Praying to a Person

Prayer is talking to God. It is not daydreaming, communing with nature, or thinking of an infinite but abstract power. It is simply talking to God. “Truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.” (1 John 1:3)

How should we address the Holy Trinity in prayer?

To whom did the Lord Jesus Christ tell believers to direct their prayers? Matthew 6:9; compare John 17:1

What did Christ say about praying in His name? John 14:13-14; 15:16

Through the Lord Jesus we have access to the Father by whom? Ephesians 2:18

Why does the Christian have access to God in prayer?

On whose merits does the believer approach the Father?

Hebrews 10:19

Ephesians 1:7; 3:12

What is the first essential of approach to God? Hebrews 11:6

What is the risen Lord doing now for believers? Hebrews 7:25; compare John 17

Normally we pray to the Father in the name of the Son in the power of the Holy Spirit. This seems to be the scriptural pattern.
GOD ENCOURAGES US TO PRAY

Therefore, we should cast all our care upon Him, knowing_____________________________________________.
(literally, “He is concerned about you.”) 1 Peter 5:7

Many of our troubles are in God’s sight as the breaking of a toy would be to a child. Yet, as a loving Father, He…does not turn His child away…He does not sit above the clouds, wrapped in selfishness because of His superiority, despising the littleness of His creatures who move below.

“In everything by prayer______________________________________________________________.”
Philippians 4:6

“Let us come boldly______________________________________________________________.”
Hebrews 4:16

On what condition may we expect the answer to our prayers? John 15:7

THE RIGHT USE OF WORDS IN PRAYER

In what way will a correct attitude toward God affect our prayers? Ecclesiastes 5:2

What are we told to bring to God in prayer? Hosea 14:2

In prayer, it is a good practice to employ the language of Scripture itself as far as possible. Compare Jonah’s prayer in chapter 2 of the book of Jonah with Psalms 42:7; 31:22; 69:1; 3:8. After the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she was to become the mother of the Son of God, during her visit with Elizabeth, she burst into a hymn of praise (Luke 1:46-55). Her prayer of thanksgiving consists of ten verses in the New Testament record, but in these verses she quoted from memory twenty-three separate Old Testament Scripture passages. She brought to God His own words in prayer and praise.

PRAYER IS TALKING TO GOD

Twelve Hebrew words and five Greek words are translated by the English word “prayer”, but each of them has the meaning of definitely asking—primarily, of talking to God, as a child talks to his parent. Even though the prayer may not be audible, it takes the form of words in the mind.

Therefore, with David, each of us may say, “In the morning will I direct_________________________________.”
Psalm 5:3

“Moses _________________________________the Lord his God.” Exodus 32:11

Stephen was “________________________________________ upon God.” Acts 7:59
David wrote, “I ______________________________________ unto the Lord __________________________________________.”
Psalm 3:4

David wrote further, “Pour out ______________________________________________________________.”
Psalm 62:8

“Let us ______________________________________________________________.” Lamentations 3:41

Remember, then, that being in a “spiritual mood”, attending devotional meetings and listening to the prayers of others are not necessarily forms of prayer.

SOME REASONS FOR PRAYING TO GOD

What is one certainty, so far as God is concerned? Matthew 19:26; Job 42:2

What is God’s feeling toward all the people on earth? John 3:16

In what wonderful way has God revealed His love toward human beings? 1 John 4:8-10; Romans 5:8

What did the Lord Jesus say about our need for prayer? Matthew 26:41

IS THERE REALITY IN PRAYER?

We recognize that mere human beings cannot comprehend God. But if we could know all about God, if we could know His greatness, He would not be God. We can comprehend one another; and we can know God, in some measure, even if we cannot fully comprehend Him. We may experience His love and know by His indwelling presence that He acts on our behalf when we seek to obey the conditions of answered prayer which He has made known.

What has always been true of those who have sincerely called upon the living God? Psalm 145:18-19; James 4:8
Spiritual life begins and ends on earth in an atmosphere of prayer.

What was the first thing Saul of Tarsus did upon his conversion? Acts 9:6

What was the last thing Stephen did before he died? Acts 7:60
PRECIOUS PRAYER PROMISES –LOOK THEM UP!

