

The Joy of Prayer

A BIBLICAL GUIDE
TO PRAYER

LEWIS STANEK

The Joy of Prayer
A Biblical Guide to
Prayer

by
Lewis Stanek

Also by Lewis Stanek

“Hauntings”

“Angels and Demons, A Biblical Introduction to the Supernatural”

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All scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted are taken from either the American Standard Version or the New King James version of the bible.

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Dedication

The Joy of Prayer, A Biblical Guide to Prayer is dedicated to my family, most importantly my wife Mary Dianne, my sons El'Ahrai Michael, and Christian Augustine, my daughters Melissa Marie, and Zoe Elizabeth all who are in my prayers each and every day.

A special note of gratitude goes to Hal and Mary Huffman for their generous support during my families time of need.

Preface

I first wrote this little book with the thought in mind that by providing biblical guidance to ones' prayer life I could help the reader have a richer and more fulfilling experience in prayer. I didn't think it would be a difficult book to write after all I had already written two chapters primarily regarding prayer for my book *Angels and Demons, a Biblical Introduction to the Supernatural*. I took those two chapters dealing primarily with the practical aspects of prayer and angels and Prayer in spiritual warfare and I was on my way, or so I thought. As you can see from the original preface below I had to battle writer's block early on. Battle I did and I did complete the book, but I completely missed what I most wanted to convey. The chapters I completed were and are technically accurate and provide what I hope are useful insights into prayer, but nothing about the emotional satisfaction one receives in the simple act of prayer.

I spent much time researching the mechanics of prayer, the do's and don'ts of prayer were fairly well covered, but what was missing was the utter joy of communing with God. I know many of us consider prayer an act of desperation seeking God's intercession in our life to rescue us from one woe or another and some consider prayer as a sort of magical rite to twist God's arm into doing what we desire. The blab it and grab it group fit nicely in this category. That in particular is exactly what I did not want included in this book. That is not the attitude I wanted people to come away with from this little book. I want my readers to realize that ultimately prayer is a personal interaction within our relationship with our creator and can be a joyful experience in and of itself. So today I revise and update and include what I truly think is the most important aspect of prayer and as a result am renaming this little book "The Joy of Prayer".

Preface to the original book Faith to Faith

For whatever reason I had the arrogance to think this would be an easy topic and an easy little book to write, was I ever in for a rude awakening. Writer's block is to be expected from time to time and can be overcome with good planning and persistence on the part of the writer, but this seems to be more than the usual writer's block. Today it feels more like one of the gigantic stone blocks used in the construction of the Egyptian pyramids and I fear I may not have the strength to drag it into position by myself. My only recourse is put my money where my mouth is and rely on prayer to see me through to the completion of this project.

Considering, 2 Timothy 3:16 which states "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:" I will use the bible as my primary resource in researching the best practices in prayer and I will frequently quote

scripture as the final authority on a given subject, however, I realize that all faiths provide for and encourage prayer to differing levels and intensity and effect as prayer itself is a universal human need, but not all practices are as effective as others. Many people believe that by writing a prayer down on a piece of paper and putting it inside a prayer wheel that they effectively say that prayer each time they spin the wheel. This may certainly provide them with some comfort depending on how deeply they believe in the practice, but it just as certainly does not provide an intimate communion with God as actually taking the time, and making the effort to communicate directly with God, and to spend time expectantly listening, waiting for His response does, nor is it as rewarding.

Introduction

Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” Luke 11:1

It has been said that there are no atheists in foxholes and that may or may not be true, having never been in a foxhole, thank God, I have no way of knowing, but I suspect it is true; if not, I pity the poor atheist the lack of solace otherwise available through a belief in God. One thing is unquestionably true though, that is throughout the world in every culture and throughout history mankind has felt a deep yearning to cry out to something, someone greater than themselves. A desire to pray to one's creator is common throughout the world. It has been said that there is a vacant space in the soul of mankind that can only be filled by God's presence. The desire to reach out to God is an echo of our need to fill this void. How this desire is displayed from one culture to the next varies from cultures that practiced human sacrifice to those that believe in the efficacy of using prayer wheels to gain God's favor.

In the passage quoted from Luke 11:1 one of Jesus' followers asks him to teach them how to pray. It is a straight forward request, but let's think about this for a moment. It may be safe to say that Jesus' disciples had been raised in good Jewish families. They were familiar with the Torah, they had learned from the Pharisees in the synagogues since their youth, and at that time that temple worship still took place, and they were familiar with the animal sacrifices and prayers offered in the temple for the sins of the people. Furthermore, they were familiar with the prayers taught by John the Baptist. What more are they seeking and why are they asking Jesus?

Because they are his followers, yes of course, but more importantly because they had first hand experience to the effectiveness of His prayers. These men most certainly were familiar with prayer, but they realized there was still more that could be learned. They had the privilege of witnessing many of the miracles he wrought and they had the privilege of witnessing him pray. The disciples could see with their own eyes the connection between Christ' prayer life and the effectiveness of His prayers. They wanted to know what he knew that the others didn't, why His prayers consistently brought results when other's did not, could not.

How did Jesus respond to their request? By blessing them and us with what is now known throughout the world as the Lord's prayer or the Pater Noster. Which, in fact is the perfect template for us to follow in our daily prayers. Jesus answered them.

“When you pray, say:

“Father, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Give us each day our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.
Lead us not into temptation.”

Luke 11:2-4

We will discuss the template Christ provided for prayer in greater detail later in this book, but at this point I only want the reader to realize that prayer can be more than a primal cry to our creator in times of despair and need, but is also God given means of personal communion with our God. Furthermore, that prayer is something that can be taught, something to be learned, and something that must be practiced, and perfected if we desire to grow in our spiritual life. One does not become a master carpenter the first time one picks up a hammer and nail, one does not become a master mechanic the first time one picks up a wrench, One does not become a master chef the first time one boils an egg, likewise one does not master the art of prayer simply by crying out to God only when in distress. Prayer is a marvelous gift from god and is something we must know and a skill we must be proficient in if we expect to reach spiritual maturity. Prayer after all, in its deepest sense is communion with the living God.

In this book I hope to explore the following topics; the joy of prayer, what is prayer, the Lord's prayer as a template we can use to structure and focus our prayers, confession in prayer, angels and prayer, prayer in spiritual warfare, praying in tongues, and prayer and fasting among other topics. Each subject will be discussed as thoroughly as I am able with supporting scriptural references, but be warned this little book is not an exhaustive work on the subject. It is an introduction to prayer only. So at the back of the book I have included an appendix of Bible references regarding prayer to aid you on your way to further independent study.

The Joy of Prayer

I can think of no better way to begin a discussion on the joy of prayer than by sharing the poem “Hymn of Joy” written by Henry van Dyke in the year 1907. Henry van Dyke wrote this beautiful hymn with the intention of it being sung to the music of Ode to Joy composed by Ludwig van Beethoven. I doubt anyone can read this hymn without the grand music of Ode to Joy coming to mind and feeling the joy of god swell within.

The Hymn of Joy by Henry van Dyke

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Opening to the Sun above,
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
stars and angels sing around Thee,
center of unbroken praise:
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou the Father, Christ our Brother,—
all who live in love are Thine:
Teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the Joy Divine.

Mortals join the mighty chorus,
which the morning stars began;
Father-love is reigning o'er us,
brother-love binds man to man.

Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music lifts us sun-ward
in the triumph song of life.

For the kindle version of This little book I am embedding the following youtube link so you can listen to the Hymn of Joy being performed by Libera. This selection was taken from a live concert recording made at the at Royal Albert Hall, London, England. Those of you reading the paperback edition can still listen to this wonderful choir by typing the web address into your browser when you have access to world wide web.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMY3ivdNzwE>

Prayer has become a very important part of my life. It has grown from an occasional activity participated in only on occasions of distress to be if not the first act of my morning routine a major part each and every day. I have developed the habit of following the daily office as is kindly provided by the Mission of Saint Claire in the morning. I will pray in tongues while doing chores or at times when I am not sure what to pray, as I am sure the Holy Spirit will guide my prayers. On occasion I return to the Mission of Saint Claire near noon or in the evening to continue my prayers, but this is less frequent, and of course I pray for friends and relatives as the need arises.

I first started this practice some years ago as an act of devotion during lent. As the days passed I found that I enjoyed reading the daily lessons from the old and new testaments and of course the gospel reading for the day. I enjoyed the hymns, praise and prayers. I found that this filled a void in my life. Lent came to an end and I continued in my daily prayers. The charismatics among you may recognize that electric buzz one feels in the presence of the Holy Spirit. In the past I would experience that on occasion at church during praise and worship, now I was experiencing this more and more frequently during my morning prayers. I find that along with this “Buzz” comes contentment and joy. If you wish to explore the Mission of Saint Claire yourself try the link below. They follow the book of common prayer. Some of you I am sure will feel right at home reciting the prayers as listed and singing along with the hymns, others I am just as sure will find this too formal for their tastes. That is all right. There is nothing magical about the prayers in the book of common prayer. It is not the prayers themselves, although they are beautiful, it is the habitual time spent alone with God. If you wish to explore the Mission of Saint Claire's website follow the link below.

<http://www.missionstclare.com/english/index.html>

You can also find a copy of the book of common prayer online at

http://www.bookofcommonprayer.net/daily_office.php

There are many prayer books and devotionals available to you, so I am sure that with a little research on your part you will find one you will be comfortable using on a daily basis.

Remember the point of this little book is to encourage you to spend time alone with God, your creator, not to try to manipulate or extort rewards or things of this world from him, but to spend time with Him to recognize and develop your unique relationship with Him. There you will find joy that the things of this world cannot provide.

