

***What Happens When We Pray?  
Christ's Role In Prayer***

**Introduction:**

1. What Happens When We Pray?
    - We Are Privileged To Participate In Prayer With God – In Fact, With Every Member Of The Trinity!
    - And Through Prayer, The Child Of God Enters Into The Very Presence Of God!
    - What Happens When We Pray?
      - Four Roles:
        - Our Role - Primarily Is One Of Asking!
          - Matthew 7:7-8 - “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened!”
        - The Holy Spirits Role In Prayer - He Helps!
          - Romans 8:26-28 - “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose!”
  2. What Is Jesus Christ's Role In Prayer?
    - Ultimately, Christ's Role Is That He Perfects Our Prayers!
      - He Perfects Our Prayers!
    - Our Weak & Finite Prayers Are Offered With The Infinite Help Of The Holy Spirit To Our Heavenly Father Through Our Great High Priest, The Lord Jesus Christ, Who Infinitely Perfects Our Prayers & Intercedes On Our Behalf!
      - How Does Jesus Christ Perfect Our Prayers?
- 1. *Through His Pattern For Our Prayer!***
- When Christ Came Into This World, He Came Not Just To Save But To Serve – And He Serves As An Example Of How One Should Pray!
    - Because, Naturally, We Don't Know How To Pray!
    - We Need Someone To Teach Us How To Do This Spiritual Practice & Exercise!
      - This Is Why The Disciples Asked: “And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples!” (Luke 11:1)
  - Christ Perfects Our Prayer By Teaching Us How To Pray!
    - Through Instruction!
      - Lord's Prayer In Luke 11 & Matthew 6!
    - Through Example & As A Model For Prayer!
      - An Example Of:
        - How To Pray!
        - When To Pray!
        - Where To Pray!
        - Why We Should Pray!
  - Some Examples Of How Christ Prayed That, When Heeded, Will Perfect Our Prayers!
    - Prayer In Gethsemane - Matthew 26:36-39 - “36 ¶ Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. / And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be **sorrowful and very heavy**. / Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. / And he went a little further, and **fell on his face**, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: **nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt!** / And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? / Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing,

but the flesh is weak. / He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. / And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy. / And he left them, and went away again, and **prayed the third time, saying the same words.** / Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. / Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me!”

- Look At How Christ Prayed!
  - How Did Prayer Affect His Mind & Heart?
  - How Did Prayer Affect His Posture?
  - How Did Prayer Affect His Will?
  - How Did Prayer Affect His Desire?
    - He Prayed Earnestly & With Great Importunity & Insistence!

- Christ Perfects Our Prayer By Serving As The Pattern For Our Prayers!
  - We Must Learn From The Master About Prayer!
  - We Must Sit “With Christ In The School Of Prayer!”
    - The Title Of Andrew Murray’s Book On Prayer!
  - How Else Does Jesus Christ Perfect Our Prayers?

## 2. ***Through His Prompting Of Our Prayer!***

- Prayer Can Sometimes Be A Difficult Spiritual Discipline To Undertake!
  - Look At Peter, James & John! They were with Jesus Himself! They Had Been Taught To Pray By Jesus Himself! They Were Asked To Be With & Pray With The Lord Jesus Himself! Yet, What Happened To Them? They Fell Asleep!
- The Lord Prompts Us To An Attitude Of Prayer!
  - When You Have A Desire To Pray – It Is Because The Lord Is Prompting You! It Is As Real & Personal As It Was To The Disciples In The Garden Of Gethsemane!
    - When He Says To You, “Come With Me For A Little While & Pray” – How Do You Respond?
  - Consider Romans 15:30 - “Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ’s sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me!”
    - When The Lord Prompts You To Pray, Respond In Prayer! He Is Providing You The Time, Place & Circumstances For You To Pray! Do Not Delay! Do Not Fall Asleep! Pray!
- The Lord Prompts Us To Specific Prayers!
  - When You Face Temptation, Christ Prompts You To Pray!
    - Matthew 26:41 - “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak!”
  - When You Face Unbelievers, Christ Prompts You To Pray!
    - Luke 10:2 - “Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest!”
- How Do You Respond When The Lord Prompts You To Pray?
  - Do You Even Recognize That It Is His Voice That Is Prompting You & Calling You To Prayer?
- Christ Perfects Our Prayer By Prompting Us To Pray!
  - And When He Prompts Us To Pray, We Must Respond In Prayer!
- How Else Does Jesus Christ Perfect Our Prayers?