Phillippians 4:19  God’s unlimited supply
Ephesians 3:20  God’s unfailing ability
Jeremiah 31:3  God’s undying love
Mark 9:23  Wonderful possibilities
Isaiah 65:24  Immediate relief
John 16:24  Fullness of joy
Philippians 4:6-7  Perfect peace

EVIDENCE THAT GOD DOES HEAR AND ANSWER PRAYER

See the following illustrations:

Hannah’s prayer for a son 1 Samuel 1:9-20
Samuel’s prayer for Israel 1 Samuel 7:5-12; 12:16-25
Elijah’s prayer for God’s cause 1 Kings 18:36-46
Hezekiah’s prayer for healing 2 Kings 20:1-7
Daniel’s prayer for the captive Hebrews Daniel 2:16-23; 9:3-23
Paul’s prayers for prisoners and saints Acts 16:25-26; Ephesians 1:15-23

HOW CAN GOD CONCERN HIMSELF WITH CREATURES SO INSIGNIFICANT?

“When I consider________________________________________________________.”
Psalm 8:3-4

Will not a king, burdened with the affairs of state, come to the aid of his own child when he hears his cry? Will the infinite God do less?

Our Bible reveals a God so great that He not only controls the planets but __________________________. Matthew 10:29-31

The value of things does not consist in quantity or size. A diamond may be worth more than a quarry of stone. Let us not forget the place man has in God’s creation. God is more interested in souls than He is in stars.
SELF TEST #1

1. Stephen prayed as he was being stoned.  
   Answer: True or False

2. Christ does not need to pray for us now, since He has finished His redemptive work.  
   Answer: True or False

3. The new birth is the only condition to answered prayer.  
   Answer: True or False

4. Each Person in the Trinity is referred to in connection with the believer’s access to God.  
   Answer: True or False

5. Whoever believes that there is a God and tries to live a good life 
   has access to Him in prayer.  
   Answer: True or False

6. The Lord Jesus told believers to pray to the Father in the name of the Son.  
   Answer: True or False

7. The Lord Jesus said, “Watch and pray, that your prayers may be answered.”  
   Answer: True or False

8. God loves only those who love Him.  
   Answer: True or False

9. It was Job who said to God, “I know that you can do everything.”  
   Answer: True or False

10. The first thing Saul of Tarsus did after his conversion 
    was to preach Christ in the synagogue at Damascus.  
    Answer: True or False
Physical Attitudes

God is always to be approached in an attitude of reverence, but this does not imply a particular attitude of body. Earnestness in prayer may put men on their knees or on their faces, but what God hears is the voice of the Holy Spirit in our prayers (Romans 8:26). A person cannot always choose his physical attitude.

When Christ was on the earth, what was the common attitude of one who prayed in the temple in Jerusalem? Mark 11:25

By what attitude were meditation and humility expressed in worship? 2 Chronicles 29:30

In what attitude did Solomon show his reverence? 2 Chronicles 6:13

What attitude for prayer was suggested by David? Psalm 95:6

What was the common attitude taken by the Jews? Isaiah 1:15

What attitude expressed supplication? Psalm 28:2

What attitude was taken by our Lord when He agonized in prayer? Matthew 26:39

In what attitude did David sometimes pray? 2 Samuel 7:18

Is it possible to pray while walking down the street? 1 Timothy 2:8, 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Mental and Spiritual Attitudes

The power of prayer is not in:

Arithmetic—how many prayers
Rhetoric—how eloquent they are
Geometry—how long

Music—how beautifully worded
Logic—how argumentative
Method—how orderly

Formality—how stately
Power in prayer has its real source in Christ, our living High Priest in Heaven, with whom we should commune (to talk together intimately) in the very framing of our petitions.

Prayers do not need to be long in order to be effective.

What did Jesus say about why the heathen thought their prayers would be heard? Matthew 6:7

How many words are in Elijah’s prayer for the resurrection of the widow’s son?
1 Kings 17:20__________ 1 Kings 17:21__________

How many verses recode Solomon’s prayer of dedication of the temple—the longest prayer in the Bible?
1 Kings 8:22-53

Although long prayers are by no means necessary for an effective prayer life, this does not mean that, at times, seasons of prolonged prayer are not called for.

