



Kinds of Prayer

Before we talk about the kinds of Prayer, we need to define prayer. Unlike what many think, **prayer is not a time to go before God with a list of needs asking that they are met.** If all we do is go before God with a shopping list, we will run out of what to say.

Prayer is, however, communion with God.

This means we do not have to be in a specific posture, eyes closed, our closet or a certain place to commune with God. We can do this all the time and anytime.

The Word tells us to **pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17)**. Some have taken that to mean that we should be *“praying”* (the traditionally taught kind of prayer) all the time and this has led to strange behavior patterns, mannerisms, and legalism by many in the attempt to “pray” without ceasing. This verse (1 Thessalonians 5:17) is simply talking of praying in the sense of communion with God.

Sometimes we may not say a word, yet we are in prayer—communion with God.

Let me add this as well, this **communion is two-way**. It is similar to how we use a two-way radio. One person speaks and the other listens, then the other speaks while the other is listening. If the conversation is one-sided, it ceases to be communion.

The primary purpose of prayer is to establish a relationship with the Lord not to ask or receive things.

In my language, the word prayer is translated as *“to ask.”* This has led many people to go into prayer to **ask** not to establish a relationship with God.

There are different types of prayers and they function differently. We have to learn what they are and use them whenever necessary. This also means that there are different guidelines for prayer.

- a) Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;
 - i) Notice that this verse makes it clear that we should be praying with **all prayer** and supplication in the Spirit. This implies that there is more than one kind of prayer.
- b) 1 Timothy 2:11 exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men;
 - i) Supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks. These are some of the various kinds of prayer.

It is crucial to remember that although there is a time to pray, there is also a time to believe.

Types of prayer

1. Meditation

Meditation is prayer. Most people do not know that meditation is a form of prayer, but this verse makes it clear that it is.

- a) Psalm 5:1 Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my meditation.
 - i) Through this kind of prayer is birthed deeper revelation of the things of God as we think about the Lord and certain things, He has shown us. While we are thinking about the Lord (meditating), we are in communion with God—prayer.

2. Prayer of tongues—the evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit.

This is a kind of prayer that a believer prays when they get filled with the Holy Spirit. It is a new language (Mark 16:17) that is used to communicate with God. It is one of the most effective

kinds of prayer and is also one that the enemy is doing all he can do to ensure that the body of Christ does not understand and employ.

When someone is born again, The Holy Spirit is **IN** them (John 14:17), but when they get filled with the Holy Ghost, the Holy Spirit is **UPON** them (Acts 1:5,8) and flows out of them causing and empowering them to be a witness. There is more to the Holy Spirit than the initial experience when we get born again, and I dare say that there is even more after one is baptized in the Holy Spirit hence Ephesians 5:18.

The new believer already has the Holy Spirit living in them but this time the Holy Spirit comes upon them or they are immersed in Him who empowers them to be witnesses of the Lord Jesus and to live a victorious Christian life.

The other way I love to say this is that when you get saved, you get the Holy Spirit but when you get baptized in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit gets you. Your life is led and yielded to the control of the Holy Spirit. Take an example of a drunkard who is influenced by alcohol, in this case, the believer is influenced by the Holy Spirit unto the good and godly. Another way to say this is that when you get saved you receive the Holy Spirit but the filling to overflow happens when you get filled with the Holy Spirit. It's like another dose of the Holy Spirit that makes one overflow.

a) 1 Corinthians 14:2 For he that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth *him*; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

i) Speaking in tongues is a supernatural way of communicating with God. We all have a natural way but there is also a supernatural way.

ii) When we speak in tongues, we speak unto God not unto man. No one understands us—this includes the devil.

b) 1 Corinthians 14:14 For if I pray in an *unknown* tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

- c) 1 Corinthians 14:39 tells us, “*Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.*” Many people have done a good job to stop people and discourage them from speaking in tongues, but the Bible is very clear. It says, **FORBID NOT** to speak in tongues.
- d) Jude 1:20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost
- e) Acts 10:46 says, “*For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.*”
 - i) Speaking in tongues glorifies and magnifies God.
 - ii) If we want to magnify and glorify God, we should flip the tongue switch and begin speaking in tongues.
- f) How do you pray for what you don't know in your natural mind? How do you pray for someone who needs prayer that you know not what you should pray for? When you speak in tongues, you pray wisdom, the will of God, and your prayers cannot miss.
- g) One of the main benefits of speaking in tongues is that we get to pray for what our natural mind does not know. When we pray in a known language, we pray for what we already do know but we can't pray for what we do not know. Speaking in tongues helps us achieve that. How powerful!

3. Prayer of petition (supplication)

This is a form of prayer when we go before the Lord and ask for something we need. Most people operate in one type of prayer petition (Matthew 7:7), mostly because they have not been taught beyond that.

- a) Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

b) 1 John 5:14-15 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

i) There is a place and time to ask or petition while in communion with God, but it should not be the primary reason we commune with Him.

ii) Believe that you receive when you pray, not when you see it manifest.

iii) Petition ought to be one time (believing you receive) and that He has heard you, but intercession is what comes in after the petition.

iv) If we ask anything according to His will is speaking about a prayer of petition. This is speaking about asking, which is a prayer of petition.

c) Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

i) Make your requests be made known unto God.