One word of warning, there are many false teachers in the world deceiving many into thinking God is little more than a magical vending machine where you pay your tithe and perhaps a little more than your tithe to the preacher in question and God will answer all your prayers, that if you give your money to that particular teacher God will make you rich. I recommend you avoid those people. They may call themselves prosperity preachers, but I suspect God might just consider them idolaters worshiping the gift rather than the giver. The only people getting rich in these cults are the preachers collecting money from the poor and desperate among their congregation.

While it is true that God will provide for all your needs, remember “But seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Mathew 6:33

Seek God first and foremost, not for what He can give you, but because of who He is, and who He is to you. Find your joy in prayer in spending time with your heavenly father.

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus to you-ward. Quench not the Spirit; despise not prophesying; prove all things; hold fast that which is good; abstain from every form of evil. I Thessalonians 5:16-22

"Think of prayer as the breath in our lungs and the blood from our hearts. Our blood flows and our breathing continues 'without ceasing'; we are not even conscious of it, but it never stops. And we are not always conscious of Jesus keeping us in perfect oneness with God, but if we are obeying Him, He always is. Prayer is not an exercise; it is the life of the saint."

Oswald Chambers, from My Utmost for His Highest.

What is Prayer?

Whatever prayer, whatever plea is made by any man or by all your people Israel, each knowing his own affliction and his own sorrow and stretching out his hands toward this house, I Kings 8:38, II Chronicles 6:29

When you think about prayer, what comes to mind? Monks chanting the psalms? Tibetan monks spinning prayer wheels? A mother begging God for the recovery of her sick child? A father pleading for the safe return of his soldier son? Burning a candle? Or perhaps quietly spending time at peace simply basking in the presence of God? The dictionary defines prayer as:

1. A devout petition to God or an object of worship.
2. A spiritual communion with God or an object of worship, as in supplication, thanksgiving, adoration, or confession.
3. The act or practice of praying to God or an object of worship.
4. A formula or sequence of words used in or appointed for praying :
The Lord's Prayer.
5. Prayers, a religious observance, either public or private, consisting wholly or mainly of prayer.
6. That which is prayed for.
7. A petition; entreaty.

Prayer is easily, all the above and more, as you will discover as you progress through reading this little book. Many people are shy when it comes to praying in public, afraid they may embarrass themselves in front of their friends or family. The truth though, is that what is in one's heart is much more important than one's ability to turn a pious sounding phrase. God knows better what we need and desire than we do. **“For your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”** Matthew 6:8. Preceding this passage we are advised by Christ against flamboyant public prayers **“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words.”** Mathew 6:7

We cannot fool God in our prayers, Not only does our Lord know what is in our hearts, He knows what we need and desire better than we are able to express or willing to admit, even to ourselves. A clever turn of phrase will not hide any unrepentant sins nor bitterness we are holding against others from the sight of God. Considering all the definitions listed above for prayer, it is important to know that when one is ready to be serious about this subject, prayer is something that requires a certain amount of preparation on the part of the supplicant.

One should take some time to consider if there are any unconfessed sins marring one's

conscious. If there are unconfessed sins, it is important to take the time necessary to confess those sins in prayer to your heavenly Father who is righteous and just to forgive you those sins and wash you clean from all unrighteousness; then you may continue in your prayers unhindered. Before we go any further, let us consider the seven definitions listed above one by one.

First, a devout petition to God or an object of worship. As a Christian I have no problem with the first part of this sentence. A devout petition to God, but listing an object of worship smacks of idolatry. I understand that the definitions are attempting to cover all bases and that there are those who do pray to and worship objects. The Krishna people come to mind.

Many years ago, when I was a young man in the Air Force stationed near New York I got into a conversation with one of Krishna's followers and was invited to come to their temple. Today I would politely refuse, but then I was young, foolhardy, curious and open to anything; I accepted his invitation. As I recall, the temple was located in a What I would call a New York brownstone. I was given a brief tour and then brought to the main room or gallery. The room was empty of furnishings except for a stage that displayed a porcelain statue of Krishna and some other deities, and then in the corner of the stage were smaller statues that resembled giant insects and spiders and such. I asked my host what those were and he told me they were the old gods. The humanoid statues were dressed and had food placed at their feet for their enjoyment. Deep inside I knew this was wrong and I had to get out of there. I thanked my host and left. The only point I have to make here is that there are those in the world today, who in all sincerity do worship idols, so technically when considering all religions this definition is correct, however, there is only one God and He is not made by human hands nor is He contained in a porcelain statue dressed in fine silk. We are reminded in Isaiah 46:6-8

“Those who lavish gold from the purse, and weigh out silver in the scales, hire a goldsmith, and he makes it into a god; then they fall down and worship! They lift it to their shoulders, they carry it, they set it in its place, and it stands there; it cannot move from its place. If one cries to it, it does not answer or save him from his trouble. Remember this and stand firm,”

The second definition states “A spiritual communion with God or an object of worship, as in supplication, thanksgiving, adoration, or confession.” Except for the same concerns regarding idolatry this definition too is correct. Prayer at its best is spiritual communion with the one we worship. The third definition states that prayer is the act or practice of praying to God or an object of worship. Removing the reference to objects from the statement we have “prayer is the act or practice of praying to God” this also is correct.

The next definition is “A formula or sequence of words used in or appointed for praying : The Lord's Prayer.” formulas for prayer are used in liturgical worship and can be very valuable in focusing ones concentration when praying. The next definition states that prayer is a religious observance, either public or private, consisting wholly or mainly of prayer. The next is simply that which is or has been prayed for as in my prayer. The final definition listed is a petition or entreaty and this is most certainly the most common form of prayer we find in modern western society.

Can we rephrase this information into a concise statement and come up with a working definition of prayer for ourselves? Prayer is the act or practice of spiritual communion with God performed either individually or corporately in agreement with others expressing supplication, thanksgiving, adoration, or confession. Personally I think the order of expression should be changed to adoration, confession, supplication, and thanksgiving. So that would give us this definition; **prayer is he act or practice of spiritual communion with God performed either individually or corporately in agreement with others expressing adoration, confession, supplication, and thanksgiving.**

Faith

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1

Faith may be the most important subject mentioned in this book. It is most certainly where the rubber meets the road in our daily lives as Christians. Merriam Webster defines faith first as strong belief or trust in someone or something, followed by belief in the existence of God or strong religious feelings or beliefs, and last as a system of religious beliefs. It is safe to say that this is how the secular world defines faith, but how does the bible define faith? The bible defines faith in Hebrews 11:1 as **the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen**. It would be easy for us to gloss over the differences in definitions if we are not careful. What exactly is meant by the word substance in the passage above? The word in the original Greek is ὑποστασις which is transliterated as hypostasis which means in English a setting or placing under, thing put under, substructure, foundation, that which has foundation, is firm, **that which has actual existence, a substance, real being**, the substantial quality, nature, of a person or thing, the steadfastness of mind, firmness, courage, resolution, confidence, firm trust, assurance. In Hebrews 1:3 the word has the meaning of the real nature in contrast to the outer manifestation; it speaks of the Divine essence of God existent and expressed in the revelation of His Son. In short substance in this sense is the actual being, existence, force or energy in existence under and prior to the manifestation of anything in the physical realm in which we live and have our being. That is somewhat more than simple confidence or hope that it will all work out for the best. It is the actual spiritual underlying existence of that for which we are praying.

Genesis 1:3 reads “And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.” The word 'said' in this sentence is the Hebrew word אָמַר, which is transliterated to amar which means to utter or say, so Genesis is literally telling us the universe was spoken into existence. So considering what we have learned about faith above could it be that the substance of faith is the spoken word of God? If that is the case it would be prudent to, when one is serious about one's prayers, to put in the work to research the written word of God, that is the bible to confirm that what you are requesting is in God's will, and if it is use the scripture confirming that in your prayer. Another point I would like to make regarding this passage is that it is the spoken word of God therefore it is safe to assume that our prayers will be most effective when spoken aloud in faith, and that faith being supported by scriptural references confirming God's will regarding what your request.

Lets look a a few examples of what the bible says about the importance of faith.

“And Jesus said to them, Because of your unbelief: for truly I say to you, If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible to you.” Matthew 17:20 AKJV

“Jesus answered and said to them, Truly I say to you, **If you have faith, and doubt not, you shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if you shall say to this mountain, Be you removed, and be you cast into the sea; it shall be done.**” Matthew 21:21

“Jesus said to him, If you can believe, **all things are possible to him that believes.**” Mark 9:23
“Therefore I say to you, What things soever you desire, **when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them.**” Mark 11:24

“But when Jesus heard it, he answered him, saying, **Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole.**” Luke 8:50

“And the Lord said, **If you had faith as a grain of mustard seed, you might say to this sycamore tree, Be you plucked up by the root, and be you planted in the sea; and it should obey you.**” Luke 17:6

“Then touched he their eyes, saying, **According to your faith be it to you.**” Matthew 9:29

You can see from these few passages that faith is of vital importance in our prayer lives. If we have but faith the size of a mustard seed we can move mountains, but how many of us have such faith? If we place too great an emphasis of our having faith are we making prayer a matter of “works” when it in reality is a matter of grace? Personally I believe, if one prays to God one has faith even if it is a foxhole pray made out of desperation, one has faith. What to do, if you doubt your faith? What did the father of the sick child do? We see in Mark 9:24 “And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, **Lord, I believe; help you my unbelief.**” What did Jesus' apostles do? In Luke 17:5 we read that they asked. “And the apostles said to the Lord, Increase our faith.” Luke 17:5 This I believe is a prayer God will always answer for after all Christ is the author and finisher of our faith as can be seen in Hebrews 12:2 “looking to Jesus, **the founder and perfecter of our faith**, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” Remember Faith too is an unmerited gift from God.

