

# How to Pray at the Prayer Meeting

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## 1. We should pray edifyingly.

According to 1 Corinthians 14, the public gathering of the church at Corinth was in shambles (gluttony, drunkenness, people interrupting each other, women taking unwarranted leadership roles). In this situation Paul will say: “Let all things be done unto edifying” (1 Cor. 14:26). “Let all things be done decently and in order” (1 Cor. 14:40). When prayer is made, it should be to maximum edification.

## 2. We should pray understandingly.

“I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also” (1 Cor. 14:15). We should grieve over and detest our mindless prayers. We need our thoughts reined in and set upon what is prayed for.

## 3. We should pray spiritually.

“I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also” (1 Cor. 14:15). It is a serious indictment when the Lord says “this people draw near me with their mouth... but have removed their heart far from me” (Is. 29:13). True worship and true prayer must be in spirit and in truth (Jn. 4:24).

## 4. We should pray specifically.

True, there are so many things to pray for, and the Bible lets us hear so many different petitions, but it is helpful to pray with focus. Nehemiah is concerned about the state of Jerusalem, the broken walls of that city and lays especially those needs before the Lord (Neh. 1).

## 5. We should pray persistently.

Acts 1:14: “These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication.”

Luke 18:1: “And he spake this parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.”

When we grow discouraged, afraid the Lord does not hear us and will not answer us, are tempted to give up in prayer, let us press on in prayer, return to prayer, cling to Him in prayer, persevere in prayer, aided by the Spirit of grace and supplications.

## 6. We should pray unitedly.

Acts 1:14: “These all continue with one accord in prayer and supplication.”

How easily the disciples could have dug into each other’s past, but in a spirit of humility and unity they bowed as needy sinners at the throne of grace. Disunity hinders are our prayers (Gal. 5:15; 1 Pet. 3:7).

## **7. We should pray believingly.**

James 1:6: "but let him ask in faith."

Matthew 21:22: "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."

Not faith in your prayer or in the power of prayer, but in God, the Hearer and Answerer of prayer, who is able and willing to hear and help us in all our need. That means we should be a people of His word, so that we can bring our requests to God, pleading the promises of God.

## **8. We should pray humbly.**

God's people always have reason to pray for mercy (Lk. 18:13). How humbling it is to be at the Master's feet, to plead for the Master's help and to receive the Master's grace.

*"That which brings the praying soul near to God is humility of heart. That which gives wings to prayer is lowliness of mind. Pride, self-esteem, and self-praise effectually shut the door of prayer. He who would come to God must approach the Lord with self hidden from his eyes. Humility is a rare Christian grace of great price in the courts of heaven, entering into and being an inseparable condition of effectual praying. It gives access to God when other qualities fail. Its full portrait is found only in the Lord Jesus. Our prayers must be set low before they can ever rise high." E. M. Bounds*

## **9. We should pray sincerely.**

"Prayer is a sincere, sensible, affectionate pouring out of the heart or soul to God, through Christ, in the strength and assistance of the Holy Spirit, for such things as God has promised, or according to His word, for the good of the church, with submission in faith to the will of God" (John Bunyan).

It is possible to ask amiss, to not ask sincerely, genuinely, or to ask the right things but in the wrong way. How we need Christ to teach us to pray, "pouring out our hearts before Him" (Ps. 62:8).

## **10. We should pray for Christ's sake.**

John 14:13-14: "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name I will do.... If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it."

However weak and imperfect are prayers are, we can put them in Christ's hands and plead the foundation of Christ's name, and not be put to shame.

JC Ryle: "We have a friend at court, an advocate with the Father; and if we honour Him by sending all our petitions through Him, He pledges His word that they shall succeed."