’t be afraid of prayers which are natural or short.

Prayers do not need to be elaborate or long. Jesus pointed out that the religious Pharisees often engaged in their long prayers to show people that they were religious. **Mark 12:40**. So keep your prayers simple and from the heart. They are for God not for an audience.

A few instructions before you go on. This outline is not meant to be the definitive word on prayer. It is only an outline. It is designed for people to use in their own study of prayer and serves as a jumping off point. In fact you do not need to work through it sequentially. Go to any area that interests you. Look up Scriptures and study and pray. The purpose of this outline is to help you to learn and engage in prayer. By the way, the word “Oremus” is Latin and it means “Let us pray. So, let us study, pray and explore.

Secondly, it is likely that you will encounter some statements and concepts in this Outline with which you may differ. Please do not throw out the entire Outline because you do not agree with one statement. Instead view the Outline as a medicine chest. Take what you find to be helpful and leave behind what you do not trust. Where you disagree, I would advise that you do the following. First check the Scriptures. Be like the Bereans in Acts 17:11 who “examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.” So test anything in here against Scripture. I do not claim infallibility. Also ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as to what is true. If you still disagree with something in here, pray for me that I will see more clearly. Lastly, follow a piece of advice that my father gave to me. He said: “Son, be like the wise old cowbird following after the cow. Be able to pick the seeds out of the cow pie.” So look for the seeds of truth contained in the Outline (and its annexes) and use what is good for you and what you feel that you can trust. Leave the other stuff on the medicine cabinet shelf.

II. Prayer by the People of God prior to Christ

- a. Abraham-**Gen.12:8**; Sacrifice of Isaac See also **Rom. 4:16-23**; **Heb. 1:29**;
- b. Jacob –**Gen. 32:9-12;26-28**; **Gen. 33:1-4** We need to wrestle with God in Prayer-**Gal. 6:16**; **Jer. 10:25**; “Israel” means “one who struggles or wrestles with God.”

- c. Moses and Aaron –[Deut. 9:16-21](#); [Psm. 90:12-17](#); [Psm. 99:6,8](#); See intercession at Section XX.
- d. Gideon-[Judg. 6:17, 36-40](#);
- e. Hannah-[1 Sam 1:9-12,18](#)
- f. Samuel-[Psm. 99:68](#)
- g. David and the Psalmists-David called himself “a man of prayer.” [Psm. 109:4](#); [Psm. 3:1,4](#); [4:1](#); [5:1,3](#); [6:9](#); [7:1](#); [17:1,6,8,13](#); [18:6](#); [20:1](#); [22:1](#); [29:1, 2, 30](#); [31:2](#); [32:5,6](#); [34:15,17, 18](#); [79:9](#); [80:3-4, 16](#); [86:1-2](#); [102:1-2](#); [118:5](#); [120:1](#); [138:3](#); [140:4,6](#); [141:1-2](#); [142: 1-2](#); [143:5, 8-10](#); [144:5,8](#); [2 Sam. 15:31](#); [16:20-23](#); [17:14-23](#); [2 Sam. 22](#); David’s prayer after he had sinned with Bathsheba-[Psm. 51:10-12](#). God called David “a man after his own heart.” [1 Sam. 13:14](#).
- h. Solomon -[2 Chron. 7:12-14](#). Solomon’s prayer of dedication of the Temple to God is at [1 Kings 8:22-53](#).
- i. Nehemiah-[Neh. 1:11](#); [2:1-6](#). Nehemiah prayed to God that he might have favor with the King so that he could rebuild Jerusalem.
- j. Esther and Mordecai-[Est. 4:15-17](#); [6:7, 8](#)
- k. Jonah – [Jonah 1:6,14](#); [2:1-10](#); [3:8](#); [4:2](#)
- l. Elijah
1. Widows Son-[1 Kings 17:20-22](#). “The Lord heard Elijah’s cry.”
 2. Prayer that it not rain and three years later that it would rain-[James 5:3-18](#); [1 Kings 18:42-44](#).
 3. Against the Servants of Baal-[1 Kings 18:24, 36-38](#); [41-45](#)
 4. For death-[1 Kings 19:4](#)
- m. Elisha
1. The Shunnamite’s son-[2 Kings 4:32-34](#)
 2. The Legions of Heaven-[2 Kings 6:16](#)
 - s. Striking the soldiers of Aram with blindness and then praying that their eyes be opened. [2 Kings 6:18-20](#).
- n. Daniel [Dan. 2:16-23](#); [Dan. 6:10](#); [17](#); [19](#); [Dan. 9](#) for restoration of Jerusalem; [Dan. 10:12](#)
- o. Ezra –[Ezra 6:10](#); [8:21-23](#)
- p. Nehemiah-[Nehemiah 1:5-11](#); [2:4, 9](#)
- q. Hezekiah-[2 Kings 19:14-37](#); [20:2-11](#);
1. Hezekiah asks Isaiah to pray for the remnant that still survives. [2 Kings 19:4](#).
 2. Hezekiah lays out the letter from the Assyrian King. The Assyrian army is totally defeated by God alone. [2 Kings 19: 14-19, 35, 36](#)
 3. Hezekiah prays at the point of death and God gives him fifteen more years of life. [2 Kings 15:1-6](#). (However during that fifteen year period Hezekiah will have a son who is named Manasseh and who becomes one of the worst kings Judah ever had. He will also meet envoys from Babylon and will show them all of his treasures prompting the King of Babylon to desire to conquer Judah). [2 Kings 20: 12-19](#). We need to learn to trust God for His timing and His wisdom even for the time of our own death.

III. Prayers in the Temple

- a. Establishment of the Temple (Solomon)-[1 Kings 8:22-30](#); [44-50](#); [2 Chron 6: 1-42](#);
- b. High Priestly Prayers (Prayers of Blessing)-“The Lord bless you and keep you”. Prayer is like blessing. That which is not holy nor anointed is blessed by the words of God making it holy. The prayer of blessing was given by descendants of Aaron from a raised platform with raised

hands—It involved blessing people by putting the name of God on the people—[Lev. 9:22](#); [Deut. 10:8](#); [21:5](#); [Num. 6:22-27](#); [Luke 24:50](#); At the time of the blessing the High Priest made the signs of the Jewish alphabet Sin which is an emblem for El Shaddai meaning Almighty God. Many Jews believe that as the blessing is given one should not look at the blesser because the Divine Presence is shown through the fingers and out of respect to God you should shield your eyes.

c. Regular Prayers were also said in the Temple. There are a number of different prayers for different matters including for sacrifices.

d. The Altar of Incense-[Luke 1:1,19](#); Special incense was used in the morning and evening; [Ex. 30:17](#); [31:18](#); [1 Chron. 6:49](#); [28:18](#); [2 Chron. 26:16](#); [Psm. 141:1-2](#); [Luke 1:11](#); [Rev. 8:3-4](#); [Rev. 9:13](#). The altar of incense is the altar of prayer. We need to pray and enter into the presence of God. As believers we need to reek of the incense of prayer (Paul said we are to be the sweet savor of redemption to the saved). We need to smell like the incense of God through our prayers as opposed to smelling like the smoke of hell by following our own way apart from God. We need to be the sweet smell of God to the world. Prayers are like incense before God. They go from earth to heaven. They are a sweet aroma to God. [Malachi 1:11](#);

Incense and prayer are linked. The sweet smell of incense rises to heaven and the smoke of incense covers our uncleanness. Likewise, the sweet smell of our prayers lift to heaven and are pleasing to our God. The blood of Jesus covers our sins and blocks the foul smell of our sin and makes us acceptable to God. See [Rom. 8:34](#); [Rev. 9:13](#).

e. Zacharias the Father of John the Baptist was serving as a priest who blessed the people when God spoke to him about a blessing which was coming to him and his wife, Elizabeth-[Luke 1:1, 19](#)

f. My house shall be a house of prayer; [Luke:20:46](#); [Is. 56:7](#); Jesus taught there; Jesus saw prayer as being a matter of the heart. Jesus spoke to the Samaritan Woman at the well ([John 4:21-23](#)) -*“Believe me, Woman”, Jesus replied, “a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem...But a time is coming and now has come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth....”*)

IV. The Prayers of Jesus.

Jesus spent time in prayer. On occasion, he prayed all night ([Luke 6:12](#)), spent time alone in prayer ([Luke 9:18](#)) and often prayed in the early morning hours ([Mark 1:35](#)). The writer of Hebrews at Hebrews 5:7 described the prayer life of Jesus as follows: *“During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.”* Jesus prayed with intensity and reverence in his heart.

a. Lord’s Prayer-[Luke 11:2](#); [Matt. 6:9-13](#). Frederick Denison Maurice said, “The Lord’s Prayer may be committed to memory quickly but it is slowly learnt by heart.” Henry Ward Beecher said: “I used to think the Lord’s Prayer was a short prayer; but as I live longer, and see more of life, I begin to believe there is no such thing as getting through it. If a man praying that prayer, were to be stopped by every word until he had thoroughly prayed it, it would take him a lifetime.”

1. Our Father-**2 Sam 7:14**; “O how great a task is it, for a poor soul that becomes sensible of sin and the wrath of God to say in faith but this one word “Father!”—John Bunyan, Discourse on Prayer. We come into a personal relationship with the father through the Spirit of Jesus who lives in us. “And by him (the Spirit of Jesus) we cry “Abba, Father.”” **Rom 8:15**.
2. Hallowed Be Thy Name-**John 18:27; John 17:11,12**. The name of God is not written out in Judaism ; in the Book of Revelation, we receive a new name of Jesus, God and the new Jerusalem (analogous to a password). There is sanctity in the name and there is power in the name. **Psm. 20:7**; We honor God’s name-**Mal. 3:16**; Honoring and showing reverence to God’s name brings healing. **Mal. 4:2**; (See Section on praying in the name of Jesus-Section XXXII). Psm. 96:9 says that we are “to worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness....” God is holy and his house is holy. Moses had to remove his shoes because he was stepping on Holy Ground when he came into the presence of God at the burning bush. As we pray we step onto Holy ground before a Holy God.
3. Thy Kingdom Come-**Matt. 5:3; Luke 17:20-21**; Seek ye first the kingdom of God. The message of the Book of Haggai is that as we focus on God’s kingdom first and God’s house first, we will have relationship with God. His Spirit will strengthen us and bless us. **Haggai 2:5**;

In essence we pray, “Come Lord Jesus.” When Jesus returns there will be finally a full establishment of God’s kingdom upon earth. That kingdom has begun and has been decided in a final and conclusive way but its complete establishment will not be until Jesus comes again and Satan is cast down and death finally destroyed. Our prayer, “Come, Lord Jesus” is essentially equivalent to “Thy Kingdom Come.”

4. Thy will be done. If we move heaven with our prayers, we move earth. Progress toward God’s will on earth is first done in heaven. Jesus set a priority on spending time in prayer.

God allows us to participate in the bringing of the kingdom of heaven to earth and the working of his will on earth. Part of that work is done by prayer. Prayer is part of moving the hands of God in the here and now. The most powerful things are done through what appears to be foolish and weak. **1 Cor. 1:27** says that God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.” Prayer appears to be weak but it shames the strong. **1 Cor. 1:27-29**.

Jesus in the Model Prayer prayed “**Thy will be done**”. At Gethsemane, Jesus prayed the same thing. “**Not as I will but Thy will be done**”. Jesus in his prayer in Gethsemane just before his crucifixion is consistent with the Lord’s Prayer. It is the following of our will that gets us into trouble. Self-will leads us into the weaknesses of the flesh. **Mark 14:32-33**. This is not only about accepting God’s will for our lives but it also is about establishing God’s will on this earth, about bringing light to darkness and justice and healing where there is hurt. The ability to desire and follow God’s will comes from God himself. Our prayer should be: “**God work in me to want and to do Your purpose.**”

Philip. 2:13. Those who are covered by the atoning blood of Christ are invited by God to participate in His plan to redeem the world by doing His will.

Surprisingly, the plan of redeeming the world is not just a one-way street where we are blind servants of God. We are invited to even take a part in God's redemption plan. We are invited to join in Christ's sufferings not to make His sufferings complete for they are already complete but to join in them that we may even increase in glory by being a "co-worker with Christ." Jesus granted his church the privilege of participating in the redemption program. What we can agree upon through prayer is not limited to just one person in time, but is promised to the Body of Christ, His church. We join with Christ in interceding for the hurt, the needy and the lost. Just as we do the will of God, Jesus promises that God will do our will as we pray.

At **Matt. 16:18**, Jesus promised the following to His people, the church: **"I will give you the keys of heaven; whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven"**. You will note if you go on to the next verse, Matt. 16:19, that Jesus is speaking to His disciples. (My good Catholic friends will differ with me here and believe that Jesus was not speaking to Peter and the disciples as a group but according to them to Peter alone.) John 20:23 also supports that Jesus was addressing his disciples as a group as opposed to just one person.

