

Prayer, Part 3

Rules of Prayer

Prayer is the greatest work of the Christian. The purpose is to find out God's will for our lives. Remember, there are two people involved in prayer: you and the Lord. Prayer is the breath of the soul.

I John 5:14-15

- 14 ¶ And this is the boldness which we have toward him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us: *God is not obligated to give you anything you ask for. There are too many 'gimme gimme gimme' prayers. God will deal with your prayers according to His will, whatever He wants in your life. He's not going to give us things that are bad for us.*
- 15 and if we know that he heareth us whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions which we have asked of him. *We desire certain things of God, but are they His will? Some prayers are not answered, or given the absolute answer of NO. This is because it is not God's will for your life. God will not do it whether we ask or not. He wants us to ask for things. Parallel earth to heaven, for instance, a kid will not get a toy from his parents unless he asks for it. And sometimes God gives you things you don't ask for, like a surprise present from your parents. If God grants your prayer, He expects it to be used for His glory, not just for your amusement. Will God grant a prayer that is not particularly in His will? In the Old Testament, God gave Hebeiah 15 more years to live, but Hebeiah had a child who became the most evil king and hurt lots of people. God may grant prayers that are not the best for you just to teach you a lesson. Be careful of what you ask for. The key to praying is that you ask for God's will to be done, not yours. Ask Him to show you His way, and He usually will show you His way.*

Psalms 66:18-20

- 18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear: *confess your sins before you pray or He will not hear you. You will be out of fellowship with the Lord if you have not confessed your sins to Him and asked for forgiveness first. Confess those sins you know you committed, then ask for forgiveness for any sins you committed that you didn't know about, and ask forgiveness for all those. Then pray for what you want, in accordance with God's will. Does God hear prayers of nonchristians? The only prayer He hears from the unsaved is "Save me". They are not in the family yet. First they need to do the repentant prayer, then they will be in the family and God will hear them. God does hear innocent children's prayers, too, whether they are saved yet or not. He takes all that into consideration. He tells to come to Him like children in prayer, to be more like children.*

Daniel 9:1-19

Pay attention to the pattern of Daniel's prayer:

- 1 ¶ In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans,
- 2 in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years whereof the word of Jehovah came to Jeremiah the prophet, for the accomplishing of the desolations of Jerusalem, even seventy years.
- 3 And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. *In verses 3-14, Daniel confesses his sins and those of Israel to the Lord. He is committed to letting nothing get in the way of the Lord hearing his prayer. "Supplications" means "begging for mercy". Get your mind off of anything else, get somewhere private where you won't be disturbed, and pray to God in earnest, recognizing*

God first as supreme being and Lord of all, then confessing your sins, then asking for what you want. So first, get in a private place where you won't be disturbed.

- 4 ¶ And I prayed unto Jehovah my God, and made confession, and said, Oh, Lord, the great and dreadful God, who keepeth covenant and loving kindness with them that love him and keep his commandments, *then, recognize God is the greatest of all.*
- 5 we have sinned, and have dealt perversely, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even turning aside from thy precepts and from thine ordinances; *then confess your sins and the sins of others if you want.*
- 6 neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, that spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.
- 7 O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of face, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee.
- 8 O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee. *Get on your knees somewhere in private and ask God where you rebelled against Him to cause bad things to come down on you.*
- 9 To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgiveness; for we have rebelled against him;
- 10 neither have we obeyed the voice of Jehovah our God, to walk in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets.
- 11 Yea, all Israel have transgressed thy law, even turning aside, that they should not obey thy voice: therefore hath the curse been poured out upon us, and the oath that is written in the law of Moses the servant of God; for we have sinned against him. *Daniel repeats the confession of sins of himself and his countrymen.*
- 12 And he hath confirmed his words, which he spake against us, and against our judges that judged us, by bringing upon us a great evil; for under the whole heaven hath not been done as hath been done upon Jerusalem. *Other cities had been destroyed but none as great as Jerusalem.*
- 13 As it is written in the law of Moses, all this evil is come upon us: yet have we not entreated the favor of Jehovah our God, that we should turn from our iniquities, and understand your truth.
- 14 Therefore hath Jehovah watched over the evil, and brought it upon us; for Jehovah our God is righteous in all his works which he doeth, and we have not obeyed his voice. *Daniel reiterates that we (the Jews back then in Egypt) are here in captivity because we have sinned against You.*
- 15 And now, O Lord our God, that hast brought thy people forth out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and hast gotten thee renown, as at this day; we have sinned, we have done wickedly. *Daniel petitions, prays to God, to free the Jews from Egypt to glorify God, not for his own pleasure.*
- 16 O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, let thine anger and thy wrath, I pray thee, be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain; because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people are become a reproach to all that are round about us. *God please turn your fury away from Jerusalem. The whole world knew the power of God, and He lived with them in Israel until they kept being so evil He left them and let them become slaves.*
- 17 Now therefore, O our God, hearken unto the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake. *God, I'm asking you to take a look at the city of Jerusalem, and your temple. It's laying ruins and the world is making fun of you and your people because it's laying in ruins.*
- 18 O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name: for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousness, but for thy great mercies' sake. *Daniel reminds God that Jerusalem is God's own city and Daniel is asking God for God's glory to restore Jerusalem and release the slaves.*
- 19 O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God, because thy city and thy people are called by thy name. *God, don't waste any time and get us back to Jerusalem for God's*
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glory. Daniel ends this prayer by asking God to raise the city of Jerusalem back up, put the people back in it, all for God's glory.

