

PERSONAL & PRIVATE PRAYER

*But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. **Matthew 6:6 NIV***

*Communication with our Heavenly Father engages many aspects of our entire being:
CONSCIENCE, SPIRIT, MIND, EMOTION, WILL, DESIRE.*

PREPARE

CONSCIENCE
Look Inside
Review • Confess • Repent

REJOICE

SPIRIT
Look Above
Praise • Thanksgiving • Worship

ALIGN

MIND
Seek the Kingdom
Align with God's Plans and Promises

YEARN

EMOTION
Seek God Himself
Yearn for God's Honor and Fellowship

EXPECT

WILL
Please Direct Me
Ask, Then Listen

REQUEST

DESIRE
Please Direct Others
Petition • Intercession

PREPARE

Prepare to meet with God, unhindered by unconfessed sin

▸ Look Inside

If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

Psalms 66:18

He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy. **Proverbs 28:13**

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. **1 John 1:9**

REJOICE

Rejoice in the opportunity to worship by praise and thanks

▸ Look Above

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

Psalms 100:4

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!...Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:4 & 6-7

ALIGN

Align your thoughts with the Word of God; pray through a passage

▸ Seek the Kingdom

The LORD Almighty has sworn, "Surely, as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will stand." **Isaiah 14:24**

Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails. **Proverbs 19:21**

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. **Matthew 6:33**

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. **Romans 12:2**

YEARN

Yearn with all your heart and know what's on God's heart; be prepared to listen

▸ Seek God Himself

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. **Matthew 22:37**

"Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me..." **Jeremiah 9:23-24**

Let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always. **1 Chronicles 16:10-11**

Be still, and know that I am God...
Psalms 46:10

Blessed are they who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart. **Psalms 119:2**

EXPECT

Expect God's direction for your soul and for your service

▸ Please Direct Me

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.
Proverbs 16:3

...yet not my will, but yours be done.
Luke 22: 42b

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. **Psalms 139:23-24**

REQUEST

Request God's intervention in the lives of believers and unbelievers

▸ Please Direct Others

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—
1 Timothy 2:1

He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.
Colossians 4:12

Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. **Ephesians 6:18**

GROUP PRAYER

Group prayer occurred regularly among the followers of Jesus in the first century. Do His followers in the twenty-first century participate in the same productive practice?

In the early church, **group prayer is frequent:** *"They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers."* -Acts 1:14

In the early church, **group prayer is a strategic habit:** *"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."* -Acts 2:42

In the early church, **group prayer produces power:** *"After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the Word of God boldly."* -Acts 4:31

In the early church, **group prayer confirms God's direction:** *"...They chose Stephen...also Philip...they presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. So the word of God spread."* -Acts 6:5-7

In the early church, **group prayer is taken seriously and is sometimes in large groups:** *"So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying...many people had gathered and were praying."* -Acts 12:5 & 12

In the early church, **group prayer is sometimes focused on the ministry of church elders:** *"Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord..."* -Acts 14:23

In the early church, **group prayer is combined with songs of praise and sometimes is an open witness to unbelievers:** *"About midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them."* -Acts 16:25

In the early church, **group prayer addresses the needs of a church in troubling times:** *"He knelt down with all of them and prayed. They all wept as...they would never see his face again."* -Acts 20:36-38

In the early church, **group prayer is a unifying encounter with their God, including entire families:** *"All the disciples and their wives and children accompanied us out of the city, and there on the beach we knelt to pray. After saying good-bye to each other, we went aboard the ship, and they returned home."* -Acts 21:5