How long did Daniel pray and fast in connection with his understanding of a revelation from God? Daniel 10:2-3, 12

How long did the Lord Jesus Christ continue in prayer before choosing the twelve apostles? Luke 6:12-13

How did the church pray for Peter when He was in prison? Acts 12:5

Look up the scripture references with this acrostic:

Purpose of heart James 5:16
Receptiveness of attitude Matthew 21:22
Abiding in Christ John 15:7
Yielding to the Spirit Ephesians 6:18
SELF TEST #2

Answer True or False:

1. It is impossible to pray on a busy street.

2. The Lord Jesus prayed all night before He chose the twelve disciples.

3. Elijah prayed all night before God raised the widow’s son from the dead.

4. On one occasion Daniel fasted and prayed four full weeks.

5. It takes three hours for the average person to read Solomon’s prayer of dedication of the temple.

6. In Hezekiah’s time God’s people bowed their heads in worship.

7. When Solomon dedicated the temple with prayer, he kneeled down and spread forth his hands toward heaven.

8. When Christ was on earth, it was customary for the Jews to stand as they prayed in the temple.

9. It is wrong to sit in the Lord’s presence.

10. In Gethsemane our Lord fell on His face and prayed.
THE TIME TO PRAY

Pray Day by Day

What is a good time to look to God in prayer? Psalm 5:3

Run from God in the morning, and you will be unlikely to find time for Him during the rest of the day.

After Abraham’s intercession for Sodom, at what time of day did he return to the place where he “stood before the Lord”? Genesis 19:27

What did Moses do before he “went up into the mount of God” to receive the tablets of stone and other instructions? Exodus 24:4; compare verses 12, 13

Who received a great blessing through the early morning prayer season? 1 Samuel 1:19

What was required of the sons of Levi? 1 Chronicles 23:30

Who offered his burnt offerings in the early morning hours? Job 1:5

When did David sing aloud of God’s mercies? Psalm 59:16

Would it not seem that God has approved of the early morning hours as a special time to bestow rich blessings?

What did David regard as the appropriate time to consult God about his path for the day? Psalm 143:8

When does God renew His mercies to us? Lamentations of Jeremiah 3:22-23

What example of prayer does our Lord give us? Mark 1:35
Suggest some disadvantages of postponing prayer until the last thing before you go to bed?

Is it likely that you will find it difficult to form the habit of a regular morning prayer time?  
**Job 1:6, Matthew 13:19**

> “The morning is the gate of day;  
> But ere you enter there,  
> See that you set, to guard it well,  
> The sentinel of prayer.”  
> --Annie Johnson Flint

What did Jesus suggest concerning privacy in prayer?  **Matthew 6:6**

**Pray at all times**

How many set times of daily prayer did David have?  **Psalm 55:16-17**

How often did Daniel pray regularly?  **Daniel 6:10**

**Pray before important decisions**

What did Jesus do before He made an important decision which was to affect His work?  **Luke 6:12-13**

What did He do just prior to one of His great miracles?  **Mark 6:46-48**

What did He do as the shadow of the cross lay right across His path?  **Matthew 26:36-44**

What did Nehemiah do in an hour of urgent crisis in his life?  **Nehemiah 2:1-5**

What does every time of trouble call for?  **Psalm 50:15; 81:7; 86:7**

_A person will find it easier to communicate with God in an hour of crisis if he is familiar with the way to the throne. The value of prayer is not measured by the clock. To be alone with God, however, is an absolute necessity of the spiritual life._
SELF TEST #3

Answer True or False

1. The habit of a daily quiet time is easy to maintain. _________________

2. Moses rose up early in the morning to worship before he went up into the mountain. _________________

3. Job offered burnt offerings to the Lord early in the morning. _________________

4. David usually sought God’s guidance for the day in the previous evening. _________________

5. Hannah rose up early in the morning and worshipped before the Lord when she knew God had answered her prayer. _________________

6. The sons of Levi were commanded to thank and praise the Lord on the first day of each week. _________________

7. Nehemiah prayed in a time of crisis, even as he was serving the king. _________________

8. Daniel habitually prayed twice a day. _________________

9. At times the Lord Jesus rose up “a great while before day” to pray. _________________

10. It was Jeremiah who wrote, “Great is thy faithfulness.” _________________
THE SPIRITUAL CONDITION OF THOSE WHO PRAY

Prayer is a heart work (1 Peter 4:7). Unless we obey the divinely revealed laws concerning it, the power of prayer will not operate for our good.