In my personal prayer life, I have an easier time with faith interceding for others. When it comes to my own needs and desires I falter and don't see as good results as I do when interceding for others. A few days ago, I was discussing this with my adult daughter, Melissa, and she pointed out that it because of fear, and she is absolutely right! For whatever reason, when I pray for others I don't feel the fear and doubt that I do when I pray for myself. Perhaps it is because I have already spent so much time focusing on the pain and or problems trying to find a solution of my own that it is hard for me to let go and trust God. So I must remind myself daily to “fear not, but believe only” as Christ tells us in Luke 8:50 “But when Jesus heard it, he answered him, saying, **Fear not: believe only**, and she shall be made whole.”

Will all of our prayers be answered granting our supplications as we would like? No, sometimes we ask amiss, sometimes what we ask for is not in God's plan for our life at that point in time, and sometimes we simply are not prepared. I think one example of not being prepared is that of the disciples not being able to cast out a demon. They certainly had faith, they had faith enough to go against the demon in the first place, but they were not able to cast it out. We are told that when they asked Jesus why they failed He replied “**However, this kind goes not out but by prayer and**

fasting.” “Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? Jesus said to them, Because of your unbelief: for truly I say to you, If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible to you. However, this kind goes not out but by prayer and fasting.” Matthew 17:19-21

Prayer and Fasting

“Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? Jesus said to them, Because of your unbelief: for truly I say to you, If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible to you. However, this kind goes not out but by prayer and fasting.”
Matthew 17:19-21

Fasting is a spiritual exercise practiced by those of many different religions throughout the world. Those who seek a finer understanding and greater insight into the spiritual realm as well as those who wish to heighten their spiritual sensitivities will fast. We as Christians often find that fasting will allow us a closer walk with our God.

In this chapter we will be exploring fasting as used in conjunction with prayer. The scripture passage above describes a situation where a father has brought his son to the Jesus' disciples to ask them to cure his son who is described as a lunatic who often falls into the fire and often falls into water. The disciples try to cure the boy, but are unable. They then bring the boy to Jesus who rebukes the devil who flees at Christ's word and the boy is cured. Afterwards they ask Jesus why they were unable to cure the child. Jesus replies **“this kind goes not out but by prayer and fasting.”** Fasting then, it appears, is an important weapon in our spiritual arsenal.

Before Jesus began his public ministry he went into the desert and fasted for forty days in preparation, as recorded in Matthew 4:1-2 “Then was Jesus led up of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered” Notice that he was led by the Holy Spirit to undertake this fast and to be tempted. It was not something he began as a lark, or as a quick weight loss plan. He was following the guidance of the Holy Spirit, The same Holy Spirit that indwells you as a Christian and who will provide guidance to you if you will open yourself to it and listen.

Another example from the new testament of fasting prior to undertaking a ministry is given in Acts 13:2-4 “As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed to Seleucia; and from there they sailed to Cyprus.” This fast confirmed Barnabas and Saul's missionary journey by the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

An example of prayer and fasting is given in Acts 10:30-31 where the centurion Cornelius prayed and fasted and the answer to his prayer was communicated to him by an angel. “And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, And said, Cornelius, your prayer is heard, and your alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God” Acts 10:30-31 The angel advised Cornelius to send to Joppa and for Simon called Peter. Peter then came to the centurion and shared his witness of the gospel with Cornelius.

There are examples of national fasts being called in times of crisis recorded in the bible

such as in Esther 4:3 and Esther 4:16. The book of Esther records how Haman manipulated the king of Persia to order the death of all the Jews in Persia and the confiscation of all their property, when that decree was sent throughout the country the Jews responded with prayer and fasting as can be seen in Esther 4:3 “And in every province, wherever the king's commandment and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.” Queen Esther further ordered “Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast you for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in to the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.” before entreating the King on behalf of her people, as recorded in Esther 4:16.

The King of called a fast in response to Jonah's warning of God's judgment upon the people of Nineveh. “So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.” Jonah 3:5 And as God had Known they would repent of their sins he refrained from from punishing them, much to Jonah's dismay. There are many other instances of calls to prayer and fasting recorded in the bible, such as:

“Sanctify you a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the LORD your God, and cry to the LORD,” Joel 1:14

“Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:” Joel 2:15

“Therefore also now, said the LORD, turn you even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:” Joel 2:12

As you can clearly see the calls to fasting and prayer listed above were all prompted by God. One can be certain that following the promptings of the Holy Spirit, following the commands of god will result in a favorable outcome as recorded in Joel 2:32 “And it shall come to pass, that whoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD has said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.”

Not every instance of prayer and fasting ends with the supplicant getting the desires of his heart as can be seen recorded in the following passages taken from the book of II Samuel.

“David therefore sought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night on the earth.” II Samuel 12:16

“Then said his servants to him, What thing is this that you have done? you did fast and weep for the child, while it was alive; but when the child was dead, you did rise and eat bread.” II Samuel 12:21

“And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?” II Samuel 12:22

King David had sinned having Uriah sent to certain death in battle to hide his sin of taking Uriah's wife in adultery. The prophet Nathan then visited King David with God's judgment. “However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born to you shall surely die.” II Samuel 12:14 God had shown mercy to David in that he did not require his life, but he did not relent and allow the child to live even

though David fasted and interceded for the child's life.

Rather than request protection from the King on their journey to Jerusalem from Babylon the Hebrews proclaimed a fast seeking both guidance and protection from God as recorded in Ezra 8:21 and Ezra 8:23. "Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance." Ezra 8:21

"So we fasted and sought our God for this: and he was entreated of us." Ezra 8:23.

Christ himself gives us instruction as to how we should conduct ourselves during a fast in Matthew 6:17-18. "And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you." He also warns us regarding our inner motivations when fasting in Luke 18:11-14. "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank you, that I am not as other men are, extortionists, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. 'I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes to heaven, but smote on his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalts himself shall be abased; and he that humbles himself shall be exalted."

Fasting was a much more common practice in the past than it is today. People were much more familiar with fasting in the days when Jesus walked the earth than they are today in our hedonistic society so a few words regarding the practice of fasting are in order. First of all, what is a fast? Put simply in it's most basic terms a fast is abstaining from food for a specified duration of time. That is why the first meal of the day is called breakfast, or break fast. You are breaking the fast you kept overnight from the last morsel of food you consumed before going to bed until the first bite of food taken at the breakfast table. In actual practice one may abstain from all food and water, that is an absolute fast, one may abstain from food and allow oneself liquids such as juice, water or tea, or one may abstain from only certain foods, such as refraining from eating any meat and consuming only fruits and vegetables as Daniel and his fellows did in Daniel 1:12. "Prove your servants, I beseech you, ten days; and let them give us vegetables to eat, and water to drink" Daniel followed this diet in order to remain free from meats from the kings table which had certainly been offered to idols.

Prior to embarking on a fast one must first decide what type of fast one is going to practice. I personally have never tried an absolute fast, other than when I am sleeping. I prefer to allow myself to consume juice, bullion, tea and water. I find fasts where one consumes only water much too difficult to continue for long, by allowing myself a little variety in my liquids I find that I can continue for a longer period. It is a good practice to refrain from eating meat the day before you begin your fast eating only vegetables or perhaps salad the day before to prepare you system for the fast.

It is important to know why you are fasting, you must decide on an objective. Are you seeking to humble themselves, and pray and turn from your sins seeking God's mercy that he may heal our land as in II Chronicles 7:14 "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." or praying and fasting regarding a personal matter, it is important to know why you are fasting. For as recorded in James 1:6-8 "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavers is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." In other words while fasting remain focused on your objective during

your prayers.

Just as important as, if not more important than having an objective is to spend time preparing yourself spiritually for your fast. You can best accomplish this by doing some serious soul searching and forgiving anyone who has hurt or offended you in anyway that you are holding a grudge against, anyone you have not forgiven. It is wise to ask in prayer for the Holy Spirit to bring to mind anyone you are holding a grudge against due to offenses committed against you, anyone you have been unable to forgive and then to wait quietly, expectantly with your eyes closed waiting for the Spirit's prompting to bring to mind those who you need to forgive. It may be difficult, there may be unhealed wounds that remain tender to the touch, but it is vitally important to forgive. Consider the phrase from the Lord's prayer "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us" The two go together as different sides of the same coin. Christ forgave us when we were still dead in our sins, so how then, can we call ourselves Christians if we are not willing to forgive those who have offended us? As the Holy Spirit brings people to mind, say out loud, as Christ has forgiven me for my sins, I forgive you for offending me and then let it go. Continue in this way until no more people come to mind. If the same person comes to mind again and again after you have forgiven them once, ask Christ to help you forgive this person and then give them to Christ. This may simply be the flesh rebelling against your spirit or it may be an assault of the enemy, as stated in Romans 7:23 "But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members." therefore don't be shy about bringing this to Christ seeking His assistance in forgiving others. If they come to mind again and bitterness follows, simply state I have forgiven you as Christ has forgiven me, you are no longer my problem, go where the Holy Spirit commands you. Remember What Paul said in Philippians 3:13 "But this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth to those things which are before,"

When you have finished forgiving others, it is time to consider one's own sins and repent seeking God's forgiveness. Ask the Holy Spirit to bring unconfessed sin to mind, then wait silently for His promptings. As instances of sin come to mind confess and repent of the sin and thank God for His mercy. For as it is said in I 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." After we have confessed our sins we are cleansed of all unrighteousness and we can boldly go before the throne of God with our supplications. For we know that "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." I Peter 3:12

Now during your fasting and prayer you can expect the flesh to rebel against your spirit and the Holy Spirit that resides within, but remember Saint Peter's exhortation; "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;" I Peter 2:11 And do not forget Saint Paul's warning regard the spiritual battle within. "For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that you cannot do the things that you would. But if you be led of the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, jealousies, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Contentions, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." Galatians 5:17-25. Walking in the Spirit is truly the ultimate goal of fasting and prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

“And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said to him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciple” Luke 11:1

Let's take a serious look at what is recorded in the bible of Jesus' teaching to his apostles on prayer. I'm sure the Lord's prayer is familiar to all of us, so familiar in fact that I would wage that most of us spend precious little time thinking of what the prayer actually says. In reply to his disciples request Christ said; **“When you pray, say, Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”** This looks top be clear enough, easy to understand. Most of us I am sure have recited this prayer from time to time since our early youth. It is a familiar prayer, so familiar that we might be taking it for granted that we know this prayer when in fact we may still understand it with a child's comprehension, not the understanding of an adult in the faith.

