



## Outer Growth - Praying

**Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house.**

### **2 Chronicles 7:1**

**Place** - Luke 11:1

**Routine** - Mark 11:25-26

**Approach** - Hebrews 4:16

**Yielded** - Jude 1:20

**Intercession** - Romans 8:26-27

**Natural** - 1 Corinthians 15:44

**God** - Daniel 9:20

To pray is to plead, call for help, or something to happen. Prayer is a specific plea for something or for someone towards a deity.

What is praying? Is it the same as either pray or prayer? Is there a difference?

To recap these topics concerning prayer and to pray. Pray is a verb: To petition or solicit help from a supernatural or higher being. A prayer is a noun: A practice of communicating with one's God. It can also be a collection of texts, formulas, body positions, and rules the person is required to follow. Praying requires more than general conversation, recitation, and detail with God. This type of devotion goes deeper, and praying out of love for someone else.

Biblically, praying and prayer, or praying or to pray come together, as in the Old Testament of First Kings eight, verse fifty-four, "And it was so, that when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto

the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven." The New Testament is from Ephesians six, verse eighteen, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints." However, although pray, prayer, and praying are all interconnected in the Word of God, there is something to pay close attention to in some of these verses that include praying. The verses that include pray, show gestures such as "I pray thee," "I pray you," "We pray thee," or "We pray you," from the Old Testament. In the New Testament, it shows verses with "Mountain to pray," "pray for them," "pray for us," "pray over," and so on.

Remember, as in verses proven, that to pray, prayer, and praying are all together Biblically. Still, prayer has similarities, but mainly personal. You have verse expressions such as "continue in prayer," "thy prayer," "of prayer," "prayer for," and so forth. Yet, the praying verses, the topic today, is something more interesting than the other two words for devotion, which is manifestation. The activity, response, coming from above, the Father of the saints, the Almighty God. There is something about praying to God that moves Him to respond earnestly.

This is not to say that God does not answer when someone prays, or in prayer, which is the same, but praying in some of these verses, there has been an immediate reply from the Most High. The theme verse for this topic is from Second Chronicles seven, verse one, "Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house." God responded with fire. Again, Biblically, the three terms of devotion are proven to be the same. Still, to pray is like warming the pot, prayer is like boiling it, but praying is like cooking, making the ingredients inside the pot, well done.

Praying requires a place. Yes, servants of God can pray anywhere, but having space for praying will develop and leave a spiritual, godly presence. The devil recognizes it as a danger zone, and that is why he tries to find

ways to prevent the godly from praying. After days, months, and years of praying in the same place, it will begin to change spiritually, not physically. When a believer spends time in devotion in that place, a spiritual glow of God's presence is present and continues to increase over time.

Praying is loving, and God is love. If we come to the Father and begin praying, all God's people should first start asking forgiveness and forgiving others who may have done us wrong. This must be our daily commitment to do this before going into praying.

"And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses," as in Mark eleven, verses twenty-five to twenty-six. Let no Christian delude themselves that they have faith sufficient for answered prayer if they secretly hold animosity or bitterness in their hearts against anyone.

Believers cannot expect to receive any answers from praying, no matter how long and hard they do, if they have unforgiveness lingering in their hearts. That is why the devil will attempt to use deception, attack in dreams, and do all the necessary things we do not like, especially with people that we are not fond of, to get us off track and away from praying and serving God.

There is an approach to praying. Because Christ sympathizes with our weaknesses, we can confidently approach the heavenly throne, knowing that praying is welcomed and desired by our heavenly Father. It is called the "throne of grace" because from it flows God's love, help, mercy, forgiveness, wisdom, spiritual power, spiritual gifts, the fruit of the Holy Spirit, and all that we need in any circumstances. One of the great blessings of salvation is that Christ is now our high priest, the mediator, who opens the way for us to come to the Father with confidence, for all areas of need in our lives.

There are different ways of praying to the Lord, beginning with Hannah in First Samuel one, verse twelve to the start of thirteen, "And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli marked her mouth. Now

Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard." In First Kings eight, verse fifty-four, Solomon, kneeling on his knees with his hands spread toward heaven. Standing up with praying is another, or lying down on the ground or bed, and praying in the Holy Spirit, which is the heavenly language.

Believers must yield by praying in the Spirit. Saints must pray by the enabling power of the Holy Spirit. By looking to the Holy Spirit to inspire, guide, energize, sustain, and help us do battle in our praying. Praying in the Spirit includes one's mind and praying with one's spirit.

To devote ourselves intensely to praying, we must be alert to the many things that would detour us from that purpose. Satan and the weakness of our human nature will try to cause us to neglect praying. Believers must discipline themselves to achieve the devotion required for Christian victory. This was the practice of those in the New Testament church who were baptized in the Spirit, as in Acts two, verse forty-two. This devotion to praying must be undergirded by thanksgiving to Christ for what He has done for us.

Praying is intercession. It is the opportunity to stand in the gap for something or someone. That explains the manifestation with Solomon when fire came down from heaven when he finished praying. Hannah, with Eli watching, and Daniel, with the men assembled. The impact of praying from a believer attracts the attention of God and others nearby, affecting the atmosphere. Such praying welcomes the Holy Spirit to the one who serves God with a clean heart and a love for God and His presence.

Concerning the Holy Spirit's activity in helping the believer in praying, there are three observations which are important: The child of God has two divine intercessors. Christ intercedes for the believer in heaven, and the Holy Spirit intercedes within the believer on earth. With "groanings" points to the Spirit's intercession and travail within the believer and uttered by the believer.

Our spiritual desires and yearnings as believers find their source in the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us. The Spirit Himself sighs, groans, and travails within us, longing for the

day of our final redemption. He appeals to the Father on behalf of our needs "according to the will of God."

Intercession is giving during praying. And this is a sign of love, because love gives, and God is love. No wonder there is an immediate reaction from God and the Holy Spirit in a believer while interceding in praying for someone. It is unselfish love combined with faith to go with it. "Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them," as in Hebrews seven, verse twenty-five. Christ lives in heaven in His Father's presence, as in Hebrews eight, verse one, interceding for each one of His followers according to the Father's will. Therefore, if the Son of God is doing it, then we should be interceding, which can change lives and draw the attention of the Almighty God.

Praying will present physical challenges. The soul from heaven is born into a natural body. How we take care of the soul in the body depends upon us. When life is complete, the soul will spend eternity somewhere, and the body will remain here on earth. For believers, how we live in our being and praying will be evaluated by God someday.

"As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly," as in First Corinthians fifteen, verses forty-eight through forty-nine.

The more praying is the more the presence of God will be upon us. The saints of God are a light in the midst of a dark world.

Praying is to God. For believers, it is to the Father, through the Son, Jesus Christ, the Lord and Saviour, for those who received salvation. Praying is a privilege that believers have access to God and can call upon Him any time, on any day. Therefore, saints of God should remember to be praying for family, friends, and those around us because that is what praying is all about. Doing it on behalf of someone else. God is waiting for us to commune with Him today.

Praying, prayer, and to pray are all the same Biblically. However, here on earth, it can be defined differently. Whatever way you look at it, the time is now to do it and not a figure of

speech. The common phrase, "my prayers go out to so and so." Or, "We send our prayers out to this person or that person." Saints of God must actually do it to get the results as the Word of God declares, and not follow those who do not serve God and use it as a figure of speech, and not pray, or say a prayer, or not be praying at all.