What is the greatest hindrance to prayer that prevents the Holy Spirit from praying in and through us? Psalm 66:18

Does a mere form of prayer carry any weight with God? Matthew 6:5, 7

Seven essential conditions of heart are necessary for effectual prayer.

A Regenerated Heart

A new heart is the primary condition. To assume to pray, ignoring the plan of salvation is to insult a holy God.

What one way of approach to His holy presence has God prescribed? Hebrews 10:19-20

“No Man______________________________________________________________________________.” John 14:6

“For no other foundation______________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________.” 1 Corinthians 3:11

“For there is no other___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________.” Acts 4:12

“Marvel not_________________________________________________________________________.” John 3:7

The rending of the veil of the temple when Jesus died on Calvary attested the fact that His infinite sacrifice provided us the right of free access to God. (Matthew 27:51; Hebrews 10:19-22)

For whom are the prayer promises intended? 1 John 5:13-15
What should be the prayer of the unregenerate? Luke 18:13

A Spirit-controlled Heart

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication __________________________________…..” Ephesians 6:18

The flesh prompts many prayers. We must learn how to submit every desire to the Spirit if we would pray right.

A Trusting Heart

What should inspire our asking if we expect an answer to our prayers? Matthew 21:22

What kind of problems can this kind of asking remove? Matthew 21:21

“Faith comes by ____________________________________________________________.” Romans 10:17

Faith is not silent resignation to what occurs but unwavering expectation, based on God’s promises and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Faith in prayer is the childlike confidence that trusts all to Him, including the prayer for the need.

“Whatever things you ask when you pray__________________________________________ ___________________________________________________________.” Mark 11:24

“Commit _________________________________________________________________;
Trust _________________________________________________________________;
And _________________________________________________________________.” Psalm 37:5

“If you abide in me, and ____________________________________________________________, you shall _________________________________________________________________.” John 15:7

A branch has no independent life of its own. Its life is all from the vine. Living union with the Lord Jesus enables us to ask for the things in which God delights, because He puts those desires within us. Do not forget the importance of letting His words abide in you. Let them mold your thoughts, and your asking will follow lines that will surprise you.
An Obedient Heart

“…we receive of Him because___________________________________________________________.” 1 John 3:22

When we are ready to do what pleases Him. He will do what pleases us. We can expect little when we are consciously disobedient to Him.

How to abide in His love: “If you keep____________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________.” John 15:10

How obedient was Christ to His Father’s will? John 8:29

Who does he ever delight to hear? John 9:31

“You shall seek me and find me, when____________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________.” Jeremiah 29:13

A Humble Heart

What are two dwelling places of God? Isaiah 57:15

God hears the desire of the humble and will________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________. Psalm 10:17

“Though the Lord be high, yet______________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________.” Psalm 138:6

“Humble yourselves______________________________________________________________.” James 4:10

“I will set him on high, because____________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________.” Psalm 91:14-15
Upon what kind of man does God look with favor? **Isaiah 66:2**

**A Thankful Heart**

What is one accompaniment of all prevailing prayer? **Philippians 4:6**

Should our thanksgiving be as definite as our asking? **Psalm 103:2**

What did David consider a positive duty? **Psalm 92:1-2**

What is the will of God for every Christian? **1 Thessalonians 5:18**

When and for what are we to give thanks? **Ephesians 5:20**

What deeply grieves the Lord? **Luke 17:11-19**

What especially inclines the Lord toward us? **Psalm 37:4**

**A Vigilant Heart**

“Watch_________________________.” **1 Peter 4:7**

Continue “instant”, or steadfastly “_________________________.” **Romans 12:12**

“Pray_________________________.” **1 Thessalonians 5:17**

*Literally, “without ceasing” is “without giving up.” The gaps that occur in our prayer life do great damage.*

“Peter….was kept in prison; but_________________________.

