

WHAT IS PRAYER?

PRAYER IS A CONVERSATION WITH THE FATHER FOR THE FULFILLING OF OUR NEEDS, WHICH ARE **NOT** PROVIDED FOR US IN OUR RIGHTS AS BELIEVERS.

DISCUSS DEUTERONOMY 28:1-13

PREPARING TO ENTER INTO PRAYER, WE MUST FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN IN THE WORD OF GOD. FIRST WE ARE TOLD TO PRAISE AND THANK HIM.

PSA 100:4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

COL 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
AND...

OUR GOD HAS PROVIDED AN ENTIRE PSALM, BESEECHING TO SHOW US HOW TO WALK IN GOD'S POWER AND WISDOM. WHAT PSALM IS THIS?

PSALM 119

I SUGGEST YOU READ THIS PSALM OVER AND OVER AS A PRAYER, UNDERLINING THE VERBS, SUCH AS TEACH ME, SHOW ME, ETC. UNDERLINE THE PETITIONS THAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS PSALM.

WHEN YOU HAVE A NEED OR DESIRE, THINK ABOUT IT.

DOES THE BIBLE STATE THIS NEED OR DESIRE IS TO BE FULFILLED? DOES GOD PROMISE IT? DOES HE TELL YOU THAT YOU ALREADY HAVE IT, BUT YOU DO NOT SEE IT MANIFESTED IN YOUR LIFE?

FIND THE SCRIPTURE THAT FITS YOUR REQUEST. YOU MUST FIND SCRIPTURAL PROOF. YOU HAVE TO KNOW IF IT IS HIS WILL. IF IT IS NOT IN THE BIBLE, IT IS NOT HIS WILL.

WHAT ELSE MAY WE PRAY FOR?

1. THE SALVATION OF AN INDIVIDUAL.
2. PRAY FOR DIRECTION FOR THAT PATH HE WANTS YOU TO WALK. DECISIONS YOU NEED TO MAKE. SHOULD YOU? SHOULDN'T YOU? WHEN? WHAT? HOW?
3. PRAY FOR A JOB...WHETHER VOLUNTEER OR MONETARY.
4. PRAY FOR THE SICK, WHETHER PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL OR MENTAL. (MENTAL ILLNESSES CONSISTING OF CONFUSION, EGOISM,ETC.)
5. PRAY TO CHANGE OUR CIRCUMSTANCES. (JOB, AREA IN WHICH WE LIVE, ETC.)

ISA 48:17 Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the LORD your God, Who teaches you to profit, Who leads you by the way you should go.

ISA 46:4 Even to your old age, I am He, and even to gray hairs I will carry you! I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.

ISA 42:16 I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, and crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, and not forsake them.

6. PRAY FOR THE WILL OF GOD REGARDING YOUR LIFE AS A SERVANT TO HIM.

1CO 7:23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.

7. PRAY FOR THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

ACT 2:38-39 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

8. PRAY FOR A WILLING MIND.

2CO 8:12 For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.

9. PRAY FOR A CHANGE IN YOUR ATTITUDE.

HEB 13:21 Make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

PSA 119:33 Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, And I shall keep it to the end.

PSA 119:27 Make me understand the way of Your precepts; So shall I meditate on Your wondrous works.

10. PRAY FOR WISDOM.

PSA 119:28 My soul melts from heaviness; Strengthen me according to Your word.

11. PRAY FOR THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

GAL 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, Gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

HOW CAN YOU BE ASSURED YOU WILL RECEIVE ANSWERS TO YOUR PRAYERS? WHAT MUST YOU DO?

JOH 15:7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

BUT WE MUST KNOW THE KEY WORDS. THE WORDS THAT OPEN GOD'S EARS TO OUR PRAYERS.

JOH 15:16 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

JOH 16:23 "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.

JOH 16:26 "In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you;

WHY WILL JESUS NOT PRAY TO THE FATHER FOR YOU? BECAUSE YOU ARE A SON OR DAUGHTER OF THE LIVING FATHER GOD, AS TRULY AS JESUS IS GOD'S OFFSPRING. HE HAS GIVEN YOU THE KEY TO THE THRONE ROOM OF GOD THE FATHER.

MAR 11:24 "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

PHI 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

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

ROM 8:34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

2TI 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (READING THE WORD OF GOD)

PRO 4:20-22 My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; For they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh.

PSA 119:130 The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.

WE HAVE GIVEN YOU **KNOWLEDGE** TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL PRAYER LIFE. DID YOU UNDERSTAND EACH VERSE? IF YOU DID UNDERSTAND, THAT IS **UNDERSTANDING** IN REGARD TO PRAYER.

WE GAVE YOU KNOWLEDGE, YOU UNDERSTAND. APPLYING THE KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING IS **WISDOM**.