"Thy will be done..." There is a promise to those who "do the will of God." At **1 John 2:17** it says: **The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever."**

Prayer is about asking for our needs and the needs of others. It is also about the giving of thanks and worship. Our prayers are too often about "my will be done" with God being there to accomplish my good will and wishes. Better prayer is to seek and ascertain God's will and intent in the here and now and to pray that we would go about the Father's business bringing about his will on the earth. So "thy will be done" should be our default choice rather than "my will be done."

The Church at Caesarea accepted that Paul would be bound and suffer in Jerusalem. Acts 21:14. When it is God's will for us to suffer, we embrace suffering. Jesus embraced suffering. Paul and the Apostles embraced suffering so that the name of Jesus might be lifted up and glorified.

5. Our Daily Bread. We need our daily supply. God gave the manna on a daily basis. We seek daily sustenance, daily strength and daily help. The Israelites expended effort to collect the manna. The manna was in essence a daily provision. The same is true of the answers to our needs. Our needs are daily needs. We deal with today and trust God for tomorrow. We work daily in Bible study and prayer to be sustained. **Prov. 30:8.** Like our friends in A.A. or N.A. we work the plan "one day at a time." We ask for strength for today's battles and fight them one day at a time. ("Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.") Our bread is daily bread. As soldiers of Christ, we travel light; we need carry only one day's provisions.

6. Forgive us our trespasses-Matt. 6:12; Matt. 5:23-26; Forgiveness helps us frustrate the schemes of Satan—2 Cor. 2:10-11; Col. 3:13. Again, as followers of Christ we travel light. We do not carry unforgiveness. Unforgiveness is a heavy burden and can block our prayers making us ineffective as warriors for Christ.

7. Lead us not into Temptation-Mark 14:38; Matt. 6:13; Luke 8:13; Luke 22:40, 46; Matt. 26:41; Matt. 4:1 (Jesus knew about temptation). The Spirit of God led him into the desert to be tempted by the devil and he was victorious over the temptation of Satan. Jesus knew and experienced the power of Satan to tempt mankind. That is why the next part of the prayer is that God will deliver us from the Evil One. Matt. 4:1-11; Heb. 2:18; 4:15; James 1:13-14; The sins of the flesh are “crouching at our door” and we must master these sins. Gen. 4:7.

The work of Satan and temptation still continue. Paul was concerned that the Thessalonian church might have succumbed to temptation. 1 Thes. 3:5.

Jesus knew the suffering we experience when we are tempted. Heb. 2:18. God does not tempt us. Our temptations come from Satan or from our flesh. James 1:13-15.

8. Deliver us from the Evil One and Evil Men-Jn. 17:11, 12, 15; 2 Thes. 3:3; Psm. 140:1-2, 4, 7, 8; Psm. 141:4; 143:3-4; James 4:7; Satan is alive and he does tempt people. Jesus himself was tempted by Satan. Also see 1 Thes.1:5 and 2 Thes. 3:3.

In 2 Tim. 2:25-26, Paul states that through good and gentle teaching some will escape the trap of the devil who has taken them captive to do his will. Satan desires to test us. Jesus at Luke 22:27 says, “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. But I have prayed for each of you, Simon, that your faith will not fail.”

- b. At his baptism in the Jordan-Luke 5:21-23
- c. Before selecting his disciples, Jesus prayed all night on the mountain side-Luke 6:12-13
- d. During Ministry-Luke 24:30; Luke 10:21
- e. Prayer for Himself-Jn. 17:1-5
- f. Prayer for His Disciples-Jn. 17:6-19
- g. Prayer for Future Believers-Jn. 17:20-26
- h. At the Mount of Transfiguration-Luke 9:28-29
- i. Before Raising Lazarus-Jn. 11:41-42
- j. Prayer in the Garden-The battle between spirit and flesh is found in the garden of prayer. Matt. 26:36-44; Luke 9:43-47; His prayer was with loud cries and tears. Heb. 5:7; Jesus considering his own death in John 12:27 prayed: “...what shall I say, Father save me from this hour? No it was for this very reason I came to this hour” Father, glorify your name.” There were two ways to pray; but Jesus chose the way of the cross in his prayers. Notice how Jesus prayed in Mark 14:36: “Abba Father: he said “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will but what you will.” Jesus began by using the personal form of address “Abba” or “Daddy” to his Father. Second, Jesus confessed God’s omnipotence. Third, Jesus submitted his own will to his Father’s will. This is consistent with “thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven” as used in the Model Prayer. Jesus prayer in the Garden of Gethsemene is probably the most important prayer ever made. It is ironic that the greatest prayer ever prayed was prayer

that did not appear to have a positive answer for Jesus and this “unanswered “ prayer brings us eternal life.

- k. Prayer for Peter-Luke 22:31,32,40
- l. Prayer on the Cross-Luke 23:24, 34, 46; Matt 27:46
- m. Prayer for the Holy Spirit-“If you love me keep my commands. And I will pray the Father and He will give you an anointed Helper....” Jn. 14:15-18;
- n. Jesus prayed before breaking bread and before his miracle of the feeding of the 5,000. Mark 6:47.
- o. A description of Jesus’ prayer life is found in Hebrews 5:7: “During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission”.

V. Teachings of Jesus About Prayer

- a. Have faith-Matt. 12:22-26; Matt. 21:21,22; Mark 9:29 (Everything is possible for the one who believes. “I do believe, help my unbelief”-Mark 9:24.)
- b. Ask with boldness-Luke 11:9
- c. Have the right view of God and his nature- Matt. 7:7-12
- d. Be persistent (Poor woman and unjust judge);. Go around the wall 7 times and 7 times on the Sabbath. Luke 11:5-13; Luke 18:1-8; Rom. 12:2 (Prayer is a marathon not a 50 yard dash.) We persevere in prayer. Sometimes prayer is the water that wears away the hardest stone.
- e. Forgiveness and Reconciliation-Leave your gift at the Altar; forgive us our sins in the same manner that we forgive others. Matt. 5:24;
- f. Pray in Secret-Matt. 6:6
- g. Prayer and Fasting- The boy who had the demonic problem needing prayer and fasting. Luke 18:1-8
- h. With humility and faith-Matt. 6:7; Psm. 102:17; Luke 18:9-14
- i. With a compassionate heart-Matt. 9:36-38

VI. Hindrances to Prayer-Prayer Blockers

- a. Unforgiveness-Matt. 12:25; Matt. 6:12, 14-15; Mark 11:25; Matt. 5:23-(Make peace with those who have something against you (not just those you have something against.)
- b. Doubt and doublemindedness-James 1:6-8
- c. Pride and Arrogance-Pharisee and Publican-James 4:6, 9; Matt 5:5; Matt. 18:9-14; Psm. 6:5; Psm. 101:5; Luke 18:9-14
- d. Mistreatment of a spouse-1 Pet. 3:7; Being unfaithful to one’s spouse. Mal. 2:11-14
- e. Asking for the Wrong Things-James 4:2-4
- f. Praying for show -Mark 12:40
- g. Prayer with anger and resentment in your heart-1 Tim. 4:8 We are to pray without anger and disputing. 1 Tim. 2:8
- h. Not doing God’s will-Jn. 9:31
- i. Malice in the heart-Psm. 66:18-20; Is. 29:13; Ezek. 33:31; Psm. 109:7; 2 Sam. 22:12
- j. Doing evil-1 Pet. 3:12; Prov. 15:8 (We should ask forgiveness of our sins-Psm. 25:11)
- k. Lying-Psm. 5:6; Psm. 101:5,7;
- l. Hands covered with blood or doing violence-Is. 1:15; Psm. 17:4
- m. Failure to ask-James 4:3

- n. Not asking according to God's will-1 Jn. 5:14; James 4:3
- o. Unrepentant sin-Psm 66:18; Jn. 10:31; Psm. 139:23-24; Prov. 28:9,13; Is. 59:1; Jn. 9:31 God's anger at sin is a prayer blocker. Psm. 80:4-6; Lam. 3:44. Sometimes our sin causes God "to cover himself with a cloud so that no prayer can get through." In that case we must humble ourselves and repent and ask God for mercy.
- p. Being an enemy to God's people-2 Sam. 22:42. But this can change remember the Apostle Paul.
- q. Our prayers not being heart-felt—Hosea 7:14
- r. Prayer coming from deceitful lips-Psm. 17:1; Psm. 32:2; Psm. 101:7;
- s. Not hearing the cry of the poor-Prov. 21:13;
- t. Ignoring the commands of God. Prov. 28:9; If we are deaf to God's word; he is deaf to our prayers. If we sow deafness to God's commands, we reap him being deaf to our pleas.
- u. Wearying God with our words by accusing him of not being a just God. Mal. 2:17; Mal. 3:13-15;
- v. By robbing and shortchanging God we put ourselves and prayers under a curse. Mal. 3:9;
- w. Unbelief-Heb. 3:9 (Jesus could not do many miracles in Nazareth because of the unbelief of the people there). Mk. 6:5; Matt. 13:58;
- x. Being lazy and not praying diligently-Luke 9:28; Luke 22:45
- z. Being disobedient to God's word. Prov. 1:24-30; 28:9; Psm. 66: 18-20; Is. 1: 15-17; 1 Jn. 5:17; 1 Pet. 3:12.
- A1. Having wickedness in our hearts. Psm 66:18; Jn. 9:31.
- A2. Using vain repetition in our prayers-Matt. 6:7.
- A3. Our iniquities, sins and our lack of justice and frivolous litigation causes God not to hear our prayers. Read all of Is. 59:1-14.

VII. Helps to Prayer

Although these are "helps" to prayer, keep in mind that we do not have to be righteous to pray. God is in the business of hearing those who cry out to him in their sins, shortcomings and needs. We do not always pray correctly but God knows the needs of our heart and is not bound to legalistic formulas in order to answer our prayers. God is the God of grace; the God who gives favor that is not earned or merited.

- a. Faith-Mark 11:22-24; James 5:15; Rom. 4:20; Heb. 10:22; James 1:6; Heb. 11:6; Mark 11:24; 2 Sam. 22:7; James 1:5-8; Psm. 5:1-3. The foundation of answered prayer is faith. We must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who seek him. We are people of faith and the children of faith. Without faith, we cannot please God and unbelieving prayers do not bring success. As we pray for one another, we pray with faith. "For nothing is impossible with God." Luke 1:37; Elijah spoke a word of faith. He told Ahab the rain was coming and then Elijah prayed for the rain to come. 1 Kings 18:42-44. In James 5:14, the elders of the church are instructed to pray for the sick and to anoint them with oil "in faith."
- b. Boldness-Heb. 4:16; Jacob was brash and bold. The promises of God had value-the blessing and the birthright.
- c. Clean Conscience-Heb. 13:18,19; 1 Jn. 3:21
- d. Reverence and earnestness-Heb. 5:7; Psm. 6:7; Heb. 10; Is. 66:2; Psm. 89:7; 119:9; Matt. 6:5-8; Elijah prayed "earnestly" that it would not rain. James 5:17
- e. Doing the will of God-Jn. 9:31

- f. Confession of sin-James 5:16-18; 1 Jn. 1: 8-10. In James 5, we are instructed to confess our sins one to another and to pray for one another so that we might be healed.
- g. A righteous life-James 5:16-18; 1 Pet. 3:10-12; Psm. 34:15,17; Psm. 37:37; 84:11; 85:13; 1 Chron. 4:10; 2 Sam. 22:26 ; Psm 5:12 (Jabez was more honorable than his brethren). It is the righteous and devout who see Christ such as Simeon in the Temple. Luke 2:25-32.
- h. Being self-controlled and clear minded-1 Pet. 4:7
- i. Asking according to God's will-1 Jn. 5:14 (Sometimes God chooses to answer prayers that not in his will and the answer is given in judgment such as the quail given to the Israelites in Psm. 106:14-15)
- j. Praying in the Holy Spirit-Jude v. 20; Eph. 6:18; Rom. 8:26-27 (interceding); 1 Cor. 14:14-17.
- k. Being broken hearted-Psm. 34:17,18; 38:8; 39:1; 51:7; 64:1; Is. 66:2
- l. Honoring God's word-Psm. 28:9; 2 Sam. 22:23-24;
- m. Obedience- -1 Jn. 3:22; Jn. 15:7
- n. Forgiveness-Leaving your gift on the altar; Lord's Prayer; Psm. 86:5; 2 Cor. 1:11; Matt. 6:12-15; Matt. 18:21-35; Eph. 4:32; Mark 11:25-26.
- o. Humility-Psm. 18:27; Psm. 102:17; Psm 149:4; 1 Pet. 5:5-7; 2 Chron. 7:14; 34:7, 27; James 4:10; 2 Sam. 22:28; Lk. 18:9-14; Is. 57:15;
- p. Integrity of heart-Psm. 1:18
- q. Repentance-Matt. 3:2; Acts 8:22
- r. Abiding in Jesus-Jn. 15:7
- s. A pure heart. Blessed are the pure of heart; Matt. 5:8; James 4:8; Psm. 24:3-4; Psm. 119:145; 2 Sam. 22:27;
- t. Obedience and sacrifice-2 Sa. 24:18. 24. 25. David bought a field and sacrificed in obedience to God's word to stop a plague. We love and obey God's word. Psm. 119:129, 145, 157, 167, 168, 173;
- u. Being persistent as Jesus taught us-Rom. 12:2; Eph. 6:18; Luke 11:5-9; Luke 18:1-8. Moses shows us how to persevere. Heb. 11:27 says, "By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible." Elijah persevered. Seven times Elijah told his servant to go back and check for rain. 1 Kings 18:43-44.