_________________________.” **Acts 12:5**

*“Train yourself to let prayer spread over all your occupations. Work in the spirit of prayer. Speak, asking wisdom and grace. It is not a matter of hopeless mental activity but of acquiring quietude of soul in which one seeks His [God’s] thought constantly and in everything.”—Archbishop Fenelon*
SELF TEST #4

1. We have access to our holy God through faith in the shed blood of Christ. __________________

2. Iniquity in the heart hinders our prayer life. __________________

3. Peter was the one who prayed, “God be merciful to me a sinner.” __________________

4. If we pray according to God’s will, we may be sure that He hears and will answer. __________________

5. Faith is increased as we try to obey God’s commandment. __________________

6. A doubtful attitude hinders prayer. __________________

7. Life’s pressures make it impossible to pray without ceasing. __________________

8. Humility is an essential condition to answered prayer. __________________

9. Ingratitude grieves the Lord Jesus. __________________

10. It is possible for the believer’s prayers to be guided by the Holy Spirit. __________________
“You Have Not Because…”

Prayer is either a prodigious force or a pitiful farce. It is not a power designed to roam at large, without regulation, in this otherwise law governed universe. Those who disregard the laws of a power cannot expect it to work for their benefit, and it may even react to their injury.

Unconfessed Sin

Are unanswered prayers an evidence of failure on God’s part? Isaiah 59:1-2

What are some sins that come between a soul and God and cause separation? Isaiah 59:3-4, 7-8

What does God say about the person who recognizes sin in their life, but has not confessed it and forsaken it? Psalm 66:18

God does not demand sinlessness as a requirement for answered prayer, but He will not tolerate willful continuance in known sin.

Idols in the heart

An idol is anything that may become a supreme object of one’s affections, taking the place in the life in any degree.

Where can idols be set up? Ezekiel 14:4, 5, 8

A selfish purpose

Why do many ask “amiss” (wrong or improper)? James 4:3

What is the true motive in prayer and to whom is glory brought? John 14:13

Unbelief

How does Romans 4:20-21 describe Abraham’s faith?

What does God say about those who don’t take Him at His word? James 1:5-7
According to Matthew 13:58 why did Jesus NOT do many mighty works for these people?

**An unforgiving spirit**

What do we learn from Matthew 6:14-15 about how God deals with us in forgiveness?

What should always be our attitude to others concerning forgiveness? Ephesians 4:32

**Discord in family life**

Many times there is sin hidden in our family relationships. What does 1 Peter 3:7 say that sin in a marriage can do?

*1 Peter 3:1-7 teaches God’s will for the husband and wife toward each other. There cannot be prayer and fellowship in the home where nerves are frayed, where hearts are wounded, and where there is no sense of respect for others.*

**Stinginess toward God and men**

Who does God say He has a “deaf” ear towards? Isaiah 1:15, Proverbs 21:13, 28:27


What is a sure way to invite strict judgment without mercy? James 2:13

*There will be little prevailing prayer unless there is much heart searching first.*

**Self examination**

Psalm 139:23-24

“Search _______________________________________________________________________________."

“Try_________________________________________________________________________________."

“Lead ____________________________________________________________________________________.”
Is this strictly a matter of *SELF* examination? Where must the light come from that examines us? **Psalm 139:23**

David recognized three potential trouble areas in him. What where they? **Psalm 139:23-24**

*The heart is the workshop; the thoughts are the half finished product; the way is the course of life, or the finished product. All acts are rehearsed in the thought life.*

What is a prayer we should often ask of God? **Psalm 26:2**

Is there any hope of spiritual success for the one who refuses to bring his sin out to be dealt with? **Proverbs 28:13**

List seven things from **Psalm 139:1-4** that God knows about us?
SELF TEST #5

1. Unanswered prayer is an evidence of failure on God’s part. _________________

2. An idol in the heart always raises a barrier between God and man. _________________

3. Jesus couldn’t work many miracles at Nazareth because of the people’s unbelief. _________________

4. Because he was old, Abraham’s faith failed when God told him he would have a son. _________________

5. The highest motive in prayer is to seek God’s glory. _________________

6. God promises blessing to the generous soul. _________________

7. Prayer can be hindered by family discord. _________________

8. The believer cannot be expected to forgive some people. _________________

9. The believer should pray to God for cleansing from sin to pray with a clean conscience. _________________

10. To pray selfishly is to ask “amiss”. _________________

Answer True or False
Prayer has many essential components other than mere petition. Without these, one’s prayer life will be out of balance and ineffective.

