



PART 4: Not All Prayer is Created Equal

BIG IDEA: There are many DIFFERENT KINDS of prayer and, for each, slightly different RULES and PRINCIPLES apply (Eph 6:18, 1 Tim 2:1).

→ *Do you think the sports analogy where there are many different games with all sorts of different rules and regulations is a fair one when it comes to prayer? Can you give an example where using the principles for one type of prayer really wouldn't work for another?*

9 DIFFERENT KINDS OF PRAYER

1. PRAISE & WORSHIP (1 Thess 5:16-18, Hebrews 13:15)
2. REPENTANCE
 - * Sometimes called CONFESSION = Asking God to CLEANSE, FORGIVE, RESTORE & MAKE YOU WHOLE (1 John 1:9).
3. COMMITMENT
 - * Taking your WORRIES, FEARS & BURDENS to the Lord (1 Peter 5:7, Phil 4:6-7).
4. CONSECRATION
 - * A prayer of DEDICATION, SUBMISSION & SURRENDER in obedience to the WILL & PURPOSES of God (Matt 26:39).
5. PETITION
 - * Prayer addressed to the FATHER, making specific REQUESTS in JESUS' NAME (John 16:23-24, Phil 4:6).
6. FAITH
 - * A DECREE of FAITH spoken to a situation in Jesus' name, based on a specific BIBLICAL PROMISE or right of SONSHIP or INHERITANCE (Mark 11:23-24).
7. Prayer of AGREEMENT or UNITED prayer
 - * Agreement = TWO OR MORE praying together; United = a whole CROWD raising one voice (Matt 18:19-20, Deut 32:30).
8. INTERCESSION
 - * Prayer ON BEHALF OF another (Ezek 22:30, Job 9:33, Dan 9:17-19, 1 Tim 2:1-4).
9. TONGUES (Rom 8:26-27, Eph 6:18).

→ *Read through each of these types of prayer, looking at the associated Bible verses. Do they appear in your prayer life? Do you use them like that? Which do you use most often? Are there any you find more troublesome or try to avoid?*

→ *Can you think of times where any of them were used by people in the Bible? Perhaps in the book of Acts?*

→ *Would it be fair to say that a balanced prayer life would include a healthy spread of all nine?*

→ *Can you think of any other types not on the list?*

→ *What's the difference between petition and the prayer of faith? What can you pray for with confidence, knowing securely what the will of God is? Where do you have to ask with a little more caution?*

COMMON QUESTIONS

1. Should I pray to Father or Jesus? Is it okay to pray to the Holy Spirit?
 - * If in doubt, ask the FATHER, in JESUS' name, seeking the SPIRIT'S wisdom and leading.
 - * But, you can have RELATIONAL CONVERSATION with Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

→ *"Jesus always prayed to the Father, so that's good enough for me." Discuss!*

→ *Should the way we involve Father, Son and Holy Spirit when we pray reflect their slightly different roles within the Godhead? And, if so, how?*

→ *If we're talking 'relational conversation,' when might you talk to Father v Son v Holy Spirit?*
2. Should I pray out loud or can it just be in my head?
 - * Certain prayers require BOLD DECLARATION, because, as scripture teaches repeatedly, the POWER is in the WORDS.
 - * Prov 18:21, Psalm 33:6, Isaiah 55:11, Mark 4:35-41, 11:23, Matt 8:8.
 - * GOD can read your THOUGHTS; the MOUNTAIN cannot!

→ *Can God read your thoughts? Can the enemy? Why did Jesus talk to inanimate objects like the wind or dead people like Lazarus?*

→ *Which prayers cannot be prayed 'in your head' by definition?*
3. Do I pray for something once or repeatedly?
 - * Broad suggestion: When praying prayers of faith, pray BOLDLY ONCE and then give THANKS.
 - * Otherwise, Jesus taught us to pray PERSISTENTLY (Luke 18).

→ *Why are you on dodgy ground if you pray the same faith prayer over and over again?*

→ *In what circumstances or in what areas should you pray over and over again?*
4. If Do I claim boldly or ask humbly?
 - * Certain things can be claimed boldly, because they're REDEMPTIVE FACT, direct consequences / rights of our salvation. Other things need to be ASKED (Matt 9:38, Eph 1:17, Luke 11:9-13).

→ *What would you say to someone who said it was arrogant to claim anything from God? Should you 'ask humbly,' some might say 'beg,' when scripture demonstrates that it's been freely provided for God's children as a result of Jesus' victory over sin & death?*
5. Should it be 'in Jesus' name' or 'for Jesus' sake?' or 'thru Jesus Christ our Lord'?
 - * Jesus taught clearly that we have the privilege of POWER of ATTORNEY to use His name, as if HE HIMSELF were asking.

→ *What is 'power of attorney' and how does it relate to using Jesus' name in prayer?*

→ *Should you ever pray 'for Jesus' sake' or 'through Jesus Christ our Lord?'*

→ *How would you have answered those five questions before listening to this message? Would you answer those questions differently now?*