

ABCs OF CHRISTIAN PRAYER

A. What is prayer?

Prayer is an awesome privilege of talking and listening to God Almighty ([I Peter 2:9](#))

B. Why should we pray?

1. To ask for forgiveness ([Acts 8:22](#))
2. To bring glory to God's name ([John 17:4](#))
3. To experience God's transforming work ([Romans 12:2](#))
4. To express God's heart to others ([Numbers 11:24](#))
5. To express our needs to God ([John 17:21](#))
6. To honor God ([Daniel 9:17](#))
7. To keep us in God's pathway ([John 17:11](#))
8. To please God ([Matthew 26:41](#))
9. To profess faith in God ([Psalm 143:1](#))
10. To restore our relationship with God ([II Corinthians 5:20](#))
11. To seek God's hand/will over ours ([Philippians 4:6](#))
12. To show our dependence on God ([Hebrews 2:13](#))
13. To show our thankful heart to God ([Colossians 4:2](#))
14. To show our trust in God Almighty ([Acts 16:25](#))
15. To spread God's Good News ([II Thess. 3:1](#))
16. To walk in God's pathway ([II Thess. 1:11](#))

C. How should we pray?

1. We should pray as Jesus prayed ([Matthew 6:9](#))
2. We should pray passionately/ferently ([Col. 4:12](#))
3. We should pray in one accord ([Acts 1:14](#))
4. We should pray in Spirit and Truth ([I Cor. 14:15](#))
5. We should pray in the name of Jesus ([John 16:26](#))
6. We should pray with an attitude of deep faith in God ([Mark 5:23](#))
7. We should pray with confidence in God's grace and mercy ([Mark 11:24](#))
8. We should pray with humility and sincerity ([Acts 8:24](#))
9. We should pray without ceasing ([I Thess. 5:17](#))
10. We should pray not as hypocrites ([Matthew 6:5](#))
11. We should pray not as heathen ([Matthew 6:7](#))
12. We should pray over the sick ([James 5:14](#))

D. Who should we pray for?

1. We should pray for everyone; our Christian friends and foes ([John 17:9](#))
2. We should pray for those who persecute us ([Matthew 5:44](#))
3. We should pray for one another ([James 5:16](#))
4. We should pray for ourselves ([Matthew 24:20](#))

E. What should we pray about?

I Needs

1. Consecration ([Psalm 4:3](#))
2. Deliverance ([Luke 11:4](#))
3. Faith ([Luke 22:32](#))
4. Forgiveness ([Luke 11:4](#))
5. Food ([I Peter 2:2](#), [John 6:55](#))
6. Fruit of the Spirit ([John 15:16](#))
7. Growth ([Matthew 9:38](#))
8. Health ([Acts 28:8](#))
9. His will ([Luke 11:4](#))
10. Life ([Isaiah 38:5](#))

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11. Lukewarm hearts ([II Chronicles 7:14](#))
12. Purpose ([Nehemiah 1:11](#))
13. Salvation ([Romans 10:1](#))
14. Spiritual gifts ([I Corinthians 14:1](#))
15. Spiritual understanding ([Colossians 1:9](#))
16. Strengths ([Luke 22:46](#))
17. Temptations ([Luke 11:4](#))
18. Wealth ([Ecclesiastes 5:19](#))
19. Weaknesses ([Luke 21:36](#))
20. Wisdom ([Col. 1:9](#))

II Service

1. God-pleasing deeds ([I John 3:22](#))
2. God-centered heart ([Psalm 5:2](#))
3. God-glorifying life ([Colossians 1:9](#))
4. Godly mindset ([1 Corinthians 2:16](#))
5. Godly purpose ([Romans 9:17](#))

F. What are the characteristics of prayers in the Bible?

I Positive

1. Faith ([II Thessalonians 1:11](#))
2. Honesty ([I Timothy 2:2](#))
3. Humility ([Luke 18:13](#))
4. Intimacy ([Matthew 6:6](#))
5. Purpose-filled ([Philippians 1:9](#))
6. Thankfulness ([Psalm 66:20](#))
7. Repentance ([Psalm 55:17](#))
8. Personal ([Acts 10:9](#))
9. Intercessory ([I Thess. 5:25](#))
10. Determination ([Luke 18:1](#))
11. Oneness ([Acts 2:1](#))
12. Trust ([II Corinthians 1:9](#))
13. Truthfulness ([Hebrews 10:22](#))
14. Passion ([Psalm 141:2](#))
15. Glorifying ([Psalm 4:1](#))

II Negative

1. Selfish
 - a. Self-centered ([Luke 18:12](#))
 - b. Self-gratifying ([Luke 18:11](#))
 - c. Self-motivated ([Romans 1:30](#))
 - d. Self-exalting ([Luke 14:11](#))
2. Disconnected ([Matthew 6:7](#))
3. Dishonoring ([Job 21:15](#))
4. Disobedient ([Proverbs 28:9](#))
5. Hypocritical ([Matthew 6:5](#))

G. What happens when we pray?

1. Transformation in us ([Romans 12:2](#))
2. Glory to God ([Revelation 1:6](#))

H. When should we pray?

1. When we are alone ([Matthew 14:23](#), [Mark 6:46](#))
2. When we believe we will receive it ([Mark 11:24](#))
3. Pray always ([Luke 21:36](#))