“Our Father in heaven,” What is being said here? The Greek word for father Πάτερ, comes from a root word signifying **a nourisher, a protector, an upholder**. In this day and age of absent fathers, and baby daddies who take their responsibilities as fathers too lightly, it is easy to forget that a father is supposed to be a nourisher, a protector, and an upholder. The Greek word οὐρανοῖς· is translated heaven means more fully the heavenly regions, ie heaven itself, the abode of God and the angels. So lets rephrase the first line to our nourisher, protector, and upholder who resides in the abode of God. The Former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams has said regarding this verse "Understand what you're talking about when you're talking about God, this is serious, this is the most wonderful and frightening reality that we could imagine, more wonderful and frightening than we can imagine."

“hallowed be your name.” What is exactly meant by the word hallowed? The original Greek is ἁγιάζω which is transliterated as hagiazō the full meaning of which is to make holy, treat as holy, set apart as holy, sanctify, hallow, purify. Are we then to simply begin our prayers with praise and worship declaring God Holy or is there something more to this? Or are we then to keep God's name pure and holy. How do we do this? If we consent to bear the name Christian calling ourselves after the Christ are we keeping His name holy and pure or are we dragging His name through the mud with our repeated sins and hypocrisies?

“Your kingdom come,” We should then pray for the advancement of God's kingdom here on Earth, first within us individually, and then in society as a whole.

“your will be done,” Here we acknowledge that God knows best and we surrender our wills to His.

“on earth, as it is in heaven.” God's will is done instantly and completely in heaven, in this phrase we are asking that His will be accomplished just as completely in this fallen world.

“Give us this day our daily bread,” Here we acknowledge God as the source of all our provisions and we seek that our daily needs be met both physically and spiritually.

“and forgive us our debts,” Here we seek forgiveness for our debts, ὀφείλημα is the Greek word used in this passage, transliterated as opheiléma meaning that which is legally due, metaphorically speaking of sin as a debt that needs to be punished. We are seeking forgiveness for the wrongs we have committed.

“as we also have forgiven our debtors.” This reminds us to forgive those who have wronged us, just as Christ has forgiven us so we are to forgive those who have wronged us.

“And lead us not into temptation,” Not that God is the one leading us into temptation, we do a good enough job chasing after it ourselves. Here we are seeking God's assistance in resisting temptation and we are again acknowledging our complete dependence on God for our preservation.

“but deliver us from evil.” The Greek word used for evil in this passage is κακός transliterated as kakos meaning the evil of trouble and affliction. So we are seeking God's deliverance from trouble and affliction in this final verse.

The Lord's prayer can be recited by rote or it can be used as a template to guide us in all of our prayers giving us easy steps to follow:

1. recognize God as father, as provider, nourisher, a protector, and upholder.
2. Recognized that God is holy and we are to be holy.
3. Seek God's will be done in the secular world as it is in heaven.
4. Request that God provides our physical and spiritual needs sufficient for today.
5. Confess our sins seeking forgiveness.
6. Forgive those who have wronged us.
7. Ask God to strengthen us to resist the temptations of this world.
8. Ask God to deliver us from the troubles and afflictions facing us in our day to day life.

Is the Lord's prayer all that Jesus had to say on the subject of prayer? Not hardly, let's take a look at a few passages from the new testament.

When you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. Your

Father who sees in secret will reward you. **Mathew 6:6**

Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. **Mathew 6:9**

You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. **James 4:3**

Or, which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! **Mathew 7:9-11**

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” **Luke 11:13**

He said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. **Luke 11:5-8**

Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. **Mark 11:24**

Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. **Mark 11:24**

Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. **Mark 11:22-24**

Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” **Mathew 18:19-20**

Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” **Mathew 18:19-20**

He told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. There was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ For a while he

refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’” The Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. Will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?” **Luke 18:1-8**

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. **John 14:12-14**

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **John 15:7**

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. **John 15:16**

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. **James 5:16**

Praying in the Name of Jesus

“In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now, you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”

John 16:23-24

We have the privilege of addressing God the Father in the name of Jesus. This fact should give us pause to ponder. What exactly does it mean to ask in Jesus name? Philippians 2:9-11 tells us that **“Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”** The name of Jesus is obviously more than a little addition to the end of our prayers, but what exactly can we know of it? We know Jesus is a transliteration of Ἰησοῦς the Greek form of ישוע (Yeshua) a variant of Yehoshua, or the name we are more familiar with Joshua the meaning of which is Yahweh is salvation. This is a good beginning in looking into the name of Jesus, but it is only a beginning. I have read books and heard sermons where when discussing the name of Jesus in regards to prayer it was put it in terms of us having access to Jesus' credit card, where we, in our prayers, can spend the credit Jesus earned. I suppose there is some truth to this in that we can no boldly go before the throne of God thanks to the righteousness of Christ, but I can't help but feel that thinking of Jesus name as a credit card only cheapens it.

Let us look a little deeper into the name, or should I say the names of Jesus. The bible contains at the least one hundred names and titles for Jesus Let's take a look at a few of them. I will not go over all of the titles and names of Christ as that would take a book in and of itself. The following is not an all inclusive list, but will give you a general idea of the scope of the name of Jesus. I recommend doing further research in this subject on your own as your interest drives you.

“And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.” I Corinthians 15:45 Jesus is the last Adam. Where the first Adam failed and brought death and sin into the world, Jesus the last Adam succeeded and brought us who believe life and forgiveness of our sins.

“My little children, these things write I to you, that you sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:” I John 2:1 Jesus is our ever present advocate with God the father and it is His righteousness that covers our sins.

“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, said the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.” Revelation of John 1:8 Jesus is the first and the last He is God.

“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things said the Amen, the faithful and

true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;” Revelation of John 3:14 Jesus is the faithful and true witness, it is through Jesus that we see clearly God the father.

“In all their affliction he was afflicted, and **the angel of his presence** saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bore them, and carried them all the days of old.” Isaiah 63:9 It is Jesus who paid the price of our sins, it is He who redeemed us and saved us from our afflictions.

“The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his **anointed**, saying,” Psalms 2:2 The secular rulers of the world have taken hostile positions against Christ from the Roman Caesars to the present socialist commissars in the White House.

“Awake, awake, put on strength, O **arm of the LORD**; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Are you not it that has cut Rahab, and wounded the dragon?” Isaiah 51:9 It is Christ who crushes the head of the serpent.

“Looking to Jesus the **author and finisher of our faith**; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:2 I have frequently taken strength from the fact that my faith is in Christ's capable hands.

“I am that **bread of life**.” John 6:48 Jesus is the living bread, the bread of life we share in the Lord's Supper. This deserves a book length discourse in it's own right and is beyond the scope of this little book.

“I am **the living bread** which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.” John 6:51

“Who being **the brightness of his glory**, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high:” Hebrews 1:3

“For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the **captain of their salvation** perfect through sufferings.” Hebrews 2:10

“Why also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a **chief corner stone**, elect, precious: and he that believes on him shall not be confounded.” I Peter 2:6

“To whom coming, as to a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but **chosen of God**, and precious,” I Peter 2:4

“But to them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ **the power of God**, and **the wisdom of God**.” I Corinthians 1:24

“And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is **the Son of God**.” Acts 9:20

“And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion **the Deliverer**, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.” Romans 11:26

“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name **Immanuel**.” Isaiah 7:14 Hebrew עִמָּנוּאֵל literally, "God with us".