LET US LOOK AT SOME SPECIFICS, WITH THE KNOWLEDGE GIVEN US.

GO BACK TO:

1JO 5:14,15 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

LET US LOOK AT PROBLEM NO. 1....SALVATION OF OTHERS.

HOW DO WE PRAY? FIND VERSES PERTAINING TO THE SITUATION.

2PE 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

EZE 18:23 "Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?" says the Lord God, "and not that he should turn from his ways and live?"

1TI 2:3-4 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

MAT 18:11 "For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.

PROBLEM NO. 2.....CONCERNS REGARDING SELF

MAT 7:7-8 "**Ask**, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find; **knock**, and it will be opened to you. "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

A.....ASK.....(ASK GOD, IN THE NAME OF JESUS.)

S.....SEEK.....(SEEK OUT SCRIPTURES TO PROVE YOUR REQUEST.)

K.....KNOCK.....(PERSEVERE. KEEP ASKING UNTIL YOU ARE PERSUADED THAT GOD HAS HEARD YOU, AND HE GIVES YOU PEACE IN REGARD TO YOUR REQUEST.)

WHAT IS HIS PROMISE, IF YOU FOLLOW HIS INSTRUCTIONS?

ISA 42:16 I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, and crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, and not forsake them.

AS THE SAYING GOES....."I DID, AND HE DID".

I DID WHAT I WAS SUPPOSED TO DO, AND HE DID WHAT HE PROMISED.

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HOW PRAYER IS ANSWERED A 10A

GOD ALWAYS HEARS PRAYERS, BUT HE DOES NOT ALWAYS LISTEN!

Jeremiah 7:16 "Therefore do not pray for this people, nor lift up a cry or prayer for them, nor make intercession to Me; for I will not hear you.

Jeremiah 11:14 "Therefore do not pray for this people, or lift up a cry or prayer for them; for I will not hear them in the time that they cry out to Me because of their trouble.

THE ROBBER ON THE CROSS PRAYED,

Luke 23:42 Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." 43 And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

THE LORD DID NOT WANT THE THIEF TO WAIT UNTIL JESUS ENTERED HIS KINGDOM. JESUS WANTED HIM TO BE WITH HIM THAT DAY. HE DID NOT WANT HIM TO WAIT FOR A FUTURE TIME OR EVENT.

THE LORD ALWAYS WANTS THE BEST FOR HIS CHILDREN.

THE PUBLICAN PRAYED IN THE TEMPLE, "GOD, BE MERCIFUL TO ME, A SINNER.

Luke 18:9 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men - extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 'I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' 13 "And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God be merciful to me a sinner!' 14 "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be abased, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

WHAT WAS JESUS ANSWER ABOUT THE PUBLICAN'S PRAYER?.....
THE MAN WENT TO HIS HOUSE JUSTIFIED.

THAT MEANS HE NEVER SINNED. NOT ONLY WAS HE NOT SINFUL, ALSO HE WAS ACTUALLY RIGHTEOUS. THE MAN'S PRAYER WAS FOR MERCY.

GOD'S THOUGHTS WERE VASTLY DIFFERENT AND HIGHER THAN EITHER THE PHARISEE'S OR THE PUBLICAN'S WERE.

AS ALWAYS GOD'S THOUGHTS ARE ALWAYS HIGHER THAN MAN'S THOUGHTS.

MERCY IS GOOD, BUT JUSTIFICATION IS BETTER.
LET US LOOK AT LUKE 15:11-32.

THE SON WAS WILLING TO BE A HIRED SERVANT. IT WAS NOT ACCORDING TO THE FATHER'S WILL THAT HE WOULD BECOME A SERVANT. NO MATTER, A CHILD OF GOD CAN NEVER BECOME A SERVANT. LOOKING AT IT IN THE NATURAL IT ISN'T POSSIBLE TO UNDO THE PHYSICAL ASPECT OF THE PARENT'S OFFSPRING.

Numbers 23:19 "God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"

LET US LOOK AT ANOTHER SITUATION.

Mark 2:1 And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. 2 Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. 3 Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. 4 And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. And when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. 5 When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." 6 But some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" 8 And immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? 9 "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? 10 "But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" - He said to the paralytic, 11 "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go your way to your house." 12 And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

IT WAS REQUESTED OF JESUS TO HEAL THE MAN. JESUS WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH THEIR FAITH AND PRAYER. HE WANTED THE MAN TO BE SAVED. HE WANTED HIM JUSTIFIED. HE WANTED HIM RIGHTEOUS.

Isaiah 53:11 He (GOD) shall see the travail of His (JESUS') soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities.

GOD'S PRINCIPLES EXCEED MANKIND'S PRINCIPLES IN EVERY WAY.

Isaiah 55:8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.

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