Jesus told the story about how a widow kept going to an unjust judge for justice and finally got it (Luke 18:1-8). How much better is it for us when we go to a just judge and a loving father.

There was a great business leader who said that part of his success in life could be attributed to his good friend Percy (Perseverance). As saints we are encouraged to endure and persevere. My secret to success in law school was to having an "iron butt" meaning that I kept going and eventually succeeded. Perseverance leads us to success. The righteous man gets up seven times. Prov. 24:16. We keep persevering, we keep getting up and dusting ourselves off in faith and we can never be stopped. We need to have this type of perseverance in our prayers. When we fall or forget to pray, we do not get discouraged but we get up and with God's help we keep on praying. Our prayer life is to be full of perseverance and endurance.

- v. Living a godly life-Psm. 4:3; Prov. 15:8; Heb. 12:14
- w. Having clean hands-Psm. 18:20,21; Psm. 24:3-4; 2 Sam. 22:21;
- x. Being just-Psm. 37:28
- y. Listening to God-Psm. 81:8, 11-14;
- z. Being truthful-Prov. 12:22;
- a1. Showing faithfulness in our marriage covenant. Mal. 2:11-14;
- a2. Being faithful to God-2 Sam. 22:26;
- a3. Being fervent in our prayers. Acts 9:9-11; Col. 4:12; 1 Thes. 3:10; Jas. 5:16-18;

a4. Being alert in our prayers. Col. 4:2; Luke 21:26.

In a recent sermon I heard some advice regarding “helps” to prayer. The advice was: (a) Be passionate in our prayers; (b) Remember God’s power in helping us in the past; (c) Be persistent in our prayers; (d) Be precise in our prayers; (e) Be positive in our prayers and (f) Be praiseful in our prayers. Good advice.

VIII. Things God “hears” and “sees” (We need God “to hear” our prayers-Psm. 39:12) ; Psm. 102:1-2 says “Hear my prayer O Lord; let my cry for help come to you. Do not hide your face from me when I am in distress.” Psm. 80:14 says, “Return to us, O God Almighty! Look down from heaven and see!”

Psm. 34:12-16 and 1 Pet. 3:10-12 says, “Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his eyes are attentive to their prayers but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil”.

David said in 2 Sam. 22:7 “In my distress I called to the Lord; I called out to my God. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came to his ears.”

Solomon prayed: “Hear the cry and prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day” (1 Kings 8:28 and verse 30) “Hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.”

So it is important to know what God “sees” and “hears” for what God sees and hears is important to God.

- a. God hears the cries of the widows and orphans-Ex. 23:22; Psm. 68:5,6; James 1:27;
- b. God hears the poor and needy-Ex. 23:26; Psm 34:6; 35:10; 40:17; 69:3; 70:5; 72:4; 86:1; 102:17; 110:21-26;
- c. God hears the prayers of the righteous-Psm 37:15; 17; 37:19; Prov. 15:8,29 ; Elijah-James 5:16-18; Psm. 41:1; 1 Pet. 3:12;
- d. God hears those who pray with integrity-Psm 144:18
- e. God hears those who are in want due to circumstances-Ex. 23:26
- f. God hears those who are humble and have a repentant heart. God is eager to hear people repent and is quick to forgive our sins when we ask—Luke 18:13-14; 1 Kings 8:46-51.
- g. God hears those who have been cheated financially—James 5:4
- h. God hears those in distress-Psm. 9:9; 20:1; 25:18; 31:9; 79:9; 81:7; 86:7; 102:19-20; Psm. 107; 113:7; 142:6; 143:11; 146:7-9; 147: 3,6;. (This includes the homeless, hungry, thirsty, prisoners, the rebellious who repent, those condemned to die, those who are in troubled seas, those who see oppression, calamity and sorrow and the needy). Jesus sets the prisoners free and makes them Prisoners of Hope. Zech. 9:12; If we are in trouble, we are commanded to pray. James 5:13. If we are sick, we are commanded to call the elders of the church and have them pray for us. James 5:14-16.
- i. God hears those who cry for mercy and help-Psm. 31:22; Psm. 143:1; Mark 10:46-52.
- j. God hears those who are broken hearted or crushed in spirit.-Psm. 34:18; Psm. 51:17
- k. God “sees” those in trouble and grief-Psm. 10:14
- l. God “sees” the afflicted-Psm. 10:17; 116:8-10; 119:153;
- m. God loves to say “yes” through Jesus Christ-not only to his promises but to our prayers-2 Cor. 1:19-20.

- n. We need God's mercy.-**Psm. 40:11-12**. The throne from which God hears prayers is the Throne of Grace, the Mercy Seat. God welcomes us to pray. Our sins do not stop us because the mercy seat is covered with the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God. We ask God to hear due to the grace of God and the sacrifice of Jesus.—**Heb. 9:7; Lev. 16:13-17; Ex. 12:13; Heb. 10:19**
- o. The prayers of the Godly-**Psm. 32:6; 1 Tim. 2:8;**
- p. Those who trust in God-**Psm. 86:2;**
- q. Those who call upon him in truth and fear God—**Psm. 145:18-19; Prov. 12:22;**
- r. God hears those who “watch” in the hope of the Lord. **Micah 7:7;**
- s. God hears the prayers of his children who cry out for justice. **Luke 18:7-8.**
- t. When we repent with tears. **Lam. 3:48-49**
- u. God hears the prayers of His children-**Matt. 6:6; 7:7-11; 26: 39-42**
- v. Those who obey God. **Jn. 15:7. 1; Jn. 3:21-22**
- w. The devout who seek God. **Acts 10:2; 30-31.**
- x. Those who turn away from evil and wicked ways. **2 Chron. 7:14; Acts 8:22.**
- y. God watches out for widows and orphans. Widows can have a special prayer ministry praying for their own needs and praying for the church day and night. **1 Tim. 5:5.**

IX. God welcomes those who call out to Him for help.

We are commanded to have faith and to pray for help in our time of need. **Hebrews 4:16** says, “Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” In **Zechariah 13:9** it says: “They will call upon my name and I will answer them; I will say, “they are my people”; and they will say “The Lord is our God.”” Here are some people who were helped:

- a. Woman who touched Jesus cloak-**Matt. 9:20; Mark 5:24-34**
- b. Blind beggars such as Bartimaeus-**Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43; Matt. 20:29-34**. We need to have importunity and boldness in our prayers. The blind beggar shouted out for Jesus. He made a ruckus even though the righteous told him to be quiet. We need to be bold in our requests like the friends who ripped off the roof and lowered the lame man down to Jesus. Be insistent. Be brash in your prayers. **Luke 5:17-20; Mark 2:4**
- c. Lepers-**Luke 17:11-19; Mark 1:44**
- d. The sick and suffering; those in severe pain, seizures, possessed and paralyzed; the lame; every disease and illness-**Matt. 3:20-24**
- e. Woman who brought her complaint to the unjust judge-**Luke 8:1-8**
- f. Woman who asked Jesus to heal her child (Even the dogs eat the scraps from the master's table). **Matt. 15:37.**
- g. Man who called out for loaves in the middle of the night-**Luke 11:5-13**
- h. We are encouraged to step forward in boldness and ask and knock-**Matt. 7:7-12**
- i. Paul on the Damascus Road. God initiates contact. He gives instructions to Ananias: “**Ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying**”. **Acts 9:11.**
- j. God is our loving Father. He does not withhold what is best for us. He gives us His Holy Spirit. **Matt. 7:10; Luke 11:11.** God wants to answer our prayers. He also has the ability to supply all of our needs in Christ Jesus. **Phil. 4:9; Rom. 8:32.** See also **Jn. 17:11.**

X. Prayer in the New Testament Church

Here are instances of prayer in the New Testament church:

- a. Before and at Pentecost-Acts 1:13,14: “They all joined together constantly in prayer....”
- b. Praying for Peter-Acts 12:5-12
- c. Prayer as part of the essential work of the Church, along with teaching, fellowship and communion-Acts 2:42
- d. Before choosing a disciple to replace Judas-Acts 1:24. It is good to pray for God’s direction before major decisions.
- e. Prayer at the Temple-Peter and John went up to the Temple at the time of prayer (3:00 P.M.)-Acts 3:1
- f. The church prayed after the Sanhedrin warned the apostles not to speak about Jesus. “They raised their voices together in prayer....” Acts 4: 18-31.
- g. The apostles had deacons appointed so that the apostles could give their attention to prayer and the ministry of the word. Notice that prayer was mentioned before the ministry of the word. Acts 6:4 The apostles also prayed before they laid hands on the deacons. Acts 6:6
- h. Stephen’s prayer; He prayed that God would forgive those stoning him-Acts 7:59-60
- i. Peter got down on his knees, prays and God raises Dorcas from the dead-Acts 9:40
- j. Prayers for Peter’s deliverance from prison. Acts 12:1-19 (in particular note verses 5 and 12). The church was praying “earnestly” for Peter. A prayer meeting was going on at the house of Mary, mother of Mark, late at night.
- k. Prayer in the church at Antioch before commissioning Paul and Barnabas. They heard God by fasting and praying and then acted on what they heard. Acts 13:3.
- l. Before the First Missionary Journey-Paul and Barnabas in Antioch-Acts 14:21
- m. Peter and John in Samaria-Acts 8:5
- n. Prayer and Simon the Magician-Acts 8:22-24
- o. Prayer of Cornelius-Acts 10:2, 4 9, 30; Cornelius and his family “prayed to God regularly.,” Cornelius was praying about at 3:00 (the Jewish our of prayer) and his prayers were heard by God. An angel said that his prayers and his gifts to the poor had come up as a “memorial offering” to God. Peter was also praying when he saw the sheet of unclean animals being let down from heaven. Acts 11:4-5.
- p. Paul requests the Church of Rome to pray that he might be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea and that he might come to believers in Rome. Rom. 15:30-33.
- q. Request for prayer by the author of the Hebrews that the author may have a clear conscience and live honorably and be restored soon to the Hebrew Christians. Hebrews 13:18
- r. The Prayers of the Saints in the Book of Revelation-Rev. 5:8; Rev. 8:3-5

XI. The Prayers of Paul

- a. Paul’s prayer after salvation-Acts 9:11. After Annanias lays hands upon Paul, Paul receives his sight (Sometimes God uses other people to answer our prayers.)
- b. Paul and Silas in Philippi-Acts 16:16;25. Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns at midnight in the Philippi jail where their feet were in stocks after being severely beaten.
- c. Paul on the beach with the Ephesus Elders-Acts 20:35-36
- d. The entire church at Tyre also prays with Paul on the beach. Acts 21:5.
- e. Paul in the Temple-Acts 22:17
- f. Paul before Agrippa at Acts 6:29 prays that all those who are listening might become Christians.
- g. Paul gives thanks and breaks bread just before his ship crashes off Malta. Acts 27:35.
- h. Paul prays for the healing of the father of Publius on Malta. Acts 28:8.

- i. For the Roman Church-Rom. 1:10
- j. For the Corinthian Church-2 Cor. 13:9, 11-That you might be made perfect (complete). Paul prayed that the Corinthians would not do anything wrong but would do what is right. 2 Cor. 13:7
- k. For the Ephesian Church-Eph. 1:16-19; Eph 3:14-19
- l. For the Philippian Church-Phil. 1:3,9
- m. For the Colossian Church-Col. 1:1-13. In Col. 1:10 Paul prayed that the Colossians might “live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way, bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God and being strengthened with all power so that they might have endurance and patience and joyfully giving thanks to the Father.”
- n. For the Thessalonian Church-1 Thes. 1:3; 1 Thes. 3:10-13; 2 Thes. 1:11; 2 Thes. 2:16-17; 3:5.
- o. For Timothy. 2 Tim. 1:3
- p. For Philemon. Philemon 1:4-6

XII. Examples of Early Christian Prayers in the New Testament Church

- a. Acts 4:24 “When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. ‘Sovereign Lord, they said, you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our Father David: “Why do the nations range and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather against the Lord and against his Anointed One. Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided before should happen. Now Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken and they all were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. (Note: The church saw the crucifixion of Jesus to have been in God’s will and that God’s will was large enough to deal with the most evil of actions to bring mankind back into good relationship with God through the blood sacrifice of Christ.)
- b. Heb. 13:20-“May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”
- c. Acts 7:59-60—“While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he fell on his knees and cried out “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he said this he fell asleep.”
- d. Col. 1:9-12—“For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience , and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of all the saints in the kingdom of light.”
- e. Eph. 1:15-23—“For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes

of your heart may be enlightened in order that you might know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.”

f. Eph. 3:14-21—“For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power together with all the saints to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

g. Phil. 1:3-11—“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you since I have you in my heart for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love, may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

h. Jude 1:24-25—“To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore. Amen.”