“And we know that the Son of God is come, and has given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus **Christ**. This is the **true God**, and **eternal life**.” I John 5:20

“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things said the Amen, **the faithful and true witness**, the beginning of the creation of God;” Revelation of John 3:14

“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat on him was called **Faithful and True**, and in righteousness he does judge and make war.” Revelation of John 19:11

“Jesus answered and said to her, If you knew **the gift of God**, and who it is that said to you, Give me to drink; you would have asked of him, and he would have given you living water.” John 4:10

“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh**, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached to the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.” I Timothy 3:16

“For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the **head of the church**: and he is the savior of the body.” Ephesians 5:23

“Seeing then that we have a **great high priest**, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the **Son of God**, let us hold fast our profession.” Hebrews 4:14

“And he is the **head of the body, the church**: who is **the beginning, the firstborn from the dead**; that in all things he might have the preeminence.” Colossians 1:18

“Fear not, you worm Jacob, and you men of Israel; I will help you, said the LORD, and your redeemer, **the Holy One of Israel**.” Isaiah 41:14

“And has raised up an **horn of salvation** for us in the house of his servant David;” Luke 1:69

“**He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature**, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,” Hebrews 1:3

“And the LORD will be **king over all the earth**. On that day the LORD will be one and his name one.” Zechariah 14:9

“Your sun shall no more go down; neither shall your moon withdraw itself: for the LORD shall be

your **everlasting light**, and the days of your mourning shall be ended.” Isaiah 60:20

“I the LORD have called you in righteousness, and will hold your hand, and will keep you, and give you for a covenant of the people, for a **light of the Gentiles**,” Isaiah 42:6

“And one of the elders said to me, Weep not: behold, **the Lion of the tribe of Juda**, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.” Revelation of John 5:5

“The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is **Lord of all**)” Acts 10:36

“In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**.” Jeremiah 23:6

“But when Jesus heard that, he said to them, They that be whole need not a **physician**, but they that are sick.” Matthew 9:12 I find the fact that the Lord is our physician comforting in times of illness, knowing that I can call on him in times of need and that He will hear my prayers.

“Jesus said to her, I am **the resurrection, and the life**: he that believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:” John 11:25

“But to you that fear my name shall the **Sun of righteousness** arise with healing in his wings; and you shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.” Malachi 4:2

“Therefore thus said the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a **precious corner stone**, a **sure foundation**: he that believes shall not make haste.” Isaiah 28:16 Christ is the sure foundation stone of our faith and He is more than that He is the author and finisher of our faith. When the enemy besieges us with doubt and fear we can know that Christ will always hear and answer our plea “**Lord, I believe; help you my unbelief.**”

“The same came to Jesus by night, and said to him, Rabbi, we know that you are a **teacher** come from God: for no man can do these miracles that you do, except God be with him.” John 3:2

“And we know that the Son of God is come, and has given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the **true God**, and eternal life.” I John 5:20

“I am **the true vine**, and my Father is the farmer.” John 15:1

“Jesus said to him, I am **the way, the truth, and the life**: no man comes to the Father, but by me.” John 14:6

“But to them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the **power of God**, and the **wisdom of God**.” I Corinthians 1:24

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the **Word** was God” John 1:1

“And he was clothed with a clothing dipped in blood: and his name is called **The Word of God.**”
Revelation of John 19:13

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked on, and our hands have handled, of the **Word of life**,” I John 1:1

As you can see from the scriptures listed above, even a partial list of Jesus names and titles expresses much more about our Lords character and attributes far beyond being the magic credit card many televangelists claim it is. So what then does it mean to pray in the name of Jesus? To pray in Jesus' name means to be identified with Jesus' righteousness, to be praying according to the father's will for us, and to be identified with Christ by our desires as guided by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. It is much more than a magic phrase attached to the end of a list of demands made to God.

Angels and Prayer

“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven Matthew 18:10

I think it is important at this point, before discussing the topic of angels and prayer to remind the reader of the following from the book of Colossians chapter 2 verses eight through twenty-three. “See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. When you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it. Therefore, do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or Sabbaths. These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God. If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the universe, why do you live as if you still belonged to the world? Why do you submit to regulations. Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch All these regulations refer to things that perish with use; they are simply human commands and teachings. These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self imposed piety, humility, and severe treatment of the body, but they are of no value in checking self indulgence.”

It is important to note Paul's first warning in this passage; “See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ.” Who are the elemental spirits of the universe? I dare say it is safe to presume they are the demonic spirits of the deceased nephilim. These demonic spirits hold little concern for your welfare, and are quite willing to lie to mislead us, to do us harm, or to take us captive. Later in the same passage Paul continues “ Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God. If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the universe, why do you live as if you still belonged to the world?

Why do you submit to regulations, “ Paul warns specifically against the worship of angels and reminds us of our death in baptism to the world and to the elemental spirits and our freedom in Christ. You may ask why I belabor this point at the beginning of this chapter; it is simply because in preparing to write this book, while doing research, I came across many books and articles promoting the invocation of angels (fallen angels), that further defined angels as gods and goddesses and demigods to be worshiped. On the one hand they want to be considered as gods, yet they are promoted in occult literature as being fully capable of being bent to do our will if we only know the correct invocation or ritual. In answer to the question I posed, I quite honestly do not want to be any part in misleading my readers into thinking any such new age tripe is acceptable for a child of God.

Earlier in this book we discussed spheres and orders of angels. The first sphere consists of angels whose duty is to worship at the throne of God, the second sphere consists of angel warriors who battle against the fallen angels and demons, and the third and final sphere consists of those angels who are ministering spirits. I believe that it is from this group our guardian angels come, and it is from this group God sends angels in response to our heartfelt prayers. There are many examples in the bible where God sends his angels in response to the prayers of the righteous. It may be interesting to note that in the book of Proverbs it plainly states in Prov. 15:29: “The Lord is far from the wicked: but He heareth the prayer of the righteous”. I would point out that the wicked, in fact, have by the choices they made in life, turned their backs on God and moved attention far from God. It is not God who has removed himself from the wicked, it is the wicked who have chosen to ignore God. I would further point out that God will hear the sincere prayer of repentance from even the most wicked of us when we decide to turn away from evil as it says in 1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

In the previous chapter we read Acts 12:6-10 where Peter is rescued from prison by an angel in response to the fervent prayers of the church. There are other examples of angelic intervention to be found in the bible as well. The book of Tobit is considered to be an apocryphal book by the protestant churches, but is considered to be deuterocanonical by the Roman Catholic Church and is accepted as part of the canon of scripture by both the Roman Catholic and the Orthodox churches. Tobit tells the tale of a young woman named Sarah who prays for death out of desperation after losing seven husbands to the demon of lust on their wedding nights. God answers her prayer through the efforts of the angel Raphael, who disguised as a human answers Sarah's prayer, not by providing the relief of death, but rather by escorting Tobias, Tobit's son to Media and informing him along the way that he had the right to marry Sarah. They marry and with Raphael's guidance and intervention Tobias is able to vanquish the demon.

I hope that from the above examples it is clear that God uses his angels as he sees fit to answer our prayers. I can see no problem in one of the faithful asking God in prayer to send his angels to watch over and protect, to guide and to minister to us in our times of need as that is clearly praying to God according to His will for us. However, it would be a great mistake for one of us to pray to an angel. One of God's faithful angels would correct us of our error and advise that we are to pray to God alone, however Satan or any one of his fallen angels would be more than happy to step in and receive our idolatrous worship. Don't expect a fallen angel to do you any good, although one may appear as an angel of light, and tell you what you want to hear, don't be fooled, he only has hatred in his heart for us and intends to do us only harm.

There are Christian traditions that see prayer as less an act of worship and more an act of asking assistance from a friend or a relative. Members of these churches will freely pray to the saints and to angels asking them to intercede for them, but as we are invited to come boldly before the

throne of our gracious God in Hebrews chapter 4:16 “let us not neglect such a priceless invitation for the favors of saints or angels.” There are many beautiful prayers written to help us focus our intentions when we pray. Some of these are directed toward angels, as I have said earlier I advise against praying to angels, but with only slight modifications such prayers can be directed toward God seeking the help of one or of His angels. As an example, let's take a look at a classic Prayer to One's Guardian Angel taken from the Catholic Book of Prayers.

“Dear Angel, in His goodness God gave you to me to guide, protect, enlighten me, and to bring me back to the right way when I go astray. Encourage me when I am disheartened, and instruct me when I err in my judgment. Help me to become more Christlike, and so some day to be accepted into the company of Angels and Saints in heaven.”

If we only change a few words in the address of this prayer, it becomes instead of a prayer to an angel a prayer to God asking him to direct our guardian angel to our benefit.

Dear God, in your goodness you assigned to me an Angel to guide, protect, enlighten me, and to bring me back to the right way when I go astray. I ask that you have this angel encourage me when I am disheartened, and instruct me when I err in my judgment. Help me become more Christlike, and so some day to be accepted into the company of Angels and Saints in Heaven.

By making these few changes we take the focus of our devotion off of the creation of God and place it back onto our Creator instead.

Prayer in Spiritual Warfare

**“Blessed be the Lord, my rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle; He is my steadfast love and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield and he in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me.”
-Psalm 144:1, 2**

What exactly is meant by spiritual warfare? Are ghosts arming up and plotting an invasion into the physical realm in which we live? Not exactly. Saint Paul tells us in II Corinthians 10:3-5 “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh (for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the casting down of strongholds), casting down imaginations, and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ;” According to this passage we are battling against thoughts and imaginations that are counter to the knowledge of God. This truly is spiritual combat within our own minds, but is that all there is to it?

Saint Paul tells us that there is more to spiritual warfare than our controlling our own thoughts and emotions in Ephesians 6:12 “For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” When Paul is talking about Principalities and powers he is talking about the hierarchy of angels. We are pawns in the middle of the spiritual war that began before recorded human history when Lucifer let his pride get the better of him and he attempted a rebellion against God. Revelation 12:7- tells us “And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels going forth to war with the dragon; and the dragon warred and his angels; And they prevailed not, neither was their place found anymore in heaven. The great dragon was cast down, the old serpent, he that is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world; he was cast down to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him.” Lucifer no longer the morning star, now has become Satan the snake who was introduced to our first ancestors in Eden. Where he successfully tempted us into joining his rebellion against God with the offer of becoming like God knowing both good and evil. If only our first parents remembered who they were, for they were already created in the image and likeness of God. They were like God already, enough like God for Satan vent his hatred against God on them. Satan through deceit stole mankind's place in creation, stole the dominion God had given mankind over the Earth. Don't doubt that this skirmish in the celestial war had long lasting effects. Remember from the previous chapter when God punished mankind and Satan for their disobedience He promised a champion to restore mankind. Satan has from that time on fought to prevent God's will for mankind from being realized.