**Adoration of God**

A great encouragement in prayer is the realization of having an audience with God. We would get no satisfaction talking into a telephone without having the conscious understanding that there is a listening ear on the other end of the line. Many prayers are offered as mere repetition of phrases, without a consciousness of God’s presence. It is important that we close our eyes on things seen and open them to the spiritual realm, in adoring contemplation of God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Meditation on God’s Word**

One will only adore God properly when his heart and mind are full of God’s Word. Those who are not faithful readers of God’s Word cannot be fully effective and successful in their prayer. It is here, in the Word that we find the promises, the teaching concerning effectual prayer, and the message which searches and prepares our hearts to pray as we ought.

**Thanksgiving for Blessings Received**

This part of praying is clearly stressed in the Word of God. It must accompany all prevailing prayer. *(Philippians 4:6)*

**Confession of Sin and Hindrances to Prayer**

We stated prayer is more than asking for our desires to be granted. It involves the time spent in confession of sin and agreeing with God and making sure our hearts are clean before Him. We must as the word says take the time to “mortify” our flesh. If we are coming to God properly we will like Isaiah, see God for who He is, and see ourselves for who we are. *(Isaiah 6:1-7)*

**Intercession for Others**

This is a command of scripture, to pray for others. We would be better served letting a large portion of our prayer time be devoted to intercession on behalf of others. God was not leaving out a person’s prayer life when He commanded us to love others as ourselves. One way we show that love and concern for others is taking time to pray on their behalf.

**Petition—asking of God**

We are thankful that God also has told us we can come to Him with ALL our concerns, problems, and needs. We ask God to help us to be obedient to His truth and then to see His promises upheld and carried out in our lives.

**Praying for Our Own Needs**

Is it wrong to pray for ourselves? *Psalm 106:4-5, 1 Chronicles 4:10*
What should be a request found in all our prayers? Psalm 25:11, 51:1

What is a fitting prayer to God even if we are not aware of any specific sin in our life? Psalm 19:12

What is a constant need in our lives? Psalm 51:10

What is a sure daily need we ought to pray for? Matthew 6:13, Mark 14:38

What is another great daily request? Psalm 141:3

Why must we go to God for help in this area? James 3:8

What is a great prayer for the start of every day? Psalm 86:11, 25:4

Why do we need to pray about praying? Romans 8:26, Luke 11:1

What should we ask if we are to truly appreciate the wonder of God’s Word? Psalm 119:18, Ephesians 1:17-19

What is a great prayer request dealing with our relationships to fellow believers? 1 Thessalonians 3:12

What is something we should be constantly seeking? Psalm 27:4

What should a person do about a loss of the joy of salvation? Psalm 51:12

What should a person pray for and do in living each and every day? Proverbs 3:5-6, James 1:5
Is there anything in life “too small” to bring before God?  

**Philippians 4:6**

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**Praying for Fellow Believers**

“Confess your _______________ to one another, and ______________ for one another that you may be healed.”  

**James 5:16**

Believers should pray for those who preach and teach the Word. We should pray that the Lord would open doors of opportunity and that His Word would spread rapidly and be received with the honor it deserves.  

**Colossians 4:3, 2 Thessalonians 3:1**

How many believers should we pray for?  

**Ephesians 6:18**

How are workers for the Lord to be obtained?  

**Matthew 9:38**

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**Praying for Those in Authority**

What is a responsibility of believers for those in governmental authority?  

**1 Timothy 2:1-3**

What special prayer request are we given from the psalmist?  

**Psalm 122:6**

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**Praying for Other People**

What are we told to do in **Luke 6:28** and **Matthew 5:44**?

What is our prayer for **ALL** men that we saw in **1 Timothy 2:1-4**?
SELF TEST #6

1. The believer should pray for help in developing his prayer life. __________________

2. Anxiety is warranted in some cases. __________________

3. We are told by Christ to pray for those who mistreat us. __________________

4. We should pray about the things we say. __________________

5. It is selfish to pray for ourselves. __________________

6. Christians are to pray that God would raise up workers for Him. __________________

7. We find it easy to pray for those who curse us. __________________

8. The Bible tells us to pray for ALL men. __________________

9. David prayed for God’s forgiveness of his sin. __________________

10. If we ask and seek it from Him, God promises wisdom and guidance. ________________

Answer True or False
Two basic truths about prayer

There are two truths that we must know about making a petition. These pertain both to the spiritual realm of prayer and the natural realm as well. 1-The one asking must have a good knowledge of the character and purposes of the one from whom something is being sought. 2-The one asking must also have a good knowledge of their own condition and need so as not to ask foolishly. Without some degree of discernment along these two lines, we will find ourselves asking foolish and selfish things of God in prayer.