XIII. Places of Prayer

Introduction-Are some places holier than others? Yes. God from time to time chooses to favor certain places with his presence such as the Ark of the Covenant, the Tabernacle and the Temple of Solomon. Examples: When the Ark of the Covenant was placed in the Tabernacle; Beth-El where the angels went up and down into the heavens; the Temple in Jerusalem; Jerusalem-The Holy City (pray for its peace); Mt. Sinai the Holy Land; we are standing on Holy Ground. When Naaman the Leper was cured he asked for two donkey loads of earth from Israel so that he could make sacrifices and worship God. **2 Kings 5: 17-18.**

Here are some examples of places of prayer:

- a. Beth-el (Jesus is Bethel for you shall see the angels ascending and descending upon the Son of Man).
- b. The Temple (Solomon’s Dedication-**2 Chron. 7:12-14**; Zechariah, the Father of John the Baptist, offered prayer and sacrifices at the Temple in Jerusalem while people prayed. **Luke 1:10, 13.** Jesus; Peter and John all went to the Temple). **“My house shall be a House of Prayer for all nations”.** **Luke 19:45-46; Luke 20:46; Mark 11: 17** . Yet Jesus said to the woman at the well at Sycar that the day would come that people would worship neither at Jerusalem or Mt. Gerazim in Samaria but they would worship in the spirit. Peter and John went to the Temple to pray at 3:00; Paul prayed at the Temple in **Acts 22:7.**

- c. Synagogues were considered to be places of prayer. Paul, Silas and Timothy went to a synagogue when they were visiting Greece and called it a “place of prayer.” Acts 16:16
- d. On the mountain –Luke 9:18; Mark 6:46
- e. Gethsemane-Mark 14:32-36; Matt. 26:36
- f. Lonely places Luke 5:16; Matt. 6:46; Mark 1:35
- g. Cave of Adulum-David-1Sam. 22:1; 2 Sam. 23:13; 1 Chron. 11:15
- h. The Belly of the Big Fish-Jonah-Jonah 2:1-7
- i. The Lion’s Den-Daniel-Dan. 6:1-28
- j. Holding the Staff on the Mountain-Moses (Sometimes we need help)-Ex. 17:10-12; a three-fold cord will not be easily broken-Eccl. 4:12
- k. In the fire-Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego-Dan. 3:16
- l. At the Passover meal-Luke 22:17
- m. On the cross-Jesus-Luke 25:34
- n. The thief on the cross and last minute prayer-Luke 22:32-43; Luke 23:42,43
- o. Paul on the boat during the storm-Acts 27:35; Acts 28:8
- p. From the ends of the earth-Psm. 61:1,2
- q. From the House and Upstairs Room-Dan 2:17-19; Dan. 6:10; Upper Room-Disciples waiting on Holy Spirit-Acts 1:13-14;
- r. From our sick bed-Call the elders to pray and anoint us with oil.-James 5:14-15
- s. From Prison- Joseph in Prison; Paul in Prison (Acts 16:25); Peter in Prison (Acts 12:1-19); the Prisoners in Psms.-Psm. 79:11; 68:6; 142:7; 69:32, 33; 146:7; 102:28; 142:7; Heb. 13:13; Is. 42:7; Gen. 39:20-23

XIV. When to pray

Any time day or night is a good time to pray. Here are some examples of times in Scripture:

- a. Before dawn. Psm 119:147
- b. In the morning; Morning Prayer-Shacharit; Apostles in the temple for morning prayer. -Psm. 5:1-3; Psm. 55:16,17; 88:13; 90:14; Abraham engaged in morning prayer-Gen. 19

Psm. 5:1-3 says

Give ear to my words, O Lord
 Consider my sighing.
 Listen to my cry for help,
 My king and my God
 For to you do I pray.
 In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice;
 In the morning I lay my requests before you
 and wait in expectation.

- c. Afternoon Prayer-Minchah; Jacob meditated in the field before sunset; Elijah in 1 Kings 18 did his sacrifice during the time of the evening sacrifice; Daniel prayed in the afternoon on the roof.
- d. At meals-Luke 9:16
- e. At night-Psm. 42:8; Psm. 22:2; 77:2;
- f. At mid-night-Psm. 116:62; Acts 16:25

- g. All night long-Psm. 19:62; Lk. 6:12;
- h. All day long-Psm. 86:3; 88:9; Psm. 55:17 (evening, morning and noon); Is. 62:6
- i. Day and Night-Psm. 88:1; 119:48; Lk. 2:37; 1 Thes. 3:10;
- j. Three times a day according to Daniel-Dan. 6:10, 13
- k. Times according to David-David kept the Temple opened 24 hours per day with constant praise and worship.
- l. Times according to Peter- Peter and John went to the Temple to pray at 3:00 P.M. which was the Jewish hour of prayer. Acts 3:1. Cornelius also prayed at the Jewish hour of prayer at 3:00. Acts 10:30.
- m. Hours of Prayer (Jewish, Christian, Benedictine). See Items 19 and 20 of Annex 12.
- n. After a busy and exhausting day-Matt. 14:15
- o. In the day of trouble-Psm 102:1-2; 118:5; 120:1; Psm. 89:7 says, "In the day of trouble I will call to you for you will answer me." (Psm. 88:3);
- p. When you are suffering-James 5:13
- q. When you are sick-James 5:14-15
- r. When you are in distress-Psm. 77:2; Psm. 120:1;
- s. In times of disaster-Joel 1:19;
- t. Pray continually- 1 Thes. 5:17;
- u. All times-Lk. 21:36; Eph. 6:18; Col. 1:3; 1 Th. 1:3; 1 Thes. 5:16-17 says: "Be joyful always; pray continually...." We are to show perseverance in our prayers "giving thanks in all circumstances." 1 Thes. 5:17-18.

XV. Individual and in Groups

- a. Prayer alone (Personal); Jesus was alone; he went to lonely places; Go into your prayer closet. Ultimately your relationship with God is a personal relationship. When it comes to death we die alone except for the presence of God. The thief on the cross did not need a group in order to pray to Jesus. In Christian history, some Christians throughout history have chosen to live and die alone except for the presence of God.
- b. In Groups -Where one or two pray in my name.-Matt. 18:19 & 20; Help in holding the staff up in the prayer closet. Sometimes a group is useful. Aaron and Hur supported the hands of Moses. Ex. 17:12-14. "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves; a three cord strong is not easily broken". Eccl. 4:11-12. We are also commanded not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together. Heb. 10:35. This is as much for prayer as it is for hearing the word of God. Both in prayer and praise it is better to have several coals burning together than just one coal burning by itself Prayer is not just a solo activity but it is also a group activity.
- c. If we are sick, we are instructed to call the elders of the church to pray and to anoint us with oil. James 5:14. We are rarely alone. We have our brothers and sisters in Christ; we have those who pray for us; and we have the best of all the eternal intercession of Christ who knows us, remembers us and has prepared an eternal place for us where all sorrow, pain, and tears will be washed away and where we will be restored and have eternal life. As we pray for others, especially as we bind evil and agree upon the release of that which is good, it is helpful to join with others in agreement with our prayer requests. Our prayers are strengthened as we pray in unity and in love and compassion for one another.

XVI. Suggestions on the Mechanics of Prayer

- a. Pray with specifics. It is better to pray for an individual by name than for a nation of individuals. It is better to pray for Bill with a broken leg than a general prayer for all the sick in the hospitals. At least intermix your general prayers (which are better than no prayers) with specific prayers.
- b. Set aside a special time of the day. **Dan 6:10**. An early time is helpful because it can be before people get up and it sets a priority to your day.
- c. Use a prayer list or prayer notebook to cover the things you want to pray for or the people that you want to pray for.
- c. Limit distractions. Turn off your T.V. and your phone. Turn off your computer.
- d. Pray out loud
- e. Shut your eyes to limit distractions
- f. Find a private place. Perhaps use an unused room, a closet or a garden or go for a walk.
- g. Sometimes pray with another person
- h. Pray with a Bible at hand or near.
- i. Pray without ceasing. Pray on and off all day and all night. Pray as you work, as you drive, as you walk and and as you work on projects.
- j. Pray as the Holy Spirit directs. You may hear news or read a FaceBook post that causes you to pray. You may be prompted to pray when you run across the sick or the homeless. Be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

XVII. Positions of Prayer and Worship Victor Hugo wrote in *Les Miserables*: Certain thoughts are prayers. There are moments when, whatever be the attitude of the body, the soul is on its knees."

- a. Standing-Luke 18:10-13); 1 Sam. 1:26; 1 Kings 8:14, 55; 2 Chron. 20:9; Mark 11:25-26 (Jewish Amidah-19 Blessings; repeated 3 times per day)
- b. On our knees-1 Kings 8:54; 2 Chron. 6:13; Dan. 6:10; Is. 45:23; Acts 7:60; Acts 9:40; 20:36; 21:5; Eph. 3:14; 2 Kings 17:31; Psm. 95:3-7; Psm. 5:7; 138:2; Luke 22:41-44
- c. In our beds-Psm. 4:4; Psm. 63:6; Psm 77:6
- d. Hands lifted up-1 Tim. 2:8; Psm. 28:2; 77:2; 141:2; 143:5; Psm. 88:9; 1 Kings 8:22, 38, 54; Psm. 63:4;
- e. Prostrate-Luke 26:38-39; Gen. 24:26, 52; Ex. 4:31; Ex. 12:27; Matt. 26:39; Mark 14:35
- f. Sitting-2 Sam. 7:18; Matt. 20:30; Neh. 1:4
- g. Bowing down-Psm. 5:7; Ex. 34:8; Elijah put his face between his knees as he was praying for rain. 1 Kings 18:42.
- h. Walking-2 Kings 4:35

XVIII. Things to Pray for. John 5:14-15: "This is the confidence we have in approaching God, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And we know that if he hears us, whatever we ask-we know that we have what we asked of him." The list below is illustrative, not exhaustive. God is interested in your needs and what is in your heart. Likewise we need to listen to God and be interested in what he desires. God wants us to be open for praying for others, for the church and for the world. Also God may want us to be his answer to someone else's prayer.

- a. Salvation-Workers into the harvest and that the lost would be saved -Luke 10:2
- b. Healing-James 5:6,14,15; Psm. 30:2; Acts 28:8; Naaman the leper (Jesus pointed out there were many lepers in Israel but God chose to heal only Naaman). For health-2 Cor. 12:7-9.

- c. Deliverance- Psm. 31:1; Rom 15:30; 2 Cor. 1:10; Rom. 60:11; Psm. 59:1-2; 69:13; 79:9; Psm. 85:7; Ex. 2:23; Ex. 3:7; Psm. 31:14-15; 34:7; 108:6l; 140:1,4,6,8; 144:7,8,11. This also includes deliverance from trouble. James 5:13
- d. Prayer relating to the Spiritual Gifts-1 Cor. 14:13-15
- e. Prayers to have children –Psm. 113:9; (Leah-Gen. 29:31; Rachel-Gen. 30:1; Sarah-Gen 18:12, Gen. 23:1; Hannah 1 Sam 1:12-15 ; Rebecah Gen 25:21; Elizabeth (Mother of John) Luke 1:7, 13, 57 ; Mary (Mother of Jesus-incarnation) God is in the business of creating life out of nothing.
- f. Protection and Safety-Psm 7:1; Psm. 16:1; 17:7-9,13; Psm. 18:3,; Psm. 20:1; Psm. 31:2; 35:1; 54:1-4; Psm 59:1; 70:1-2; Psm. 140:4; Psm 91; Psm. 92:10; 97:10; 119:154, 156, 159, 176; Psm. 121:1-8; Psm. 143:8-10; 2 Sam. 15:3 (David prayed that the Lord would turn Ahitophel’s counsel into foolishness).
- g. To Share the Word-Acts 4:23-31; Eph. 6:19-20; Col. 4:24; 2 Thes:3:1-2; Luke 10:2
- h. Strength-Eph. 3:14-19; Psm. 80:16; Psm. 138:3;
- i. For people in authority-1 Tim. 2:1-4; Psm. 20:9; 72:15, 17 (prayer for Solomon); 1 Pe. 2:13-17
- k. Before Big Decisions and For Direction (Jesus prayed all night before selecting disciples-Luke 6:12,13); Psm. 119:133; Psm. 143:8-10;
- l. For individual repentance-Joel 2:13; Prov. 28:13; 1 Jn. 1:9
- m. For corporate and national repentance (“If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”)- 2 Chron. 7:14 ; Neh. 1:4,6; Psm. 11:3-“When the foundations are being destroyed , what can the righteous do?” I believe that the answer is to pray. Joel 2:17;
- n. For everyday concerns. Parking space prayers, children, spouses, health, pastors, healing, peace. God knows our needs for clothing, the hairs of our head, etc.
- o. For our enemies Matt. 5:43-45; Luke 6:28; Rom. 12:20-21. Our hearts are to be large in prayer. We even pray for those who mistreated us. Our prayers are to fall on the evil and the just. The sun rises on the evil and just and the rain falls on the evil and just. Luke 6:35.
- p. Binding and Loosing-Matt:18:19-20
- q. For the peace of Jerusalem and Israel-Psm 122:6; Dan. 9:16; Jer. 15:5; Psm. 25:22; 53:6;
- r. For one another-Cor. 13:9; Philip. 1:3; Philip. 1:9; Col. 4:12; 1 Thes. 3:10; 1 Thes. 5:25; 2 Thes. 1:11; 2 Tim. 1:3;
- s. That our eyes may be open to our calling and inheritance-Eph. 1:16-19; Philemon 1:4-7
- t. To know the will of God-Col. 1:9
- u. For holiness-1 Thes. 3:11-13
- v. For supply-1 Tim. 5:5; Moses-manna (Deut. 8:16; Jn. 6:31); Elijah-bread, ravens (1 Kings 17:4); Jesus-feeding the multitudes (Matt. 14:13-21; Matt. 15:32-34).
- w. That Christ will manifest Himself to us-Jn. 14:21
- x. For the Holy Spirit-Jn 14:21; Eph. 6:18
- y. For Unity-One with the Father; one with Jesus; one with the Holy Spirit and one with one another-Jn. 17:20-23; Jn. 17:26
- z. For help-Psm. 18:6, 18, 19; Psm. 35:1,4; Psm. 78:9; 86:14-17; 94:17-19; Gen. 16:11;
- aa. For restoration of the joy of the Lord-Psm. 51:12; Psm. 85:4-6;
- ab. To dwell in the House of the Lord and experience the presence of God-Psm. 22:4; 26:8; 27:4;
- ac. Restoration-Psm 80:3-4,7,19; 85:4-7; 2 Cor. 13:11; Psm. 119:176; Psm. 126:4.
- ad. For God’s favor-Psm. 90:17; Psm. 30:5,7
- ae. For victory and defeat of the enemy-Psm. 144:5; Psm. 108:12-13;
- af. For success in our mission. Abraham’s servant prayed for success in his mission to find a wife for Isaac. -Gen. 24:12-14; 45; Psm. 20:4; Psm. 118:25

