

What is Prayer?



Prayer is an acknowledgment of our dependence upon a Being higher than ourselves.

Four Types of Prayer

I exhort therefore, first of all, that supplications, prayers, intercessions, thanksgivings, be made for all men (1 Tim. 2:1)

Supplication – 19x (δεησις), a seeking, request, or petition. An asking that occurs out of a need.

Prayer – 37x (προσευχη), generic term for prayer, emphasizes devotion, worship, and associate with places of worship

Intercession – 2x (εντευξις), a meeting, interview, an appointment to make petition

Thanksgiving – 15x (ευχαριστια), thankfulness, the giving of thanks

Who's Prayers Are Heard?

"Our Father..." (Matt 6:9)

- All are God's offspring in one sense, but... (Act 17:28)
- Yet only Christians are 'children of obedience' (1 Pet 3:14-17)

"God hears not sinners..." (Jhn 9:30-31)

- Statement made by an uninspired man. Is it true?
- Doesn't hear those actively living in wickedness (Prov 28:9)
- Does hear penitent sinners (Acts 8:18-22, Eccl 7:20, 1 Jhn 1:8)

"lifting up holy hands" (1 Tim 2:8)

- Prayers of a righteous person are effective (Jas 5:16)
- "For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous" (1 Pet 3:12)
- We obey His commandments (1 Jhn 3:22)
- We treat others as God intends (Lk 11:4, 1 Pet 3:7)

Who's Prayers Are Heard? —————

The Unusual Instance of Cornelius' Prayer

Acts 10

- Neither Christian nor Jew
- Yet devout and feared God
- Gave alms and prayed to God always

"And he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter." (Acts 10:4-5)

God's answer to Cornelius' prayers was to send him the gospel message!

Do I Really Pray?

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers (Acts 2:42)

Pray without ceasing (1 Thess 5:17)