We were born in the midst of this war, it is all we have ever known. We are so used to it that many of us remain unaware of it even though it is going all around us. We are oblivious to its spiritual origins, we are blind to the other dimensional aspects of battles that effect out day to day lives. What does the bible have to tell us about this war? In II Corinthians 10:3 it reads “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.” In Ephesians 6:12 it states “For our wrestling is not

against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly places.” From these two passages we see that not only do we walk in the flesh, but that our enemies do not, our enemies are high ranking spiritual beings principalities and powers. Furthermore, I Peter 5:8 warns us to “Be sober, be watchful: your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour”. Many of us do not believe there is a real devil. It is not politically correct to think that there is a personification of evil out there roaming about seeking whom he may destroy, but the bible tells us otherwise.

How are we to cope with this state of affairs? Saint Paul tells us in Ephesians 6:13-18 “Wherefore take up the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and, having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; withal taking up the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: with all prayer and supplication praying at all seasons in the Spirit, and watching thereunto in all perseverance and supplication for all the saints,”

Saint Paul reminds us we have not been left defenseless. We in fact have been commanded to take up our armor and to defend ourselves. We are to prepare ourselves with the Truth that is that Christ has paid the price for our sins. We are to put on the breastplate of righteousness. How are we supposed to do that you ask? What is righteousness? How does one become righteous? Righteousness first of all is right standing with God. By our own efforts it is impossible to become righteous, but Christ has paid the price for our sins by dying in our place on the cross and we can put on His righteousness by confessing our sins to God who is then faithful and just in forgiving us our sins, thereby making us righteous. We are then to prepare ourselves with the gospel of peace, and take up the shield of faith. How then are we to do this? Simply by studying God's word, the bible. We are to wear the helmet of salvation and carry the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God and last we are to pray in all seasons in the Spirit and in all perseverance and supplications for all the saints, that is our brothers and sisters in Christ.

How can we expect to be attacked personally? Just as Christ was attacked before us. He was tempted by our adversary Satan and our Lord responded by quoting scripture. Until we can quote scripture as well as our Lord. I suggest we take a hint from the prayer attributed to Saint Francis quoted below.

“Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying, that we are born to eternal life. Amen.”

Do you notice a pattern in this beautiful prayer? There is a pattern of opposites contained in this prayer. When tempted to hate, sow love; when tempted to unforgiveness, sow forgiveness; when tempted to argue, restore the peace, when tempted to doubt, respond with faith in Christ, when tempted to despair respond with hope in Christ; and when there is spiritual darkness you are to be the reflected light of Christ. I'm sure you get the idea. We are not to passively succumb to temptation, but are to resist the devil as it says in James 4:7 “Be subject therefore unto God; but resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

Finally, we are not to forget the big guns available to us, prayer. It was the prayers of the local church that prompted God to send one of His angels to free Peter from prison. Prayer is like calling in an air strike against our enemy, it is calling on our allies the angels to come to our aid and rescue. Remember James 5:16 “Confess therefore your sins one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The supplication of a righteous man availeth much in its working” Confessing your sins brings you back into a state of righteousness, or right standing with God, and the prayers of the righteous avail much.

Praying in Tongues

These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues

There is a lot that can be said regarding speaking or praying in tongues. In my not so humble opinion many people have been misled regarding tongues. There are those who preach that speaking in tongues is a necessity to salvation. There are preachers who believe people can be commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit and then must speak in tongues. In my personal experience one preacher went so far as to say repeat after me, and then recited something along the lines of “Yabba dabba doo” and then expected me to repeat the phrase over and over and that, according to him would be my speaking in tongues. I refused to cooperate with his charade. Does this mean I don't believe in speaking in tongues, no. It means I don't believe in charlatan pastors out to make a quick buck from the gullible and the desperate among us.

When I did begin to pray in tongues, I must confess I was surprised as anyone could be. I didn't expect it to happen and for that matter I didn't want it to happen. Due to experiences similar to the one I mentioned above I thought praying in tongues was a sham for those easily brainwashed. How did it finally happen to me, you might or might not ask. I'll tell you anyway. I was alone in my bedroom praying and praising God trying my best to be open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit and all of a sudden it came over me and I was praying in unknown tongues. My prayers seamlessly went from praise to tongues. One would think that I would continue praying blissfully in tongues once I began, but as soon as I realized what had happened, I stopped and went downstairs to share the news with my wife.

I owed her. You have to understand, I was not favorably inclined towards praying in tongues and for that matter had told my Spirit filled wife that she could pray in tongues all she wanted, as long as she didn't do it in front of me! She dutifully complied with my unreasonable demand. I owed it to her to tell her that now I understood, and now I believed in and actually prayed in tongues.

So what does the bible say about speaking in tongues? First lets take a look at where some people get the idea that one must speak in tongues. “They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2:4 This passage describing the events of Pentecost has led many to believe that the proof of being filled with the Holy Spirit is the speaking in tongues.

Was the speaking in tongues at Pentecost the same as the speaking in tongues we see today? Not so much. If we read further we see that “both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” Acts 2:11 The tongues that the Holy Spirit gave them to speak were not unknown languages, but the languages foreigners present in the streets at that moment spoke and understood so that those newly blessed by the Holy Spirit could witness the glory of God to foreigners in their native tongues. Does that sound like the praying in tongues most of us experience in church? Not really.

What specifically does the bible say about tongues? “Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?” Paul asks in I Corinthians 12:30. Saint Paul's question is obviously rhetorical in nature and the answer to the question is obvious. Not everyone possesses every spiritual gift. Let's look a little closer at this passage. “To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.” I Corinthians 12:8-11 tells us the spiritual gifts of God are apportioned to each of us individually as the Holy Spirit wills. Therefore, not everyone speaks in tongues and speaking in tongues is not a mandatory proof of one's salvation, or of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, but it is a valid gift from God that some receive and are expected to use.

Saint Paul tells us “What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up. If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. If there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God.” So tongues are to be a blessing and not a self aggrandizing nuisance in the Church. But how can tongues be a blessing to us in prayer? If we are to wait for someone to interpret the tongues to us. Simply put, at church, pray in tongues when there is someone with the gift of interpreting the tongue so it will be a blessing to the whole congregation, but when one is alone and in prayer and does not know what to pray the Holy Spirit will give utterance and pray through you using the language of angels. That then is praying in tongues. When we are at a loss and don't know what to pray, our loving God who knows the innermost secrets of our hearts, will through the Holy Spirit, give us just the right words to pray to meet our needs then and there.

Appendix

Genesis 20:7 Now then, return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, so that he will pray for you, and you shall live. If you do not return her, know that you shall surely die, you, and all who are yours.”

Genesis 20:17 Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, and healed his wife and female slaves so that they bore children.

Genesis 25:21 And Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren. The LORD granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

Exodus 8:30 So Moses went out from Pharaoh and prayed to the LORD.

Numbers 11:12 Then the people cried out to Moses, and Moses prayed to the LORD, and the fire died down.

Numbers 21:7 And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

Deuteronomy 9:20 And the LORD was so angry with Aaron that he was ready to destroy him. I prayed for Aaron also at the same time.

Deuteronomy 9:26 And I prayed to the LORD, ‘O Lord GOD, destroy not your people and your heritage, whom you have redeemed through your greatness, whom you have brought out of Egypt with a mighty hand

Judges 13:8 Then Manoah prayed to the LORD and said, “O Lord, please let the man of God whom you sent come again to us and teach us what we are to do with the child who will be born.”

I Samuel 1:10 She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly.

I Samuel 1:12 As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth.

I Samuel 1:26 And she said, “Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD.

I Samuel 1:27 For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him.

I Samuel 2:1 And Hannah prayed and said, My heart exults in the LORD; my strength is exalted in the LORD. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation.

I Samuel 7:5 Then Samuel said, “Gather all Israel at Mizpah, and I will pray to the LORD for you.”

I Samuel 8:6 But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” Samuel prayed to the LORD.

I Samuel 12:19 And all the people said to Samuel, “Pray for your servants to the LORD your God, that we may not die, for we have added to all our sins this evil, to ask for ourselves a king.”

I Samuel 12:23 Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you, and I will instruct you in the good and the right way.

II Samuel 7:27 For you, O LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, have made this revelation to your servant, saying, ‘I will build you a house.’ Therefore, your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to you.

I Kings 8:28 Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O LORD my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you this day, that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you have said, My name shall be there,’ that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place. Listen to the plea of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. Listen in heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.

I Kings 8:29 that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you have said, My name shall be there,’ that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place.

I Kings 8:30 And listen to the plea of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. Listen in heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.

I Kings 8:33 “When your people Israel are defeated before the enemy because they have sinned against you, and if they turn again to you and acknowledge your name and pray and plead with you in this house,

I Kings 8:35 “When heaven is shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against you, if they pray toward this place and acknowledge your name and turn from their sin, when you afflict them,

I Kings 8:38 whatever prayer, whatever plea is made by any man or by all your people Israel, each knowing the affliction of his own heart and stretching out his hands toward this house, then hear in heaven your dwelling place and forgive and act and render to each whose heart you know, according to all his ways (for you, you only, know the hearts of all the children of mankind),

I Kings 8:42 (for they shall hear of your great name and your mighty hand, and of your outstretched arm), when he comes and prays toward this house,

I Kings 8:44 “If your people go out to battle against their enemy, by whatever way you shall send them, and they pray to the LORD toward the city you have chosen and the house that I have built for your name,

I Kings 8:45 then hear in heaven their prayer and their plea, and maintain their cause.