1 Kings 8:1-66

This is another great prayer to pattern your prayers after: (from www.OnlineBible.net)

- 1 ¶ Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the princes of the fathers' houses of the children of Israel, unto king Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of Jehovah out of the city of David, which is Zion.
- 2 And all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto king Solomon at the feast, in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month.
- 3 And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark.
- 4 And they brought up the ark of Jehovah, and the tent of meeting, and all the holy vessels that were in the Tent; even these did the priests and the Levites bring up.
- 5 And king Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, that were assembled unto him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing sheep and oxen, that could not be counted nor numbered for multitude.
- 6 And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of Jehovah unto its place, into the oracle of the house, to the most holy place, even under the wings of the cherubim.
- 7 For the cherubim spread forth their wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubim covered the ark and the staves thereof above.
- 8 And the staves were so long that the ends of the staves were seen from the holy place before the oracle; but they were not seen without: and there they are unto this day.
- 9 There was nothing in the ark save the two tables of stone which Moses put there at Horeb, when Jehovah made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt.
- 10 And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of Jehovah,
- 11 so that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud; for the glory of Jehovah filled the house of Jehovah.
- 12 ¶ Then spake Solomon, Jehovah hath said that he would dwell in the thick darkness.
- 13 I have surely built thee a house of habitation, a place for thee to dwell in for ever.
- 14 And the king turned his face about, and blessed all the assembly of Israel: and all the assembly of Israel stood.
- 15 And he said, Blessed be Jehovah, the God of Israel, who spake with his mouth unto David thy father, and hath with his hand fulfilled it, saying,
- 16 Since the day that I brought forth my people Israel out of Egypt, I chose no city out of all the tribes of Israel to build a house, that my name might be there; but I chose David to be over my people Israel.
- 17 Now it was in the heart of David my father to build a house for the name of Jehovah, the God of Israel.
- 18 But Jehovah said unto David my father, Whereas it was in thy heart to build a house for my name, thou didst well that it was in thy heart:
- 19 nevertheless thou shalt not build the house; but thy son that shall come forth out of thy loins, he shall build the house for my name.
- 20 And Jehovah hath established his word that he spake; for I am risen up in the room of David my father, and sit on the throne of Israel, as Jehovah promised, and have built the house for the name of Jehovah, the God of Israel.
- 21 And there have I set a place for the ark, wherein is the covenant of Jehovah, which he made with our fathers, when he brought them out of the land of Egypt.
- 22 ¶ And Solomon stood before the altar of Jehovah in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven;
- 23 and he said, O Jehovah, the God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath; who keepest covenant and lovingkindness with thy servants, that walk before thee with all their heart;
- 24 who hast kept with thy servant David my father that which thou didst promise him: yea, thou spakest with thy mouth, and hast fulfilled it with thy hand, as it is this day.
- 25 Now therefore, O Jehovah, the God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that which thou hast promised him, saying, There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit on the throne of Israel, if only thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me as thou hast walked before me.
- 26 Now therefore, O God of Israel, let thy word, I pray thee, be verified, which thou spakest unto thy servant David my father.