- ag. For boldness in sharing the Gospel-[Acts 4:29](#); [Eph. 6:18-20](#); We need to pray that the Gospel will be spread throughout the world pursuant to [Matt. 28:19,20](#). Are we forgetting to pray for lost people and lost countries? We need to pray for laborers to be sent into the harvest; for protection of those who are so called; for the establishment of indigenous churches; for the conversion of lost people; for the defeat of spiritual authorities that enslave people and countries into darkness, bondage, slavery and false religion.
- ah. For direction (which may also include signs from God)-Servant of Abraham-[Gen 24:12-15](#); Gideon-fleece ([Judges 6:36-40](#)); the sun moving backward. [Psm. 143:8](#);
- ai. For blessings on ourselves and our families-[Gen. 25:1](#); [Gen. 32:26-28](#); God showed Abraham favor in all that he did. [Gen. 21:22](#). We can pray for the favor of God in all of our undertakings.
- aj. For the fruits of the Spirit
- ak. Wise Government-Solomon's prayer pleased God. He asked for wisdom to govern his people well instead of long life, or wealth or death for his enemies ([2 Chron. 1:10,11](#)).
- al. Prayer of Jabez. It is ok to ask God to bless you and your endeavors and to keep you from harm. Jabez valued God's ability to bless him.-[1 Chron. 4:10](#); for blessings-[Psm. 144:11-15](#);
- am. For forgiveness-[Psm. 19:12-13](#); [Psm. 79:8-9](#);
- an. For death-Samson; [Elijah 19:4](#); [1 Kings 19:4](#)
- ao. For the desires of our heart.-[Psm. 20:4](#); [21:2](#);
- ap. For mercy-[Psm. 30:8-10](#); [Psm. 119: 132](#); [Psm. 123:3](#); [130:1-3](#); [140:6](#);
- aq. For joy-[Psm. 30:10-12](#); [Psm. 43:3](#);
- ar. For leadership and guidance-[Psm. 31:3](#);
- as. From experiencing shame-[Psm. 31:17](#); [71:1](#);
- at. That lying lips be silenced-[Psm. 31:18](#)
- au. Deliverance from fear-[Psm. 34:4](#);
- av. When we are worried-[Psm. 55:22](#) ("Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fail."); [1 Pet. 5:7](#);
- aw. For help-[Psm. 69:1-4](#), [14](#), [15](#); [121:1-2](#);
- ax. For salvation-[Psm. 69:13](#); [80:1-2](#); [108:6](#);
- ay. For judgment upon those who do sin and evil-[Psm. 69:22-28](#); The psalmists made imprecations upon doers of evil and cried for justice for those who are oppressed by evil and God's judgment upon those who do evil. [Psm. 79:6, 12](#); [82:8](#); [83:9-18](#); [94:1-7](#); [96:13](#);
- az. For the problems of age-[Psm. 71:9](#); [18](#)
- ba. For life-[Psm. 20:4](#); [102:24](#); [118:17-18](#); [119:17, 175](#); [143:11](#);
- bb. For peace—[Psm. 85:9](#); [Jn. 14:27](#); [Phil. 4:6-7](#); [2 Cor. 13:11](#); [Rom. 5:1](#); [Nu. 6:25-26](#); [Is. 9:6](#); [Rom. 8:6](#); [Col 3:15](#);
- bc. For Rest-[Matt. 11:28-30](#); [Psm. 62:1](#); [Jer. 6:16](#); [Psm. 4:8](#); [Psm. 23:1-2](#); [Matt. 11:29-30](#); [Heb. 4:9, 11](#);
- bd. For wisdom-[Psm. 90:12](#); [Prov. 2:3](#); [James 1:8](#);
- be. For God's love-[Psm. 90:14](#);
- bf. For gladness-[Psm. 90:15](#);
- bg. For protection—All of [Psm. 96](#)
- bh. For favor-[Psm. 102:13](#);
- bi. When we are in anguish-[Psm. 118:5-7](#)
- bj. When we are about to fall-[Psm. 118:13-14](#)
- bk. For understanding to learn God's commands-[Psm. 119:73](#)
- bl. That God will sustain us—[Psm. 119:116-117](#);
- bm. That God will act and move-[Psm. 119:126](#)
- bn. That sin will not rule over us-[Psm. 119:133](#);

- bo. For freedom-Psm. 124:7-8;
- bp. For the presence of God-Psm. 132:6-7; 144:5;
- bq. For courage-Psm. 138:3;
- br. That God's purpose will be done in our life-Psm. 138:8,9;
- bs. God even allows us to pour out our complaints, woes and sorrows to him—Psm. 142:1-7;
- bt. To send workers to bring people into the kingdom of God. Luke 10:4; Matt. 9:36-38
- bu. That the word of God be honored and that those spreading the word may be delivered from evil and wicked people. 2 Thes.2-3.
- bv. That the Holy Spirit would strengthen our inner being. Eph. 3:16
- bw. That we might grasp the extent of God's love for us and experience the extent of God's love. Eph. 3:18-20
- bx. That our love for Jesus and for one another might grow more in knowledge and insight. Phil. 1:9
- by. For the persecuted. Phil. 9:19-20
- bz. For opportunities to proclaim the Gospel of Christ and for clarity in proclaiming the Gospel when we get the opportunity. Col. 4:3-4
- ca. That God may count us worthy of his calling and fulfill all the purposes of our life which are good and which are prompted by faith. 2 Thes. 1:11
- cb. For daily needs. Matt. 6:33
- cc. To resist temptation. Matt. 6:33
- cd. For Israel to be saved. Rom. 10:1
- ce. For the lost. Jn 17:20-26.
- cf. For deliverance and protection for those spreading the Gospel. Paul was thankful for the favor he had received from God due to the prayers of Christians in Corinth and the rest of Greece. 2 Cor. 1:11
- cg. To remove obstacles—2 Thes. 3:11
- ch. That our love for one another may increase. 1 Thes. 3:12
- ci. That our hearts be strengthened so that we can be holy and blameless when Jesus returns. 1 Thes. 3:13.
- cj. For everyone. We lift up prayers, intercession and thanksgiving to God. 1 Tim. 2:1
- ck. That our faith in Christ will be shared with others. Philemon 1:4-6
- cl. We pray for our brothers and sisters who fall into sin. 1 Jn. 5:16
- cm. For good health and that all may go well. 3 Jn. 2.
- cn. For deliverance from the demonic-Mark 9:29
- co. Pray regarding the timing of end-time events. Mark 13:18-19

XIX. Prayer Helps and Aids

- a. Prayer Closets-In secret-Matt. 6:6
- b. Prayer Diaries
- c. Prayer Calendars
- d. Prayer and Intercession Boards; Sticky notes with prayers and needs; Chalk Boards, Bulletin Boards and White Boards to keep track of requests etc.
- e. Stations of the Cross
- f. Phylacteries
- g. Other: Names of God (OT); Names of Jesus
- h. Music

- i. Prayer Groups. Moses on the Mountain with Aaron and Hur holding his arms up. The Christians in the Upper Room, A three-fold cord is not easily broken. God wants us to join with other believers in prayer.
- j. Prayer Gardens (Garden of Gethsemane; Prayer Gardens at retreats such as those which used to be at Glorietta, New Mexico and Ridgecrest, North Carolina.)
- k. Remembering what God has done-**Psm. 143:5**;
- l. Prayer lists: For the lost, suffering, church, relatives, missions, spreading the gospel; local churches; for political and religious leaders; the sick, hurting, persecuted and suffering saints.
- m. Using globes and maps;
- n. Using pictures
- o. Some find incense and candles to be helpful. The Jews had both in the Tabernacle and the Temple.

We should set up a regular time of prayer. Also we are to be faithful in our prayers. We are taught be regular in our prayers. **Rom. 12:12**.

XX. What is Intercession? It is standing between; PRAY FOR OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM PRAY FOR YOU. **Nu. 6:23; Job 42:8; Is. 62:6; Psm 122:6; 1 Tim. 2:1; James 5:14.**

- a. Abraham-Abraham prays for Abimelech, King of Geron, who had seized Abraham's wife by mistake and God heals Abimelech and his family from sterility. **Gen. 20:17-18** Abraham also intercedes and got God to reduce the number needed to spare Sodom and Gomorrah from destruction from 50 righteous men to 10 (the number of a Jewish prayer minyan).-**Gen.18:20-32**
- b. Daniel-for restoration of Jerusalem-**Dan 9:1-2; 4-19**;
- c. Nehemiah-for restoration of Jerusalem-**Neh. 1:1-2:8**;
- d. Intercession by Moses-**Ex. 17: 11, 13; Deut. 9:18, 19, 25; Ex.32:11-14, 32,33; Num. 21:7,8** (Moses interceded for the removal of the serpents.) for Mariam-**Nu.12:13**; for Aaron-**Deut. 9:20**
- e. Intercession by the High Priest-Names of tribes on shoulders and on breastplate-**Ex. 28:9, 10, 17-21**.
- f. By Samuel for Israel. **1 Sam 12:19; 23** ("As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you.") There are some occasions when our intercessions may have limited success. Samuel interceded for Saul but Saul still fell under the judgment of God. **1 Sam. 15:10-11,35**.
- g. Intercession for the nation and people of God-**Psm. 74:19**
- h. Intercession by Jesus (the veil was rent so we can pray and come before God ourselves-**Matt. 27:51**; He ever lives to intercede)-**Heb. 5:7,8**. See also **1 Jn. 2:1-2** declaring the intercessory work of Jesus and his atoning sacrifice for us. Jesus is our great high priest. He is a priest under the order of Melchizedek instead of under Levi. He lives eternally to intercede for us. **Heb. 6:6, 10, 20; Heb. 9:24**; The blood of Jesus covers the altar of prayer making it holy. **Heb. 12:24**. The blood of those who die for Jesus also cry out in prayer for justice (like the blood of Abel) and the blood cries out for the return of the eternal judge saying, "How long O Lord". **Rev. 6:10**. Jesus was heard because of his reverent submission to God's will. Jesus prayed with loud cries and tears. **Heb. 5:7**; See also **Is. 53:12; Rom 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 9:24; 1 Tim. 2:5-6**.
- i. Interceding for others-**Col. 4:12**; Epaphras praying for the Colossians-**Col. 4:12** ("He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured."); **Rom. 15:30**-Paul asks his readers to wrestle in prayer for him.
- j. Interceding for quiet lives and spread of the Gospel.-**1 Tim 2:1-2**. Our prayers are to be "requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving for everyone."