I Kings 8:48 if they repent with all their mind and with all their heart in the land of their enemies, who carried them captive, and pray to you toward their land, which you gave to their fathers, the city you have chosen, and the house that I have built for your name,

I Kings 8:49 then hear in heaven your dwelling place their prayer and their plea, and maintain their cause

I Kings 8:54 Now as Solomon finished offering all this prayer and plea to the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, where he had knelt with hands outstretched toward heaven.

I Kings 9:3 And the LORD said to him, “I have heard your prayer and your plea, which you have made before me. I have consecrated this house that you have built, by putting my name there forever. My eyes and my heart will be there for all time.”

I Kings 13:6 And the king said to the man of God, “Entreat now the favor of the LORD your God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me.” The man of God entreated the LORD, and the king's hand was restored to him and became as it was before.

II Kings 4:33 So he went in and shut the door behind the two of them and prayed to the LORD.

II Kings 6:17 Then Elisha prayed and said, “O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see.” So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

II Kings 6:18 And when the Syrians came down against him, Elisha prayed to the LORD and said, “Please strike this people with blindness.” So he struck them with blindness in accordance with the prayer of Elisha.

II Kings 19:4 It may be Jehovah thy God will hear all the words of Rabshakeh, whom the king of Assyria his master hath sent to defy the living God, and will rebuke the words, which Jehovah thy God hath heard: wherefore lift up thy prayer for the remnant that is left.

II Kings 19:15 And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD and said: “O LORD the God of Israel, who is enthroned above the cherubim, you are the God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have

made heaven and earth.

II Kings 19:20 Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Your prayer to me about Sennacherib king of Assyria I have heard.

II Kings 20:2 Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD, saying,

II Kings 20:5 Turn back, and say to Hezekiah the prince of my people, Thus saith Jehovah, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee; on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of Jehovah

I Chronicles 17:25 For you, my God, have revealed to your servant that you will build a house for him. Therefore, your servant has found courage to pray before you.

II Chronicles 6:19 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;

II Chronicles 6:20 that thine eyes may be open toward this house day and night, even toward the place whereof thou hast said that thou wouldest put thy name there; to hearken unto the prayer, which thy servant shall pray toward this place.

II Chronicles 6:21 And listen to the pleas of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. Listen from heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.

II Chronicles 6:24 “If your people Israel are defeated before the enemy because they have sinned against you, and they turn again and acknowledge your name and pray and plead with you in this house,

II Chronicles 6:26 “When heaven is shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against you, if they pray toward this place and acknowledge your name and turn from their sin, when you afflict them,

II Chronicles 6:29 what prayer and supplication soever be made by any man, or by all thy people Israel, who shall know every man his own plague and his own sorrow, and shall spread forth his hands toward this house:

II Chronicles 6:32 “Likewise, when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a far country for the sake of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm, when he comes and prays toward this house,

II Chronicles 6:34 “If your people go out to battle against their enemies, by whatever way you shall send them, and they pray to you toward this city you have chosen and the house that I have built for your name,

II Chronicles 6:35 then hear thou from heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.

II Chronicles 6:38 if they repent with all their mind and with all their heart in the land of their captivity to which they were carried captive, and pray toward their land, which you gave to their fathers, the city you have chosen and the house that I have built for your name,

II Chronicles 6:39 then hear thou from heaven, even from thy dwelling-place, their prayer and their supplications, and maintain their cause, and forgive thy people who have sinned against thee

II Chronicles 6:40 Now, O my God, let, I beseech thee, thine eyes be open, and let thine ears be attent, unto the prayer that is made in this place.

II Chronicles 7:1 As soon as Solomon finished his prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple.

II Chronicles 7:12 And Jehovah appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for a house of sacrifice.

II Chronicles 7:14 if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

II Chronicles 7:15 Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent, unto the prayer that is made in this place.

II Chronicles 30:18 For a majority of the people, many of them from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet they ate the Passover otherwise than as prescribed. For Hezekiah had prayed for them, saying, “May the good LORD pardon everyone

II Chronicles 30:27 Then the priests the Levites arose and blessed the people: and their voice was heard, and their prayer came up to his holy habitation, even unto heaven.

II Chronicles 32:20 Then Hezekiah the king and Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, prayed because of this and cried to heaven.

II Chronicles 32:24 In those days Hezekiah became sick and was at the point of death, and he prayed to the LORD, and he answered him and gave him a sign.

II Chronicles 33:13 He prayed to him, and God was moved by his entreaty and heard his plea and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD was God.

II Chronicles 33:18 Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh, and his prayer unto his God, and the words of the seers that spake to him in the name of Jehovah, the God of Israel, behold, they are written among the acts of the kings of Israel.

II Chronicles 33:19 His prayer also, and how *God* was entreated of him, and all his sin and his trespass, and the places wherein he built high places, and set up the Asherim and the graven images, before he humbled himself: behold, they are written in the history of Hozai.

Ezra 6:10 that they may offer pleasing sacrifices to the God of heaven *and pray for the life of the king and his sons.

Ezra 10:1 While Ezra prayed and made confession, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, a very great assembly of men, women and children, gathered to him out of Israel, for the people wept bitterly.

Nehemiah 1:4 As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

Nehemiah 1:6 Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee at this time, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants while I confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee. Yea, I and my father's house have sinned:

Nehemiah 1:11 O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who delight to fear thy name; and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. Now I was cup-bearer to the king.

Nehemiah 2:4 Then the king said to me, "What are you requesting?" So I prayed to the God of heaven.

Nehemiah 4:9 But we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.

Nehemiah 11:17 and Mattaniah the son of Mica, the son of Zabdi, the son of Asaph, who was the chief to begin the thanksgiving in prayer, and Bakbukiah, the second among his brethren; and Abda the son of Shammua, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun.

Job 16:17 Although there is no violence in my hands, And my prayer is pure

Job 21:15 What is the Almighty, that we should serve him? What profit do we get if we pray to him?

Job 22:27 Thou shalt make thy prayer unto him, and he will hear thee; And thou shalt pay thy vows.

Job 33:26 then man prays to God, and he accepts him; he sees his face with a shout of joy, and he restores to man his righteousness.

Job 42:8 Now therefore take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and offer up a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job shall pray for you, for I will accept his prayer not to deal with you according to your folly. For you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has."

Job 42:9 So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went and did

what the LORD had told them, and the LORD accepted Job's prayer.

Job 42:10 And the LORD restored the fortunes of Job, when he had prayed for his friends. The LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.

Psalms 4:1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness; Thou hast set me at large when I was in distress: Have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer.

Psalms 5:2 Give attention to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you do I pray.

Psalms 5:3 O Jehovah, in the morning shalt thou hear my voice; In the morning will I order my prayer unto thee, and will keep watch.

Psalms 6:9 Jehovah hath heard my supplication; Jehovah will receive my prayer.

Psalms 17:1 Hear the right, O Jehovah, attend unto my cry; Give ear unto my prayer, that goeth not out of feigned lips.

Psalms 32:6 Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.

Psalms 35:13 But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I afflicted my soul with fasting; And my prayer returned into mine own bosom.

Psalms 39:12 Hear my prayer, O Jehovah, and give ear unto my cry; Hold not thy peace at my tears: For I am a stranger with thee, A sojourner, as all my fathers were.

Psalms 42:8 *Yet* Jehovah will command his loving kindness in the day-time; And in the night his song shall be with me, *Even* a prayer unto the God of my life

Psalms 54:2 Hear my prayer, O God; Give ear to the words of my mouth.

Psalms 55:1 Give ear to my prayer, O God; And hide not thyself from my supplication.

Psalms 61:1 Hear my cry, O God; Attend unto my prayer

Psalms 65:2 O thou that hearest prayer, Unto thee shall all flesh come.

Psalms 66:19 But verily God hath heard; He hath attended to the voice of my prayer.

Psalms 66:20 Blessed be God, Who hath not turned away my prayer, Nor his loving kindness from me.

Psalms 69:13 But as for me, my prayer is unto thee, O Jehovah, in an acceptable time: O God, in the

abundance of thy loving kindness, Answer me in the truth of thy salvation.

Psalms 72:20 The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended.

Psalms 80:4 O Jehovah God of hosts, How long wilt thou be angry against the prayer of thy people?

Psalms 84:8 O Jehovah God of hosts, hear my prayer; Give ear, O God of Jacob.

Psalms 86:1 Bow down thine ear, O Jehovah, and answer me; For I am poor and needy.

Psalms 86:6 Give ear, O Jehovah, unto my prayer; And hearken unto the voice of my supplications.

Psalms 88:2 Let my prayer enter into thy presence; Incline thine ear unto my cry.

Psalms 88:13 But unto thee, O Jehovah, have I cried; And in the morning shall my prayer come before thee.

Psalms 90:1 Lord, thou hast been our dwelling-place In all generations.

Psalms 102:1 *A Prayer of the afflicted, when he is overwhelmed, and poureth out his complaint before Jehovah.* Hear my prayer, O Jehovah, And let my cry come unto thee.

Psalms 102:17 He hath regarded the prayer of the destitute, And hath not despised their prayer.

Psalms 109:4 For my love they are my adversaries: But I *give myself unto* prayer.

Psalms 109:7 When he is judged, let him come forth guilty; And let his prayer be turned into sin

Psalms 116:4 Then I called on the name of the LORD: “O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!”

Psalms 118:25 Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success!

Psalms 122:6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! “May they be secure who love you!