1 John 5:14-15

“If we ask ____________________________________________________________
 ____________________________________________________________.”

“If we know ____________________________________________________________
 ____________________________________________________________.”

The Priestly Ministry of Christ

Who knows the Father perfectly, as well as all His purposes toward each of us? Matthew 11:27

What about our Great High Priest gives us confidence in coming to God through Him? Hebrews 4:14, 16

What is our Great High Priest, Jesus Christ doing for us who have come to God through Him? Hebrews 7:25

What do we learn about Christ from John 2:25?

What did Peter say about Christ in John 21:17?

What is true concerning Jesus Christ regarding ALL men? 1 Timothy 2:5
As believers we need to come to fully understand the importance of our identification with Christ. Not only is He our Redeemer, but He is also our living High Priest that intercedes for us at the right hand of God. He lives within us by His Holy Spirit who works through the word to make us more like Christ and have our desires to be more like Christ’s desires.

Our right of access to God

What and who gives us the boldness to enter into the presence of God (“Holiest”)? Hebrews 10:19-20

What is the basis of our confidence in drawing near to God? Hebrews 10:21-22

How does God say He will meet our needs? “According __________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________.” Philippians 4:19

What is the great essential thing needed to receive from God? John 15:7

It was at the Lord’s death and resurrection that this way to approach God was now open. (John 16:24-30) It is on the grounds of Christ’s acceptance with the Father that we can draw from the bank of heaven. It is only through Christ’s merits that we have any standing before God. It is through asking in His name and through His merit that we can ask in prayer and see results obtained.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit

What three words in Ephesians 6:18 indicate the importance of submission to the Holy Spirit in prayer?

What helps us be built up in the faith alongside the study of the Word? Jude 20

Romans 8:26 speaks to a chief weakness of believers in prayer. What is it?

Who helps us with this weakness?
What does **John 16:13-15** teach us about the role of the Holy Spirit in accordance to our relationship with and our understanding of Jesus Christ?

What three things does Paul allude to in his benediction in **2 Corinthians 13:14**?

What kind of prayer avails much according to **James 5:16**?

From whom must it be offered?

See an illustration of an energetic, passionate prayer from a godly man getting results in **Numbers 11:2**.

In **Zechariah 12:10** the Spirit is called what?

*Here we see that the Spirit brings saving grace that produces Godly sorrow, which results in repentant prayer to God for forgiveness. Along those same lines, we find the Spirit of God helps us as believers to bring acceptable prayer to God. When we find it difficult to pray, we should meditate on God’s Word and fill our mind with His truth and the Holy Spirit will use the Word to work in our hearts and minds that we will be able to turn those thoughts into acceptable prayer to God.*

“**Let us draw near...**”

Some may ask: “Why should we be required to go to God to tell Him His own will concerning us?” Does God need to be informed of our needs? **Matthew 6:8**

Nevertheless what does God tell us to do although He already knows all in advance? **Philippians 4:6b**

*Our object in prayer is not to change God’s will, but to “tune in” on His will so that our prayers will echo His mind for us. True prayer itself is a part of His planning for us. Our energized prayer is part of His plan to carry out His will in our lives. Remember in prayer like all communication we must also listen to God speak to us. We do that by hearing Him from His Word. This is vitally important to having a proper, effective prayer life.*
What do we see in Isaiah 65:24 that resulted from a close relationship to the Lord?

On what reassuring fact may we count?

“Lord, _______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________.” Psalm 10:17

What should ever be our sincere purpose? Hebrews 10:22

What does this always call for? Psalm 26:2
SELF TEST # 7

Answer True or False

1. There is a limit in the extent of provisions from God in meeting our needs. ___________________

2. The Lord understands our needs because He was also tempted as a man. ___________________

3. Christ is the one mediator between God and man. ___________________

4. Any kind of prayer “availeth much” and is effective. ___________________

5. Peter did not believe the Lord knew of his love for Him. ___________________

6. As our Great High Priest, Christ is praying for all those who have received Him. ___________________

7. The Holy Spirit prays for believers according to the will of God. ___________________

8. Our number one concern in prayer should be that we express our desires. ___________________

9. We may draw near to God with confidence because of the sacrifice of Christ for us. ___________________

10. God never answers prayer before the petitions are spoken. ___________________
“THE PATTERN PRAYER”

Matthew 6:9-13

After speaking to the disciples about prayer, and warning them not to pray as the hypocrites do,(i.e. To be seen by men, using repetitive empty words-“vain repetitions”) he then gives them a prayer to be used as a pattern or a model for praying. It reveals the spirit and emphasis that should be found in all true prayer. Even this model can become vain repetition. We will study this brief prayer and find the treasure that is within the principles here taught by our Lord in regards to prayer.