- k. Pulling some from the fire-Jude 22-25
- l. Solomon-1 Kings 8:12; 2 Chron. 6
- m. Elijah-1 Kings 17:20-23
- n. Elisha-2 Kings 4:33-36
- o. Isaiah-2 Kings 19
- p. Jeremiah-Jer. 42:2-20
- q. Intercession by the Angel of the Lord to God the Father: “How long will you withhold mercy from Jerusalem and the towns of Judah, which you have been angry with these seventy years.” Zech. 1:12-13.
- r. Peter-Acts 9:40
- s. Mary. Mary interceded to Jesus to help the family that had run out of wine at the marriage at Cana. Jn. 2:3-5
- t. The Church-Acts 12:5-12
- u. Paul- Acts 28:8. Paul also asked the Roman Church to pray for him. Rom. 15:30-32. He asked the church pray that he be delivered from unbelievers in Judea, that his gifts be acceptable to the Jerusalem Saints and that he come safely to Rome.

Jesus is our High Priest. Through his sacrifice and intercession, he allows us to enter into the throne of grace and to pray for ourselves and others. Heb. 4:16. He intercedes for us so that we can intercede for others. Through Jesus, we can approach the very throne of God with “freedom and confidence.” Eph. 3:12.

It is the intercessory work and prayers of Christ that protects us from the condemnation of Satan and others. Rom. 8:34 and 35 says: Who is there to condemn us? For Christ Jesus who died, and more than that, is at the right hand of God and is interceding for us.” Jesus lives eternally and intercedes for us eternally due to his eternal life. Heb. 7:24,25.

Intercession is like friends who broke through the roof and lowered their sick friend down to Jesus. We break heaven’s roof and lift our friends up to Jesus. We have faith for others who are weak and get them before Jesus so that he can heal them. Mark 2:4; Luke 5:17-20. By faith we lift them to Jesus (here they, by faith, climbed up to the roof and lowered their friend down to Jesus) and Jesus saw their faith.

There is also intercession by the Spirit for us when we do not know what to pray. Rom. 8:26-27 says: “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that we cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will.” We are interceded for by the Holy Spirit and we intercede for others. Christ ever lives to intercede for us. See also Jude 20 and Eph. 6:18.

We are not alone and we are not left to our own devices. We have an eternal High Priest who prays and intercedes for us who are so weak and who appears on our behalf to the Father cancelling out the judgment of our sin. We become Sons of God and participate in the joy of the Trinity. Jesus intercedes for us and nothing can separate us from the love of God. .

We often do not know how to pray because we are unsure of God’s will in a particular situation. “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”. The Holy Spirit knows God’s will for us and for every situation. Acts 8:27 says”... the Holy Spirit intercedes for us in accordance with God’s will.”

John Wesley said the following about intercession: “Perhaps we receive few answers to prayer because we do not intercede often enough for others.”

We are to intercede for others. [Gen. 18:23-33](#); [Ex. 32:11](#); [Jas. 5:16](#); [Acts 8:24](#); [2 Tim. 2:1](#); Abraham even interceded for Sodom and Gomorrah.

My outline just touches upon the topic of intercession. In Annex 7 I have set forth an outline utilized in 1984 by a group of prayer warriors of New Covenant Ministries about intercession. That outline covers many of the items and scriptures which they found useful as they engaged in intercession. As the last surviving elder of that church and ministry, I am publishing this outline with the prayer that others will be encouraged to pick up the banner of intercession and wage war against those very real forces that have come against the church, the sheep of God. Waging war has its risks. Although we will ultimately be restored, the battlefield of history is covered with those who have been persecuted, wounded and killed for our faith. Make no mistake we are in a real war with real casualties. Also make no mistake, God will restore and raise those who have been injured, suffered and died in this battle. Take prayer and the weapons of your warfare seriously. Your enemies are real. However, your ultimate victory is assured.

XXI. Confession as a Part of Prayer. We need to confess our sins. [Psm. 32: 3-6](#); Moving from unrighteousness to righteousness-[James 5:16-18](#); [Psm. 32:5](#); [Psm. 38:18](#); [Is. 6:1-5](#); [59:1-2](#); [1 Jn. 1:9](#). The need to confess-[Psm. 66:18](#); [69:5](#); [139:3-4](#); [51:17](#); [Matt. 6:12](#); [2 Chron. 7:14](#); [David's confession after he sinned with Bathsheba-Psm. 51:3-5](#); [10-12, 14](#); [Prov. 28:13](#).

Our great sin is that we believe we have no sin. Many of our sins are unconscious sins. These sins are difficult to confess because we do not recognize them as sin. The unconscious sins are dealt with on the Great Day of Atonement and are also dealt with by the death of Jesus Christ. Other sins are done with “malice and before thought.” It is sin with intent. The purpose of the Great Day of Atonement was to make sure that all sins were dealt with. People were to confess and make amends for known sins. God would cover through the sacrifice on the Great Day of Atonement unknown and unrealized sins.

In addition, we are to confess our sins one to another and to pray for one another so that we may be healed. [James 5:16](#)

Confession of sin can be individual like Isaiah's in Isaiah 6 or like David's confession of sin but it can also be corporate or a nation's sin such as in Daniel 9 or Nehemiah's prayer. [Neh. 1:5-11](#).

Confession and making amends to those we have injured is a part of Scripture. We find the same principle set forth in Step 9 of Alcoholics Anonymous which is “*make direct amends to such person wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.*”

XXII. Thankfulness as a Part of Prayer. In Paul's letter to the Colossians he writes: “*We always thank God, the father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you....*” [Col. 1:3](#). [Col 2:7](#) says we are to “overflow with thankfulness.” This includes our life, our works and our prayers. Thanksgiving is something we do with our mouth; but what overflows from the mouth comes out of the heart and we must first begin with a thankful heart. [Matt. 12:24, 34](#); [Luke 6:45](#). [Col. 4:6](#) says: “*Do not be anxious about anything but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your requests to God.*” [Col. 4:2](#) instructs us to devote ourselves to prayer being “watchful and thankful.” We need a

thankful heart not a heart of resentment or unthankfulness-Eph. 5:20; Philip. 4:6; Col. 1:3; 3: 14-17; 4:2-4; 1 Thes. 1:2; 1 Thes. 5:16-18; Psm.; 72:18,19; Psm. 97:12; Col. 4:2; Heb. 12:28-29; Psm 118:1-4; Psm 7:17; Is. 25:1. Prayer and thanksgiving go hand in hand. When we pray with thanksgiving, the peace of God guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:6,7. We thank God for his answers to our prayers. Psm 28:6-7; Psm. 30:12; Psm. 50: 14,15; Psm. 116:18; We give thank offerings of prayer with our lips. Psm. 50:23; Psm. 54:7 (We praise God when he delivers us from our troubles; We praise God as he carries out our prayers). Psm. 62:6-8; Psm. 109:30-31. See Annex 10 for some of the things we can be thankful for. We respond to God with love because he hears our prayers. Psm. 116:2; 118:18-21, 28,29.

In Psm. 119:62 it says: "At midnight, I rise to give you thanks for your righteous laws."

When we remember people in our prayers to God, we thank God for them. Philemon 1:4.

We enter the gates of prayer with thanksgiving and praise. Psm. 100:2,4.

When our prayers are answered, we should give thanks and worship God. Gen. 23:48.

1 Thes. 5:16-17 says, "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Failure to give thanks and being ungrateful is sin. Lk. 17:11-19; Rom. 1:21.

Is it possible to weary God with our prayers? I think so. If a child constantly asks all the time for things to supply the selfish wants of the child and never says thank you or develops a relationship we grow weary of being just a source of supply without any other dimension to our relationship. We may even block that child's calls by blocking their phones. Selfish requests without thanks or relationship may result in God putting a "call blocker" on our prayers forcing us to grow up. Even intensely absorbed babies quickly learn to give their parents a smile, promoting us to move heaven and earth for them.

So, give thanks.

XXIII. Listening to God as a Part of Prayer-

Have you ever gotten a phone call from a relative and they did all of talking. They were not interested in anything you thought or had to say. That is what we do sometimes to God. We need to stop, listen to Him, pray over His word and be attentive in addition to passing on our list of pleas and requests. Sometimes, it is time for us to shut up.

God speaks to Peter on Mountain—"Listen to Him (Jesus)". Luke 9:34-35; Zech. 7:13; Is. 50:4; Jn. 6:46; Gal. 3:5; Eccl. 5:2; Psm. 95:8 (As we hear his voice, we do not harden our hearts but we keep them tender before God.) There is a principle of sowing and reaping. If we expect God to listen to us, then we need to listen to him. Zech. 7:13: "When I called, they did not listen; so when they called, I would not listen, " says the Lord Almighty.

Prayer gives us insights especially as we listen to the voice of God.. After prayer, Jesus knew his mission and God's plans for himself. Luke 9:18-22; See also Luke 11:34. Jesus said in John 8:47:"He who belongs to God hears what God says."

Sometimes, we may hear God speak through silence. Sometimes, we may hear God speak directly. Other times, we may hear God speak as we read Scripture, interact with others, listen to music or hear a sermon.

Prayer is not just about talking to God, but it is about listening to God. Isn't it time for you to listen to God?

XXIV. Praise and Worship as a Part of Prayer—Worship is separate but often accompanies prayer; *Is. 29:13; Jn. 4:24; Psm. 66:20; 69:30-31; 103:1-18* (Our soul blesses the Lord; the Lord's Prayer "Hallowed be Thy Name"); *Psm. 145: 17-20* Using music and praise can be a form of prayer. Many years ago I met a woman who prayed to God by singing to God extemporaneously. Praise and worship can encourage people to be prayed for and to pray for others. We come into God's presence with thanksgiving and praise and worship. *Psm. 95:1-7; 99:1-3; 103:21-22; 103:10; 119:164; 138:1-3; Heb. 12:28; 13:15;*

Abraham gave glory to God for his promise that he would have an heir. *Rom. 4:20-21.*

In *Acts 16:25-26* (after being beaten in Philippi and thrown into jail), Paul and Silas were "praying and singing hymns to God" and the foundations of the prison were shaken and all the doors "flew open." Sometimes Jesus brings success after we have been beaten instead of delivering us from the beatings to start with. Even though Paul and Silas did not seem to have the victory, they praised God and that is when He brought the victory. Not only were the doors "thrown open" but the jailer and his household were saved and baptized.

Praise is part of our prayers. It is also part of our reason for being. In heaven, God's presence is surrounded day and night by praise and worship. *Rev. 4:6-11.* When Jesus was born and came to live among us, the heavens broke forth in praise and worship. *Lk. 2:13,14.*

XXV. Praying the Word of God See Annex 8 for examples. Praying Scriptures for our families; for salvation; for healing; for direction. We "remind" God of his word. We confess it. *Psm. 119:169, 171.* (Sometimes it is better to be silent than to speak the words of doubt and unbelief.) See Zachariah in *Luke 1:16-20.* Speaking the word of God and the promises of God is a first cousin to prayer itself. It is the substance born of faith in what God has said and is spoken back to God in faith.

We take refuge in God's word. We "remind" God of what he has said (He does not forget His word but it evidences that we remember and rely upon his promises.). For instance Jacob, when he was praying for the safety of himself and his family, reminded God of his promises to make him a nation. *Gen. 32:11-13.*

XXVI. Prayer and Fasting—*Neh. 1:4,6; Joel 1:14; 2:15;*

The people of Ninevah fasted as part of their repentance during the time of Jonah. *Jonah 3:5-7.*

By fasting and prayer evil king Ahab was able to at least delay God's judgment upon him for all of his evil. *1 Kings 21:27-28.* Even though the day of judgment was delayed, the judgment ultimately did come and his blood was spilled through the arrow of his enemies the King and soldiers of Aram.

David's fast due to God's judgment on his son because of David's sin with Bathsheba and the death of Uriah was ineffectual. **2 Sam. 12:16**. Even so, David was a man after God's own heart and his dynasty was established forever through his descendant, Jesus Christ our eternal king. David did have another son with Bathsheba which was Solomon who became a rich and glorious king and established Solomon's Temple. Jesus however, established the true Temple of God and the Holy City of God that would last eternally.

Jesus when he dealt with the unclean spirit-This goes out only by prayer **and fasting** (**Matt. 17:21; Mk. 9:29**). David fasted for 7 days-**Sam. 12:15-22**; Also see **Psm. 69:11-12**; fasts generally run from morning to evening; the Day of Atonement was a fast-**Jer. 36:6**; Sackcloth, ashes; garments torn-**2 Sam 13:19; 1 Kings 21:27; Lamentations 2:10; Jonah 3:5-8**; Fasts to remember the captivity of the Jews-**Jer. 52:6-7; Zech. 8:19; 2 Kings 25:8-9; Zech. 7:3; 8:19**; Rending our hearts not our clothes-**Joel 2:12-13**; Anna fasted and prayed in the Temple. **Luke 2:37**; John's disciples fasted and prayed. **Luke 5:33, 35**. However, fasting alone is not enough. The Pharisees fasted regularly two days per week. **Luke 18:11-12**.

True fasting in God's eyes is seen in **Isaiah 58**. True fasting is "to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and to break the cord of every yoke." **Is. 58:5-7**.

