

Prayer is an amazing provision for the Christian life. Prayer is communicating with God by words, thoughts, or even looking up to heaven (Mk. 6:41; 7:34). God is pleased when we come to Him with childlike simplicity and faith, and pray to Him about anything, any need, any time, and anywhere. Do you pray?

**Key verse: John 14:13-14** “And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. (v.14) If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.”

The “whatsoever” in this promise is referring to anything within the will of God for our good and towards His glory. We are free to ask God for whatever needs or desires we have that is in keeping with what God has given to us.

“In my name” – We always pray in Jesus’ name because it is only through Jesus that our prayers could ever be answered or granted. For public prayers this is especially important so that others who are hearing the payers can know that we depend upon the Lord Jesus. But praying in His name is never meant to be a religious ritual. When we pray in His name we are acknowledging all of who Jesus is and all that He has done for us – His merits, His person, His excellence, His perfection.

1. Prayer can take many forms:
  - A. Praise and Thanksgiving (Acts 2:47; 2 Cor. 2:14)
  - B. Petition (Rom. 1:9-10)
  - C. Intercession (Jn. 17:9)
  - D. Asking God or even arguing with God (Ex. 32:11-13; Ps. 10:1; Jonah 4:1-3)
  - E. Expression of fellowship (Lk. 16:12; 1 Jn. 1:7)
  - F. Dedication (Isa. 6:8)
  - G. Expression of saving faith (Rom. 10:13)
  - H. Misc. needs, problems, desires, sorrows, fears, affections, sins (Ps. 139:1-6; 23-24; Matt. 6:8)
  
2. The Recipients of our Prayers:
  - A. Eph. 2:18 – For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.
    - We pray to the Father, in the name of the Son, by the power of the Spirit.
  - B. We can also pray directly to the Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 7:59; 1 Cor. 1:2, 9; 2 Cor. 12:8; 2 Tim. 2:22; 1 Jn. 1:3).
  - C. We can ask for the Holy Spirit’s assistance (2 Cor. 13:14; Phil. 2:1; Eph. 3:16).
  
3. Some rules concerning prayer:
  - A. We must be clean morally. (Ps. 66:18; Pro. 15:29)
  - B. We must seek God’s glory and will. (Jn. 12:28; 17:4; James 4:3)
  - C. We must ask. (James 4:2): (cf. Mk. 10:47-51) – PROBLEM: No offered prayers.
    - Cast thy burdens upon the LORD (Ps. 55:22)
    - Commit thy works unto the LORD (Pro. 16:3)
    - Pray to thy Father which is in secret (Matt. 6:6)
    - Casting all your care upon Him (1 Peter 5:7)
    - Let your requests be made known unto God (Phil. 4:6)
  - D. We must believe that God will answer as He promises. (Matt. 21:22; Mk. 11:22-24)
    - When it comes to prayers and answers to prayers – God has no favorites (Ps. 65:2; Rom. 2:11)
    - Matt. 9:28-29; Eph. 3:20
  - E. We must maintain a proper and good relationship with other people (Pro. 21:13; 1 Pet. 3:1, 7; 1 Jn. 3:16-23)
  - F. We must never be contented with unanswered prayer.
  - G. We must pray. And we must pray on!