4. Prayer of Intercession

Intercession is typically standing in faith, commanding the natural to respond, removing all hindrances of the devil that could be hindering our manifestation and that of others.

a) John 17

Jesus prayed a prayer of intercession in this whole chapter.

b) 1 Timothy 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

i) We should continue to intercede until we see the manifestation of what we are believing for. This is not a petition prayer.

ii) We should not just petition and let our prayer slide. We must remember that there is Satan who wants to prolong and hinder our prayers.

- iii) Intercession doesn't change or move God. It changes things, people, and Satan.
- iv) Intercession is a type of prayer that has been abused the most. People have gotten weird while operating in this type. Some have started seeing demonic things as a result of them focusing on this type of prayer.
- v) It must be said that this type of prayer doesn't override a person's free will. It shouldn't be used as a form of witchcraft.

5. Groaning in the Spirit (Romans 8:26)

Groaning in the Spirit means to moan jointly. It also refers to sighs conveying pain, despair, and displeasure. It is like a travailing, a battle, a fighting or wrestling on the inside especially against something that is wrong and ungodly. This could be the highest form of intercession. Most people flow in this kind as they operate in the prayer of speaking in tongues (Praying in the Spirit).

- a) Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.
 - i) This is the Spirit helping infirmities.
 - ii) The Spirit Himself makes intercession for us. He does not do this without us. He helps us meaning that we have a part to play as He intercedes for us. He intercedes but not apart from us.
 - iii) This groaning in the Spirit helps our infirmities (insufficiencies and inadequacies). If we believe for it, it will manifest. It is spiritually discerned not physically felt. The primary door to this by praying in tongues.
- b) John 11:33, 38 and 41 When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled. Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. Then they took away the stone *from the place* where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up *his* eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

- i) This was the Spirit helping Jesus' infirmities.
- ii) Jesus groaned in the spirit.
- c) Romans 8:19-23 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected *the same* in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body.
- i) Praying in tongues or groaning in the Spirit is not a substitute for doing what you ought to do or knowledge of God's word.

6. Prayer of agreement (corporate prayer).

This is a prayer where two or more come to a place of mutual faith agreement. This a very effective prayer as it helps one who is struggling to get in a place of faith and receive from the Lord.

- a) Acts 1:14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.
 - i) One accord in prayer and supplication
- b) Matthew 18:18-20 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.
 - i) When talking about a prayer of agreement, for someone to be healed he or she must be in agreement. Praying for someone who is not in agreement is not effective. Our faith is not a substitute for another person's believing. There are exceptions to this but very few.

7. Prayer of dedication

This is a prayer of submission to the will of God.

- a) **Matthew 26:39** And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou *wilt*.

- i) In this kind of prayer, you can pray "if it be thy will"

8. Prayer of sanctification and consecration

This is a prayer prayed to set apart or separate one unto the Lord from the world and all other things. This is usually used when praying for some who is entering full-time ministry or being set apart for some spiritual assignment.

- a) **Matthew 26:39** And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou *wilt*.
- b) Acts 13:2-3 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid *their* hands on them, they sent *them* away.

9. Prayer of Praise

This is a type of prayer that is dedicated to praising and glorifying the Lord. It focuses both on both who God is and what He has done. This is one of the most powerful weapons against the enemy (Acts 16:25-26). Praising God drives the enemy crazy.

Praises can be spoken or sang. We do not have to be **singing a song** to be praising God.

- a) Psalm 67:5-6 Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. *Then* shall the earth yield her increase; *and* God, *even* our own God, shall bless us.
- b) Hebrews 13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.

- c) Psalm 8:2 Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.
- d) Matthew 21:15-16 And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the son of David; they were sore displeased, And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise
 - i) It stills the enemy and the avenger. It keeps your attention on the Lord.
 - ii) Saying "praise God" is not praising God. Praise is also not designed to move God or manipulate Him. True praise comes from a relationship with God. It has to come from your heart, not your head.

10. Prayer of Thanksgiving

This is a kind of prayer which is giving thanks and praise towards God. It involves remembrance of the goodness of God. It is a prayer of gratitude and appreciation towards God. This is a very powerful prayer. Being unthankful (2 Timothy 3:2) is ungodly and prideful.

- a) Colossians 2:6-7 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.
 - i) If we are truly abounding in faith, it is because we are praising and giving thanks to God.
 - ii) Sometimes it is better not to pray but go to the word, find out the answer to your problem and then pray your answer.
 - iii) If you are going to praise God, you need to stop speaking and talking about your problems! You can't do both.
- b) Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

11. Prayer of Worship

The prayer of worship is similar to the prayer of thanksgiving however, the difference is that worship focuses on who God is whereas thanksgiving focuses on what God has done.

Conclusion:

James 5:15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

- i) Some have classified this as a kind of prayer—Prayer of faith however, every prayer must be a prayer of faith.