XXVII. Prayer as Spiritual Warfare-**Eph. 6:2,12; Dan. 10:10,12** We also pray against being ensnared by the attractions and things of this world. We pray against being enslaved by our internal desires, pride, lusts, covetousness, rebellion etc. We pray against evil and we bind and loose in faith. We capture lofty ideas and the spirits. **2 Cor. 10:4** We pray for those being taken captive by false ideas, ideology, demonic spirits, and the forces of darkness. We pull down spiritual walls like the walls of Jericho. **Jude 22; James 5:19-20; 2 Cor. 1:11; James 4:7; Eph. 6:10-11**. Using the gifts of discernment and words of knowledge, we engage in spiritual warfare. Praying against wickedness. **Psm. 55:9**-"Confuse the wicked, O Lord, confound their speech for I see violence and strife in the city." **Psm. 141:5, 6, 10**.

We bind and loose. We pray that curses will be broken, that Satan and demons will be cast out of situations; we pray that the God of this World ("Satan") will not blind people and that people will be loosed from besetting sins; that the attacks of the enemy upon all of us, including our youth, will be broken; that people will be loosed from bondage to drugs, deceit, the flesh and from false doctrines and false teachers.

God grants his people the authority to bind and loose. **At Matt. 16:19** Jesus granted to his disciples the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven. "I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven". This ability to bring heaven to earth was further clarified in **John 20:22** which states: "And with that he breathed on them and said, Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." So we bind evil forces and loose forgiveness that heaven may come to earth and evil be restrained. Have we the church engaged in enough prayer to bind evil and extend forgiveness and grace?

Sometimes active evil spiritual forces may be blocking or delaying the answers to prayers. A great example of this in Daniel where the "Prince of Persia" was blocking an answer to Daniel's prayers for 21 days. See **Daniel 10:11-13**.

XXVIII. Praying as Watchmen on the Walls. Watching. **Is. 62:8** says, "I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the Lord, give yourselves no

rest and give him no rest til he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.” We are to watch and pray and beseech God for ourselves, our neighbors, our community and our world.

Luke 12:35-40. We are to be ready to serve God. We expect his coming. We do his will and don't take advantage of others. See also **Mark 13:35-37.** At verse 37, Jesus says, “What I say to you, I say to everyone. Watch!” A great example of a worthy watchman was the Chinese Christian and author “Watchman Nee” who died in a Chinese prison camp because of his Christian witness. Other verses on watching are: **Is.62:6; Matt. 6:38, 40; Mark 14:38 (watch and pray); Mark 13:37** Watching and praying- **Matt. 26:38, 40, 41.** We need to be alert and watchful in prayer. (**Eph. 6:18**) Jesus told his disciples to watch and pray but they fell asleep. We need to pray with alert minds. We give God our best and finest attention. It is a disgrace for a soldier to fall asleep on duty. Likewise as watchmen, we fight sleep, tiredness and mental laziness. We watch and pray with attention and clarity of mind. We are to watch to see what God will do; we are to call upon God with alert minds; we are to be full of the Holy Spirit like the alert brides maids who kept their lights full of oil and trimmed waiting upon the return of God (**Matt. 25:1-13**). We are to pray with expectation. We are to warn the people of God as we see the enemy approach.

We are to be like those rebuilding Jerusalem. We work but we keep the sword of the Spirit close at hand. We keep a trumpet nearby to warn our fellow workers. We watch and we pray. Eyes may be closed but the eyes of the Spirit are always open and ready.

Col. 4:2 instructs us as follows: “Devote yourselves to prayer being watchful and thankful.”

Part of the Christian life is waiting. We wait for God to move on our prayers. We are vigilant like Elijah praying six times and waiting upon the small cloud to get larger. **1 Kings 18:44.** We wait upon Christ to return as the virgins waiting with their lamps for the return of the bridegroom. **Matt. 25:5-10. Phil. 3:20** says “and we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Sometimes we fail as watchmen. Peter, James and John were invited to accompany Jesus as he entered into the Garden of Gethesemene. Jesus asked them to pray. Instead their flesh was weak and they failed Jesus in prayer and would soon fail him again and flee shortly after prayer when Jesus was arrested. We too are invited to “watch and pray.” Will we accept this invitation or will we roll over and go to sleep like the disciples. Read **Matt. 26:36-46.**

John Wesley defined “watching” as being “inwardly attending to God, to know His will, gain power to do it, and attain to the blessings we desire.”

In Ephesians 6:10-20, Paul talks about putting on the whole armor of God. Although putting on the armor of God is relevant to our entire life, it is particularly relevant to our prayer life. For it is in prayer that we so often struggle against our enemies which are spiritual in nature as opposed to flesh and blood. In prayer we use the shield of faith and fight spiritual authorities with the sword of the Spirit. It is with these spiritual weapons that we make all kinds of prayers and requests (**Eph. 6:18**) and that we in a spirit of alertness pray for all of the saints.

XXIX. Meditation and Prayer-**Psm 19:14; 104:34; Psm. 119:25,27, 48; Psm. 119:23, 95,97, 99, 148; Phillipians 4:8; Heb. 3:1.** Some of the things you can meditate on are: the names of God in the Old Testament; the names of Christ; the sufferings of Christ; various scriptures. We remember God and all that he has done. **Psm. 63:6; Psm. 77:4-12; Psm. 105:5** The failure to meditate causes us to turn back in

the day of battle. **Psm. 78:9-11; Psm 78:14-39; 41, 43.** God remembers. He remembers the covenant he made with Abraham; the oaths he swore to Isaac (**Psm. 105:8-9, 42**). We too remember and think upon the word of God, his fulfillment of his word and his promises. He remembers and we remember. **Psm. 107:43; 111:2-4; 119:11, 15, 27, 48,95, 97, 99; 143:5; 145:5.**

Likewise **Psm. 119:97** instructs to meditate upon God's word "all day long." We are to live a life full of meditation and prayer.

James 1:24 says we "look intently" at the perfect law that gives us freedom . We meditate on God's word and then we live and do God's word.

Isaac meditated. **Gen. 24:63.** Some verses on meditation include: **1 Tim. 4:15; Psm. 4:4; Psm. 48:9; 63:6; Psm. 119:15, 23,27, 48, 78, 99; Psm. 143:5; Psm. 39:3; Psm. 77:12; Josh. 1:8**

One good time to mediate and to think about God is while we are in our bed through "the watches of the night." **Psm. 63:6.** In **Psm. 119:55** it says, "In the night I remember your name, O Lord." So in the night we can meditate upon the names of God, the characteristics of God and the names of Jesus Christ. **Psm. 119:148** also says: "My eyes stay open through the watches of the night that I may meditate on your promises." Many of our defenses are at their lowest while we sleep and when we are tired. Meditating upon God's word and his actions on behalf of His people strengthen us "through the watches of the night."

We meditate upon God's decrees. (**Psm. 119:23**) We also meditate upon the wonders he has performed. **Psm. 119:27.** We further meditate upon the things of God and whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent and praise worthy. **Col. 4:8.**

Our primary focus in mediation however is upon Christ for he "is the image of the invisible God, the first born over all creation." **Col 1:15-20.** In **Hebrews 3:1** we are commanded to "fix our thoughts on Jesus...." **Heb. 12:3** instructs as follows: "Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary. " Likewise, **Heb. 12:2** says that we are to "fix our eyes on Jesus." As we pray, we remember Jesus and his commands, his life, his sufferings, his endurance and our hope that He is coming again. We also remember the promises of God. We not only mediate upon them but we claim them for our life and the lives of the people and nations that we intercede for.

XXX. Dealing with Unanswered Prayer- For reasons we may or may not understand, not every prayer is answered. **2 Sam. 12:15-21.** Even though David's prayer was not answered he went into God's house and worshipped.

Sometimes we don't have because we do not ask or we ask with wrong motives. **James 4:2-3;** Other times we have prayer blockers in our lives. See Section VI. However, often there may be deeper reasons why we may not see our prayers that are heartfelt, and even in the will of God, not answered.

On occasion, God immediately answers our prayer. At other times, our timing is not god's timing. We may need to wait to see our prayers answered. A child may pray to own and to drive an automobile but the parent will probably wait until the child is old enough to drive, to obtain a license or to pay the insurance on the car. Timing is important.

Endurance and patience are needed. **Psm. 40:1.** We are to sow our seeds of prayer at all times—in the morning, noon and night. We do not know when our prayers might be answered. We are commanded to pray continuously and in faith. The patience of Job. **James 5:7-11.** We consider Jesus and his perseverance that we do not grow weary and lose heart. **Heb. 12:3.** **Hebrews 12:1** says that we are to run the race marked out for us with perseverance. Part of the running of our race is to be faithful and diligent in our prayers. Jesus' prayer in the Garden to be delivered from death was not answered then—**Psm. 22:1-2; Luke 22:42-44; Matt. 26:39;** He prayed three times—**Matt. 26:39, 42, 44;** but it was answered later by his resurrection and deliverance from eternal death and he brought a nation of believers also to experience resurrection life; Paul's thorn in the flesh—**2 Cor. 12:7-9;** three times Paul prayed to have it removed—"But he (God)said to me, my grace is sufficient for you, for my (God's) power is made perfect in weakness ...for when I am weak, then I am strong."

1. Our prayers will be answered.
2. They are not always answered the way we think they will be answered.
3. They are answered on God's time table—not on our own. They are answered with God's timing.
4. Sometime the answer is on the other side of suffering—on the other side of the garden and the other side of the cross. But on the other side is resurrection life. Some times our prayers are answered in heaven. We sow now; but reap eternal fruit later. We may even die, but God's answers will come. **Heb. 11:13, 39.** Paul saw suffering as an honor especially if it was because of Christ. **Phil. 1:29.** Satan works to cause us to believe that our sufferings are for reasons other than our devotion to Christ. For instance, many people have lost their livelihoods because of their devotion to Christ but have been told it was for other reasons.

I believe it is a sin to heap guilt upon others when their prayers are unanswered. Perhaps the prayers are unanswered because we did not join them in prayer or intercede for them with sufficient faith. We need to look at ourselves as intercessors first. When people are weak through their failures or illnesses or sorrow, it is up to us to bear their burden and stand in the breach praying for their recovery and ability to return to the spiritual battle lines. We are to intercede for them and stand in the gap when they are unable to stand. **Mark 2:4; Luke 5:17-20.** We are certainly not to join the taunts of the enemy and condemn them for their weakness while wounded and hurt. Christians are not to kill their own wounded but instead are to support and comfort them.

Sometimes it is better not to have our prayers answered than to get what we prayed for and the results of the prayer. **Psm. 106:14-15.**

On occasion we may experience a silence of God to our prayers. Even Jesus experienced this. See Mark 15:34 where Jesus said, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me." The words of Jesus echo **Psm. 22:1-3** which says: "My God, my God why have you forsaken me? Why are so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry out by day but you do not answer, by night, and am not silent. Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel." Like Jesus, when our prayers appear to be unanswered we must respond with the cry of faith that "You are enthroned as the Holy One." He is the praise of Israel and of the Gentiles!! God hears the prayers of Jesus and he hears our prayers. **Psm. 22:24.** Jesus experienced the same things that we feel when our prayers appear to be unanswered. Keep in mind, the center of our faith revolves around Jesus dying on the cross and his resurrection. It appears when he dies that his prayers will never be answered. Yet from this horrible event, God brings resurrection life to Jesus and further brings the salvation of a nation of people who

follow Jesus. So have hope even when all appears to be lost. God still is. God is still just. God still loves. And God answers prayer.

A great treatment regarding prayer is found in the Book of Habakkuk. Habakkuk openly complains to God about the fact that God is not hearing his prayers. He says at [Hab. 1:2-3](#):

How long, O Lord must I call for help,
but you do not listen
I cry out to you, "Violence"
but you do not save?
Why do you make me look at injustice?
Why do you tolerate wrong?

At [Hab. 1:13](#) he further says:

Why then do you tolerate the
treacherous?
Why are you silent while the wicked
swallow up those more righteous
than themselves?

God's response is that he punishes the wicked often by utilizing other wicked people who in turn are judged. The fact that there is an ultimate judgment of evil is not the response that Habakkuk wanted to hear.

However God points out that the righteous will live by his faith. ([Hab. 2:4](#)).

Yet despite the fact that Habakkuk does not receive the answer he desires, he expresses one of the greatest statements of faith in the Bible so far as unanswered prayer goes. [Habakkuk 3:16-19](#) says the following:

Yet I will wait patiently for the day of calamity
to come on the nations invading us.
Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines,
though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food,
though there are no sheep in the pens and no cattle in the stalls,
yet I will rejoice in the Lord
I will be joyful in God my Savior.
The Sovereign Lord is my strength;
He makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
He enables me to go on the heights.

Sometimes when our prayers are not answered we find that we must wait. Read [Lamentations 3 especially 3:20-24](#). We have encountered suffering and now we are waiting on God to answer our prayers and bring us deliverance. This is what Jesus did. He offered his cheek to the one who struck him. [Lam. 3:30](#);

We must depend upon God's grace to help us bear an affliction. Paul prayed on three occasions to remove his "thorn in the flesh." Instead God said to him: "my grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness". **2 Cor. 12:8-10**.