- 27 But will God in very deed dwell on the earth? behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded!
- 28 Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O Jehovah my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer which thy servant prayeth before thee this day;
- 29 that thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place whereof thou hast said, My name shall be there; to hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall pray toward this place.
- 30 And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place: yea, hear thou in heaven thy dwelling-place; and when thou hearest, forgive.
- 31 If a man sin against his neighbor, and an oath be laid upon him to cause him to swear, and he come *and* swear before thine altar in this house;
- 32 then hear thou in heaven, and do, and judge thy servants, condemning the wicked, to bring his way upon his own head, and justifying the righteous, to give him according to his righteousness.
- 33 When thy people Israel are smitten down before the enemy, because they have sinned against thee; if they turn again to thee, and confess thy name, and pray and make supplication unto thee in this house:
- 34 then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy people Israel, and bring them again unto the land which thou gavest unto their fathers.
- 35 When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou dost afflict them:
- 36 then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, when thou teachest them the good way wherein they should walk; and send rain upon thy land, which thou hast given to thy people for an inheritance.
- 37 If there be in the land famine, if there be pestilence, if there be blasting *or* mildew, locust *or* caterpillar; if their enemy besiege them in the land of their cities; whatsoever plague, whatsoever sickness there be;
- 38 what prayer and supplication soever be made by any man, *or* by all thy people Israel, who shall know every man the plague of his own heart, and spread forth his hands toward this house:
- 39 then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling-place, and forgive, and do, and render unto every man according to all his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;)
- 40 that they may fear thee all the days that they live in the land which thou gavest unto our fathers.
- 41 Moreover concerning the foreigner, that is not of thy people Israel, when he shall come out of a far country for thy name's sake
- 42 (for they shall hear of thy great name, and of thy mighty hand, and of thine outstretched arm); when he shall come and pray toward this house;
- 43 hear thou in heaven thy dwelling-place, and do according to all that the foreigner calleth to thee for; that all the peoples of the earth may know thy name, to fear thee, as doth thy people Israel, and that they may know that this house which I have built is called by my name.
- 44 If thy people go out to battle against their enemy, by whatsoever way thou shalt send them, and they pray unto Jehovah toward the city which thou hast chosen, and toward the house which I have built for thy name;
- 45 then hear thou in heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.
- 46 If they sin against thee (for there is no man that sinneth not), and thou be angry with them, and deliver them to the enemy, so that they carry them away captive unto the land of the enemy, far off or near;
- 47 yet if they shall bethink themselves in the land whither they are carried captive, and turn again, and make supplication unto thee in the land of them that carried them captive, saying, We have sinned, and have done perversely, we have dealt wickedly;
- 48 if they return unto thee with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies, who carried them captive, and pray unto thee toward their land, which thou gavest unto their fathers, the city which thou hast chosen, and the house which I have built for thy name:
- 49 then hear thou their prayer and their supplication in heaven thy dwelling-place, and maintain their cause;
- 50 and forgive thy people who have sinned against thee, and all their transgressions wherein they have transgressed against thee; and give them compassion before those who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them
- 51 (for they are thy people, and thine inheritance, which thou broughtest forth out of Egypt, from the midst of the furnace of iron);
- 52 that thine eyes may be open unto the supplication of thy servant, and unto the supplication of thy people Israel, to hearken unto them whensoever they cry unto thee.

- 53 For thou didst separate them from among all the peoples of the earth, to be thine inheritance, as thou spakest by Moses thy servant, when thou broughtest our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord Jehovah.
- 54 ¶ And it was so, that, when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto Jehovah, he arose from before the altar of Jehovah, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread forth toward heaven.
- 55 And he stood, and blessed all the assembly of Israel with a loud voice, saying,
- 56 Blessed be Jehovah, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by Moses his servant.
- 57 Jehovah our God be with us, as he was with our fathers: let him not leave us, nor forsake us;
- 58 that he may incline our hearts unto him, to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and his statutes, and his ordinances, which he commanded our fathers.
- 59 And let these my words, wherewith I have made supplication before Jehovah, be nigh unto Jehovah our God day and night, that he maintain the cause of his servant, and the cause of his people Israel, as every day shall require;
- 60 that all the peoples of the earth may know that Jehovah, he is God; there is none else.
- 61 Let your heart therefore be perfect with Jehovah our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day.
- 62 ¶ And the king, and all Israel with him, offered sacrifice before Jehovah.
- 63 And Solomon offered for the sacrifice of peace-offerings, which he offered unto Jehovah, two and twenty thousand oxen, and a hundred and twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the children of Israel dedicated the house of Jehovah.
- 64 The same day did the king hallow the middle of the court that was before the house of Jehovah; for there he offered the burnt-offering, and the meal-offering, and the fat of the peace-offerings, because the brazen altar that was before Jehovah was too little to receive the burnt-offering, and the meal-offering, and the fat of the peace-offerings.
- 65 So Solomon held the feast at that time, and all Israel with him, a great assembly, from the entrance of Hamath unto the brook of Egypt, before Jehovah our God, seven days and seven days, even fourteen days.
- 66 On the eighth day he sent the people away; and they blessed the king, and went unto their tents joyful and glad of heart for all the goodness that Jehovah had showed unto David his servant, and to Israel his people.