## 3. ***Through His Preparation Of Our Prayer!***

- One Of The Present Works Of Christ For His People Is The Work Of Intercessor!
  - Romans 8:34 - “Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us!”
  - ***Through His Work As Intercessor, Jesus Christ Prepares The Way For Us To Pray!***
    - In Other Words, Jesus Christ Provides The Infinite Value & Infinite Power To Our Poor & Weak Prayers!

- How Does He Perfectly Prepare Our Prayers For Presentation To The Father?
- Through His Own Prayer For Us!
  - John 17 - The “High-Priestly Prayer” Of Christ On Earth!
    - Consider Especially Verses 9 & 20!
  - Jesus Christ Prayed Specifically For You – He Had You In His Mind & Heart When He Prayed These Words To His Father!
    - And Christ’s Perfectly Offered Prayers Were Always Perfectly Answered!
  - Peter’s Example - Luke 22:31-32 - “And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren!”
- Through His Own Performance For Us!
  - Hebrews 7:25 - “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!**”
  - Intercession - To Go To A Person On Behalf Of Someone Else - And This, “He Ever Liveth” To Accomplish!
- Through His Own Price For Us!
  - We Could Never Have Had Our Prayers Approach The Throne Of Grace Without Christ’s Blood Covering & Cleansing Us From Sin!
    - And This He Pleads For Us In The Presence Of The Father!
- Christ Perfects Our Prayer By Preparing Our Prayers For Delivery To The Father!
  - How Else Does Jesus Christ Perfect Our Prayers?

#### 4. ***Through His Presentation Of Our Prayer!***

- Hebrews 13:15 - “By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name!”
  - Jesus Christ “Presents Our Spiritual Sacrifices To God. Our Worship, Our Praise & Our Prayers We Address To God, The God And Father Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Are All Imperfect, But As They Are Presented To God By Him, They Are Acceptable Unto God And Delight The Heart Of God For That Reason!” (Arno C. Gaebelein)
  - Jesus Christ Is Right Now In The Presence Of God The Father In Heaven For Us!
    - And He Perfects & Offers Our Prayers, So That They Will Be Heard & Answered!
  - We Are Not Heard Because Of Our Words – We Are Heard Because Of His Worth!
    - It Is By His Merits That We Are Heard! And This Is Why We Can Come To Him In Faith To Pray!
- Christ Presents Our Prayers For Instruction To God!
  - We Seek To Know!
    - Yet, We Cannot Know! But Christ Has Put His Spirit Within Us, So We Can Know! And Now, God Can Give Us Wisdom, Knowledge & Understanding!
  - 1 Corinthians 2:13-16 - “Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. / But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. / But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. / For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? **But we have the mind of Christ!**”
- Christ Presents Our Prayers Of Confession To God!
  - We Seek Forgiveness!
    - Yet, We Do Not Deserve Forgiveness! But, Christ Offers His Blood For Our Pardon & Forgiveness!
  - 1 John 1:9 - “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness!”
- Christ Presents Our Prayers Of Praise & Thanksgiving To God!
  - We Seek To Worship!
    - Yet, We Feel & Are Inadequate To Do So! But, Christ Provides Infinite, Limitless Value To It, So It Is Sweet To God!
  - 2 Corinthians 2:14-15 - “Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ,

and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. *For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ*, in them that are saved, and in them that perish!”  
- Christ Perfects Our Prayer By Presenting Our Prayers To The Father!

**Conclusion:**

1. This Is The Role Of Christ In Prayer – He Perfects Them!  
- We May Then Come To Prayer With Great Faith & Confidence, Because Christ Provides Infinite Value & Infinite Power To Our Prayers!

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