We all much prefer to be delivered from our problems, issues or conditions but sometimes God does a higher work in us by conforming us to his son through our suffering and letting us participate in the sufferings of Christ. By this he works in us an everlasting jewel (or pearl) in a way that we do not yet understand but which may ultimately be an eternal benefit and glory.

We are people of faith. When we do not see the answer we are praying for we wait and as we wait the Lord renews our strength. Some of us are called to wait on the answer to the other side of death. Death is an enemy but death has been conquered by Christ. Through the help and sacrifice of Jesus Christ, death will be conquered by us as well. Evil and wrong will be judged. There is no escape. Evil may be judged on this earth or at the Last Judgment but it will be judged. Likewise the prayers of faith will be answered either during our life or after our life; but they shall be answered. God is sovereign. He is in charge. Our prayers will not be denied. The answers of Christ are "Yes" and "Amen."

God is just. God loves us. When our prayers are not answered, we by faith depend upon his love and his justice. God knows and what he does is good. This is our faith. The greatest example of this is the death of Jesus with God's answer being resurrection life after the worst was done. So will it be for you.

XXXI. Examples of Great Prayers especially those made by others-See Annex 6.

XXXII. Praying in the name of Jesus. **Jn. 16:23; Jn. 15:16; 16:23-24; Eph. 2:18; Eph 5:20; Col 3:17; 1 Pet. 2:5;** The name of Jesus has power in every area including binding and loosing, deliverance and prayers for every situation. The names of God are holy and have great power in the Old Testament. This is even also true in the New Testament. **Psm. 115:1; 119:55;** It is also true in the end time discussed in the Book of Revelation. **Rev. 2:17; 3:12;**

Praying in the name of Jesus-**Jn. 14:13; Jn. 15:16; Jn. 16:23 ; Col 3:17;** There is power in the name. In fact we are saved through repentance and we are baptized in the name of Jesus. **Acts 2:38.** In fact, Acts 10:43 says we receive forgiveness through the name of Jesus.

There is authority in the name. We need to stay connected to the vine. **John 14:7 says, "If you remain in me and my word remains in you, ask whatever you wish and it will be given to you."**

The name of Jesus is powerful. Spiritual authorities must bow to it; demons flee from it; people are healed and restored by it. In **Acts 3:12** a lame man was healed as Peter and John went to the temple to pray. Peter said this about the healing to the people: **"It is Jesus' name and faith that through him that has given this complete healing to him as you can see."** Also Peter told the high priests: **"It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth...that this man stands before you healed."**

The name of Jesus is not a magic talisman but has real power. It is a name to be used by the believer. The use of the name by unbelievers may have unexpected consequences unless they are calling upon the name of Jesus for salvation. **Acts 19:14.**

We are protected by the power of the name of Jesus. **Jn. 17:11.**

We honor the name of God. The failure to honor God's name brings a curse upon us. **Mal. 2:2**. We do not take the name of God in vain (Breaking the Third Commandment); **Ex. 20:7; Deut. 3:10-11; Lev. 19:12; Psm. 139:20-21; Matt. 5:33-37; Psm. 111:7-9; Psm 99:1-3; Matt. 6:9**

David wrote in **Psm 20:7**: "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God." In **Malachi 1:11**, God says this regarding His name: "My name will be great among the nations from the rising to the setting sun. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to my name, because my name will be great among the nations says the Lord Almighty."

Jesus prayed for his disciples in **John 17:11-12**: "Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me....While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by the name you gave me." The name of God helps to protect us.

When Solomon dedicated the Temple to God, he said what God had said about the Temple: "My name shall be there, so that you will hear the prayers your servants pray toward this place". **1 Kings 8:29**. Part of repentance and having our prayers reach the ears of God is using the name of God. Solomon said we are to "confess your name." **1 Kings 8:33, 35**. The Temple of Solomon bore the name of God. **1 Kings 8:43; 1 Kings 9:3**.

Christ has given us his name. By the name of Jesus miracles will be done and captives will be set free. The name of Jesus Christ is upon us and we are called "Christians." The name of Jesus is upon our heads and upon our hands. We take the words of Jesus into our mind, and our hands and feet are those of Jesus and bring blessing to the world.

XXXIII. Jesus is the answer to Every Prayer-In Jesus is all wisdom. In Christ are hidden all of the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. **Col. 2:3**. In him is the way even to eternal life. In Jesus are all of the riches of God. In Jesus is all healing, all deliverance and all restoration. Every prayer really has only one answer. That answer is Jesus Christ. All authority is given to him. There is nothing good that comes which does not come but through him. When we ask, God's answer is Jesus. All honor and authority has been given to him. There is no answer which is better than Jesus. Give us Jesus lest we die.

XXXIV. Prayer and Human Touch-holding hands in prayer; laying on of hands-prayers of ordination; anointing of oil-the sick; Jesus touched people. People touched Jesus and he touched them.-**Heb. 6:2; 1 Tim 5:22; 1 Tim 8:14; 2 Tim. 1:6; Acts 9:17; Acts 8:17; Luke 4:40; Mark 10:16; Acts 13:3; Mark 6:5; Mark 8:23; Num. 27:23**. Touching is part of our faith and part of who we are as Christians.

In the Bible people showed affection by righteous kissing. The elders of the Ephesian Church embraced and kissed Paul. **Acts 20:37**.

Jesus felt power go out of him when the hem of his garment was touched by the woman with the issue of blood. **Luke 8:46**. See also **Mark 6:56**. Jesus felt compassion and touched and healed a leper despite Jewish law to have no contact with lepers. **Mark 1:40-43**.

Touching is a point of contact. It helps to transmit power and faith. Satan has tried to destroy this part of our faith. Such things as "improper touching," lust, social distancing all try to destroy the importance of touch. Mary washed the feet of Jesus and used her hair to dry his feet. In our faith, we hug; we embrace, we hold hands in prayer. People did not just approach Jesus in faith but some touched him and were healed such as the woman with the Issue of Blood. **Mk. 5:34**.

XXXV. Prayer is blessing. The High Priest prays to God for the people. He intercedes for the people. He blesses the people by speaking the blessing of God over the people and on occasion using the name of God over the people in his blessing. As you pray for people, you bless them. **Psm. 115:14-15; Nu. 6:24-26; Ex. 23:25; Deut. 28:1-4; Deut. 30:16; 15:6; Luke 24:50-51; Heb. 13:20-21; Acts 13:3; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 1:3; Jn. 1:17; Rom. 5:1; Phil. 4:6-7; Heb. 4:14-16; Psm. 118:26;**

In the Old Testament, things were made holy by sprinkling them with blood. The priests were also sprinkled with blood and blood was part of all of the sacrifices. In the New Testament, believers who are priests (and we all are) also are sprinkled with blood, but not by the blood of animals, but with the blood of Jesus Christ. In the New Testament we also make things holy by speaking the words of God over them and by prayer which is speaking to God. People, buildings and food are all “consecrated by the word of God and prayer.” 1 Tim. 4:4-5. Consecration takes what is not holy and through God’s word and prayer it becomes set aside and holy. We pray over our children and consecrate them to God. We pray over our food and consecrate our food to God. Words of blessing transform the common into the holy and uncommon.

At the highest level a blessing can be an intercession; at the lowest level it is only good wishes. It is up to you to be the judge of the various blessings as to whether they are intercessions or only “wishes and good thoughts.”

XXXVI. Prayer is a time of devotion and dedication. **Col. 4:2** says, “Devote yourselves to prayer being watchful and thankful.” The time for prayer and devotion is a holy time. In Malachi, the priests were chastised for sacrificing blind and lame animals. We are to bring our first and best to God. We are to pick our first and best times and come to God in the sacrifice of prayer to God. We chose a valuable time to give him our attention and our focus. We give sufficient time to commune with God. **Mal. 1:8; 9.** If we tried to woo a girl friend or boy friend and gave them the worse time and the shortest time we would lose them in a nanosecond. Why shouldn’t this be even more true with God. Jesus gave his best time and he gave sufficient time. He made prayer a priority often choosing to pray rather than to sleep and rest. By the way, time with God and the presence of God will restore you, rest and energize you.

XXXVII. Prayer is work. It takes effort. Jesus prayed with sweat drops of blood in the garden. **Luke 22:43-45.** Epaphras “wrestled in prayer”. **Col. 4:12.** Jacob became “Israel” because he struggled with God and with men and prevailed. He wrestled with God all night long. **Gen. 32:22-32.** Prayer is not always easy. It can be hard work. Yet at the same time it can also be light and easy. “My yoke is easy and my burden is light.” **Matt. 11:30.**

Sometimes we deal with discouragement when our prayers seem not to be answered. **Psm 77:1,6.** Jesus encourages us to persevere in prayer. We assail heaven with our prayers and we wrestle with God. We get help from other intercessors who help to lift our tired arms much as Aaron and Hur helped Moses. **Ex. 17:11,12.**

The Greek word for perseverance is “proskartereo” meaning steadfast strength. It can mean “to continue to do something with intense effort.” It is strength that prevails in spite of difficulties. Jesus prayed earnestly (**Luke 22:44**). **Romans 12:12** says we are to be “...earnest in prayer.” Another translation of **Rom. 12:12** is to be “faithful in prayer.” We live in a world where we are torn away by our own flesh and are assailed by the darts of the enemy. We must continue in prayer. This is part of the way that we overcome the world and cause God’s kingdom to come into the here and now. **In 1 Cor. 1:7**

we, along with the Church of Corinth, eagerly await the revelation of Jesus Christ and he has promised that he will keep us strong to the end. **1 Cor. 1:7-8.**

We must not be lazy in our prayer life. Elisha rebuked King Jehoash of Israel for beating the ground only three times with arrows telling him that if he had beat the ground five or six times he would have had the complete victory. **2 Kings 13:18-19.** We need to be persistent in our prayers. We need to assail heaven with perseverance, energy and desperation and secure complete victories instead of half-hearted and lazy prayers. Sometimes when our situation is the worst and most dire, we need to become focused and whole-hearted in our prayers. God hears the prayers of the desperate heart.

XXXVIII. Praying as we wait for the return of Jesus. We live in an evil world. As children born of the Kingdom of God, we wait patiently for the return of Jesus and God's judgment upon evil. As we wait, we pray in the Holy Spirit, keeping ourselves in God's love and waiting for his mercy to us to be revealed. Jesus will keep us from falling away from his plan for us and succumbing to the snares of Satan. **Jude 20.** Waiting is part of our Christian life. The patriarchs in the Bible waited until the Messiah came. We wait in faith until Christ, the Messiah returns. When we pray we wait in faith for our prayers to be answered. **"Those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength." Is. 40:31.** In **Hosea 12 6** we are instructed as follows: **"Maintain love and justice and wait for your God always."** Like the virgins waiting for the bridegroom to appear (**Matt. 25:1-13**), we wait for the bridegroom full of the oil of the Holy Spirit. We are prepared and ready for the long haul.

XXXIX. Praying in the Spirit. Paul in **Ephesians 6:18-20** says: **"and pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests with this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all of the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words will be given to me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly as I should."** What is praying in the spirit. It means praying with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit so that we pray in accordance with the will of God. We use all types of prayers. They may be in our native tongue, with groaning or with the tongues of men and the angels.

The writer of Jude reminds us that in the last times we would see **"scoffers who follow their own ungodly desires."** **Jude 19.** At **Jude 20** we are instructed as follows: **"But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in the most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit."**

The Holy Spirit also speaks to our heart and helps us to understand God's word, God's will and what we are to pray for. **Mark 4:34** says that when Jesus was alone with his disciples he explained things. When we are alone with Jesus, the Holy Spirit opens up His word and helps us to understand things.

XXXX. Prayer is a Holy Act. In the Bible, incense represents the prayers of the saints. The Golden Altar of Incense in the Most Holy Place with the Golden Ark of the Covenant (**Heb. 9:3**) and the incense and prayers go up to the presence of God. Our prayers are holy because they have been purchased by the blood of Jesus and go up to the Father in the name of Jesus Christ his only begotten son.

XXXXI. Miscellaneous Thoughts.

Prayer is very important. Some describe it as the "hidden work" because we pray in our closets and out of the sight of men but in the sight of God. The matter of the cross, and our resulting salvation, was settled in the battlefield of the Garden of Prayer just before Jesus was arrested and while his own

disciples slept. Will you watch and pray for your family, your church and your society. Join Jesus in the Garden of Prayer.

On a personal note, the author of this outline is not an "intercessor" but I do intercede. Nor do I consider myself a "Prayer warrior"; but I do pray. Most intercessors are much too busy to write an outline. Instead my giftings are as a simple teacher. That being said, this outline is not a definitive work on prayer. Instead it is written by me as much as a student as opposed to a teacher. Great prayers and great faith still remain open to be done. Jesus said that we would do "greater workers than these." Christ is still working with all of us teaching us to pray.

We should spend at least as much time praying as we do studying about praying. Praying is like athletics. We must do it, not just read about it.

I pray that the word in this outline may be filled with love. I pray that the teachings herein may be a gentle rain which through Christ and his blood generate a crop of good fruit to the glory of God and that God may be honored and pleased and that his people may be nourished and protected.