Our Father which art in Heaven

What word in this verse indicates the need for personal relationship to God for prayer? Matthew 6:9

What did the true praying of this prayer await? (Our Father) John 16:23-28

Hallowed be Thy Name

What does Psalm 111:9 say about God’s name?

This first petition is at the forefront of the prayer for a purpose. True reverence for God’s name puts a person in the place of true humility before Him. It is essential that we reverence God and pursue His Glory and not ours at all times, even in prayer.

Thy Kingdom come

When will this petition be realized in all its fullness? Daniel 2:44-45, Revelation 11:15, 22:20

This petition is a call to action. It would be total hypocrisy to pray for the full realization of Christ’s kingdom and every day thwart it by disobedience to the word, and by withholding our means, our time, and energy.

Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven

How did Isaiah picture the fulfillment of this petition? Isaiah 11:9

What did the Lord Jesus say about God’s will? Psalm 40:6-8, Hebrews 10:5-9
How is God’s will done in heaven? **Psalm 103:19-21**

**Give us this day our daily bread**

Does Jesus understand that we have physical needs? **John 6:11, 31**

In **Matthew 6:11** can we see that this trust and turning to God should be a constant experience?

Why have we no need to worry about things of tomorrow? **Matthew 6:31-34**

**Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors**

We are reminded that we are in need of bread as God’s creatures, and also as sinful, erring creatures we are in need of forgiveness as well.

This prayer is not a petition for salvation. But to who is the prayer addressed and how does it concern the believer in Christ? **Matthew 6:9/Galations 4:6, 1 John 1:9**

This prayer does not make our forgiving others the cause or basis of God saving us. God saves us by His Grace alone, yet we as believers are to live lives of constant forgiveness. We are indebted to God for His forgiveness and He has called us to forgive others as we have been forgiven. **Ephesians 4:32**

Can Christians be guilty of sin by neglecting our obligations? **James 4:17**

Do Christians often feel practically unable to pay such debts—but for the grace of God? **Luke 7:40-48**

Can we expect to have God’s forgiveness if we are unwilling to forgive others? **Matthew 6:14-15**

**Lead us not into temptation**

Does God tempt anyone? **James 1:13** How are we tempted? **James 1:14**
While God permits temptation to come to His own, what does He guarantee to them who look to Him in it? 
1 Corinthians 10:13

Deliver us from the evil one

See Christ’s prayer in John 17:15. God is our strong protector. Psalm 27:1-3

But since no Christian is beyond the reach of Satan’s snares, what equipment is required? Ephesians 6:11

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever

This doxology lifts us back to the level the prayer began with—the eternal things of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Compare 1 Chronicles 29:11

Amen

“Amen at the end of a prayer means ‘so be it’. It relates the one who prays intimately and emphatically to the petitions which precede.” Charles J. Woodbridge

Compare Ephesians 3:21

Who is given the title, “The Amen”? Revelation 3:14

Make a note of the emphasis in the “model prayer”.

How many of the petitions are for DIVINE things?

How many are for HUMAN needs?

What should always come first in our asking? Matthew 6:33
“SELF TEST # 8”

1. The Lord Jesus taught the disciples to call God “Father”.
   __________________

2. “Forgive us our debts….” Is a petition for salvation.
   __________________

3. According to the Psalmist God’s name is Holy and awesome.
   __________________

4. It is wrong to include our physical needs in prayer.
   __________________

5. Not to do something we know we should do is sin.
   __________________

6. Isaiah knew of and spoke of that future kingdom yet to fully come.
   __________________

7. God leaves the provision of our needs to the angels.
   __________________

8. Anyone who believes that there is a God has the right to call Him “Father”.
   __________________

9. God does not tempt anyone to sin.
   __________________

10. “Thy kingdom come”, will be fully realized when Jesus returns to reign in glory over the earth.
    __________________