Psalms 141:2 Let my prayer be set forth as incense before thee; The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Psalms 141:5 Let the righteous smite me, *it shall be* a kindness; And let him reprove me, *it shall be* as oil upon the head; Let not my head refuse it: For even in their wickedness shall my prayer continue.

Psalms 142:1 I cry with my voice unto Jehovah; With my voice unto Jehovah do I make supplication

Psalms 143:1 Hear my prayer, O Jehovah; Give ear to my supplications: In thy faithfulness answer me, *and* in thy righteousness.

Proverbs 15:8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is acceptable to him.

Proverbs 15:29 The LORD is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

Proverbs 28:9 If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.

Isaiah 1:15 When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood.

Isaiah 16:12 And when Moab presents himself, when he wearies himself on the high place, when he comes to his sanctuary to pray, he will not prevail.

Isaiah 26:16 O LORD, in distress they sought you; they poured out a whispered prayer when your discipline was upon them.

Isaiah 37:4 It may be that the LORD your God will hear the words of the Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to mock the living God, and will rebuke the words that the LORD your God has heard; therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left.”

Isaiah 37:15 And Hezekiah prayed to the LORD:

Isaiah 37:21 Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Because you have prayed to me concerning Sennacherib king of Assyria,

Isaiah 38:2 Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD,

Isaiah 38:5 “Go and say to Hezekiah, Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. Behold, I will add fifteen years to your life.

Isaiah 44:17 And the rest of it he makes into a god, his idol, and falls down to it and worships it. He prays to it and says, “Deliver me, for you are my god!”

Isaiah 45:20 “Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, you survivors of the nations! They have no knowledge who carry about their wooden idols, and keep on praying to a god that cannot save.

Isaiah 56:7 these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.”

Jeremiah 7:16 “As for you, do not pray for this people, or lift up a cry or prayer for them, and do not intercede with me, for I will not hear you.

Jeremiah 11:14 “Therefore do not pray for this people, or lift up a cry or prayer on their behalf, for I will not listen when they call to me in the time of their trouble.

Jeremiah 14:11 The LORD said to me: Do not pray for the welfare of this people.

Jeremiah 29:7 But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

Jeremiah 29:12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.

Jeremiah 32:16 “After I had given the deed of purchase to Baruch the son of Neriah, I prayed to the LORD, saying:

Jeremiah 37:3 King Zedekiah sent Jehucal the son of Shelemiah, and Zephaniah the priest, the son of Maaseiah, to Jeremiah the prophet, saying, “Please pray for us to the LORD our God.”

Jeremiah 42:2 and said to Jeremiah the prophet, “Let our plea for mercy come before you, and pray to the LORD your God for us, for all his remnant because we are left with but a few, as your eyes see us

Jeremiah 42:4 Jeremiah the prophet said to them, “I have heard you. Behold, I will pray to the LORD your God according to your request, and whatever the LORD answers you I will tell you. I will keep nothing back from you.”

Jeremiah 42:20 that you have gone astray at the cost of your lives. For you sent me to the Lord your God, saying, ‘Pray for us to the LORD our God, and whatever the LORD our God says declare to us and we will do it.’

Lamentations 3:8 though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer;

Lamentations 3:44 you have wrapped yourself with a cloud so that no prayer can pass through.

Daniel 6:10 When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.

Daniel 9:3 Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.

Daniel 9:4 I prayed to the LORD my God and made confession, saying, “O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments,

Daniel 9:17 Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his pleas for mercy, and for your own sake, O Lord, make your face to shine upon your sanctuary, which is desolate.

Daniel 9:20 While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my plea before the LORD my God for the holy hill of my God,

Daniel 9:21 while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the first, came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacrifice

Jonah 2:1 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish,

Jonah 2:7 When my life was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple.

Jonah 4:2 And he prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.

Habakkuk 3:1 A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, according to Shigionoth.

Matthew 5:44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Matthew 6:5 “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

Matthew 6:6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. Your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6:7 “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words.

Matthew 6:9 Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Matthew 9:38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Matthew 14:23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,

Matthew 19:13 Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people,

Matthew 21:13 He said to them, “It is written, My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you

make it a den of robbers.”

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

Matthew 24:20 Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath.

Matthew 26:36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.”

Matthew 26:39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”

Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Matthew 26:42 Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.”

Matthew 26:44 So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again.

Mark 1:35 And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.

Mark 6:46 And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray.

Mark 9:29 And he said unto them, This kind can come out by nothing, save by prayer

Mark 11:17 And he taught, and said unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations? But ye have made it a den of robbers.

Mark 11:24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Mark 13:18 Pray that it may not happen in winter.

Mark 11:25 And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

Mark 12:40 they that devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long prayers; these shall receive greater condemnation.

Mark 14:32 And they went to a place called Gethsemane. He said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.”

Mark 14:35 And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him

Mark 14:38 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Mark 14:39 And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words.

Luke 1:10-11 And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense.[11](#)And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

Luke 1:13 But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John

Luke 2:37 and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day.

Luke 3:21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened,

Luke 5:16 But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.

Luke 5:33 And they said to him, “The disciples of John fast often and offer prayers, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours eat and drink.”

Luke 6:12 In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God.

Luke 9:18 Now it happened that as he was praying alone, the disciples were with him. He asked them, “Who do the crowds say that I am?”

Luke 9:28 Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray.

Luke 9:29 And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white.

Luke 10:2 And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest

Luke 11:1-4 Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”He said to them, “When you pray,

say: "Father, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Give us each day our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.
And plead us not into temptation."

Luke 18:1 And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart

Luke 18:10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

Luke 18:11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: "God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector

Luke 19:46 "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of robbers."

Luke 20:47 who devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

Luke 21:36 But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Luke 22:32 but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. When you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

Luke 22:40 And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation."

Luke 22:41 And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed,

Luke 22:44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground

Luke 22:45 And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow,

Luke 22:46 and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

John 17:9 I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.

Acts 1:14 All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women

and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Acts 1:24 And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show, which one of these two you have chosen

Acts 2:42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Acts 3:1 Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.

Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

Acts 6:4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

Acts 6:6 These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

Acts 8:15 who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit,

Acts 8:22 Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you.

Acts 8:24 And Simon answered, “Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me.”

Acts 9:11-12 And the Lord said to him, “Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.”

Acts 9:40 But Peter put them all outside, and knelt down and prayed; and turning to the body he said, “Tabitha, arise.” She opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up.

Acts 10:2 a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God.

Acts 10:4 And he stared at him in terror and said, “What is it, Lord?” He said to him, “Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God.

Acts 10:9 The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray.

Acts 10:30 And Cornelius said, “Four days ago, about this hour, I was praying in my house at the ninth hour, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing

Acts 10:31 and said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God.

Acts 11:5 “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me.

Acts 12:5 So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.

Acts 12:12 When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying.

Acts 13:3 Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

Acts 14:23 And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Acts 16:13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together.

Acts 16:16 As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling.

Acts 16:25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them,

Acts 20:36 And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

Acts 21:5 When our days there were ended, we departed and went on our journey, and they all, with wives and children, accompanied us until we were outside the city. Kneeling down on the beach, we prayed

Acts 22:17-18 “When I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance and saw him saying to me, ‘Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.’

Acts 27:29 And fearing that we might run on the rocks, they let down four anchors from the stern and prayed for day to come.

Acts 28:8 It happened that the father of Publius lay sick with fever and dysentery. Paul visited him and prayed, and putting his hands on him healed him.

Romans 1:10 always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you.

Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

Romans 10:1 Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.

Romans 12:12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

Romans 15:30 I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf,

I Corinthians 7:5 Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

I Corinthians 11:4 Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head,

I Corinthians 11:5 but every wife who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head—it is the same as if her head were shaven.

I Corinthians 11:13 Judge for yourselves: is it proper for a wife to pray to God with her head uncovered?

I Corinthians 14:13 Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray for the power to interpret.

I Corinthians 14:14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful.

I Corinthians 14:15 What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind as well.

II Corinthians 1:11 You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

II Corinthians 9:14 while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you.

II Corinthians 13:7 But we pray to God that you may not do wrong—not that we may appear to have met the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed.

II Corinthians 13:9 For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. Your restoration is what we pray for.

Ephesians 1:16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,

Ephesians 6:18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep

alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

Philippians 1:4 always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy,

Philippians 1:9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment,

Philippians 1:19 for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance,

Philippians 4:6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Colossians 1:3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you,

Colossians 1:9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

Colossians 4:2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

Colossians 4:3 At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—

Colossians 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.

I Thessalonians 1:2 We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers,

I Thessalonians 3:10 as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

I Thessalonians 5:17 pray without ceasing,

I Thessalonians 5:25 Brothers, pray for us.

II Thessalonians 1:11 To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power,

II Thessalonians 3:1 Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you,

I Timothy 2:1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,

I Timothy 2:8 I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling;

I Timothy 4:5 for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

I Timothy 5:5 She who is truly a widow, left all alone, has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day,

II Timothy 1:3 I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day.

Philemon 1:4 I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers,

Philemon 1:22 At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that through your prayers I will be graciously given to you.

Hebrews 5:7 In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence.

Hebrews 13:18 Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things.

James 5:13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.

James 5:14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

James 5:15 And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. If he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

James 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

James 5:17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.

James 5:18 Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

I Peter 3:7 Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

I Peter 3:12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. The

face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

I Peter 4:7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.

I John 5:16 If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that.

III John 1:2 Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul.

Jude 1:20 But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit;

Revelation of John 5:8 And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Revelation of John 8:3 And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne,

Revelation of John 8:4 and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel.