

# How to PRAY

## Why Do I Not Pray More?

1. Don't Care
2. Don't comprehend its nature and purpose
3. Don't know how

## How Important is Prayer?

God's Kingdom (available power) is limited by my prayer life. Ephesians 3:10-12

## What is Prayer?

Prayer is Relationship

- **first with Heavenly Father** Matt 6:5-13
- **then** to all the powerful beings in the spiritual realm.

Ephesians 6:10-12

It is both building a dwelling place for God by the Spirit (John 14:23) and battling against the powers that oppose God.

I need to *BUILD* before I *BATTLE*.

- We build *upon* the rock Luke 6:46-49
- We build *with* character 1 Cor. 3:10-15
- We build *by* praying Matt 21:12-13

“God is in the House” – Mark 11:15,16,18,  
John 2:16

Matthew 21:12-16

- to begin renovations (word translated “*renew*” in Colossians 3:10 literally means to “*renovate*”) First **purity**, then **prayer**, then **praise**, then **power**
- Remember who's house it is! (John 2:16)

If you let Him do His work you will face opposition

- criticism of your worship
- jealousy of your power
- attacks on your spiritual life

## “Tools of the Trade”

### Nine Kinds of Prayer...

#### 1. **Praise & Thanksgiving**

Adoration & Declaration

Hebrews 13:15

#### 2. **Surrender** A “Will” Alignment of the Soul

Matthew 26:39

#### 3. **Listening** - Hearing God's voice to get

God's guidance

Psalm 46:10

#### 4. **Binding & Loosing**

Using the “Keys of the Kingdom”

Matthew 18:18

#### 5. **Agreement**

Multiplying Faith

Matthew 18:19

6. **Faith** Presenting the evidence of the unseen  
Hebrews 11:1

7. **Intercession** Standing in the Gap  
Ezekiel 22:30

8. **Petition** Presenting our needs  
Philippians 4:6

9. **In the Spirit** The Mind of the Spirit praying  
the Will of God through me.  
1 Corinthians 14:2,14-15

## **Devotion or Devotions?**

*Helps for developing GOOD Prayer habits...*

1. Treat your time with God as an important appointment
2. Create a private meeting place (Matt 6:6)
3. Include musical worship
4. Recite the Word of God (James 1:21)
5. Use the Nine kinds of prayer ...and more
6. Write down any special thoughts
7. Find a prayer partner
8. Don't ever even think of giving up
9. Avoid legalism *-its about relationship not rules*

*(Thank God for Christian tapes & CD's –  
fill your ears with sounds of worship!)*

## **1. Praise and Thanksgiving**

Definition: "Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips giving thanks to his name." Hebrews 13:15

### **Why?**

- Gives God proper honour Matt 6:9
- Prepares our heart for other kinds of prayer
- Declares the Truth to the Spiritual World Eph 3:10-12

### **How**

Psalm 34:1, 27:6

- at all times, with the will, verbally – out loud
- Psalm 150
- with my body, with music
- Ephesians 5:19-20
- in the congregation, with thanks

## **2. The Prayer of Surrender A "Will" Alignment**

Definition: "Aggressive agreement with the will of God for my life, achieved through deliberate submission, definite confession and determined resistance"

### **Key Scriptures:**

- Matthew 12:29 – the strong man is YOU!  
God wants control of your HOUSE!
- James 4:7 – YOU submit, YOU resist, HE flees  
*James 4:6 is the pre-requisite for 4:7*

The effectiveness of our resistance is determined by the completeness of our surrender.

Our greatest stronghold of the “strong man” old nature is pride

*“Pride is the armour of the enemy,  
humility is the stronghold of the Godly”*

Francis Frangipane

The prime battleground for the enemy in the life of a believer is the SOUL. Your spirit is already redeemed (past), your soul is BEING redeemed (present) and your body WILL be redeemed (future).

The only access that the enemy has in your life is in the areas of the soul which are not yet surrendered to God. “Satan dines on that which we withhold from God.”

Your soul consists of your mind, will and emotions.

The unsundered soul is motivated by

*unmet needs*

*unhealed hurts*

*unresolved conflicts*

(see pg 99 in Breaking the Power by Liberty Savard)

Our old nature will war against the process of surrender – fighting to the death (Gal 5:17)

We must use our will to initiate the process of surrender.

Jesus said (Matthew 6:9-10) to pray in this manner...

“THY KINGDOM COME” “COME Thy Kingdom!”

“THY WILL BE DONE” “Be DONE, Thy Will!”

Until our will is surrendered, the rest of our praying can lead us astray - away from the will of God.

We will receive revelation when we pray this prayer with passion.

In chapter 6:1-8 the long time servant of God (Isaiah) had an experience in prayer...

An upward vision followed by...

An inward vision and then...

An outward vision

The prayer of surrender can be the most difficult of all prayers. How important was it to the plan of God on this occasion? Matthew 26:36-46

“Nevertheless not my will but Thy will be done!”

## How Do I Begin?

- Good devotional habits
- Prayer with fasting (Psalm 35:13)
- Prayer Meetings (Hebrews 10:25)
- Repentance and Forgiveness as a lifestyle
- Maintain a teachable heart
- Binding and Loosing prayers

### 3. The Process of Listening

Definition: The deliberate setting aside of all preconceived agendas in prayer in order to sense God's mind and heart for my life and situation.

#### Key Scriptures:

- Habakkuk 2:1 "I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what He will say to me..."
- Psalm 46:10 "Be still (let go, relax) and know that I am God..."

#### Learning to Listen A Lesson from the life of Habakkuk

1:2 Hak's complaint - Why does God tolerate injustice?

1:5 God's initial response.

- You don't realize what I'm doing
- You would be amazed if you knew.

1:13 Hak wrestles with the reality of unanswered prayer

2:1 Hak decides to listen "I will stand...and see what He says"

2:3,14 Hak gets a revelation.

3:2 Revelation leads to intercession in God's will.

3:16 Intercession brings peace and praise.

3:17 Hak's heart is free to worship (note the role of his will)

*"Some say that Prayer changes things. More often, Prayer changes US then we change things according to God's will"*

Note: It was essential for Habakkuk to listen with a surrendered heart in order to understand God's plan and purpose. The following essay describes how we hate to wait!

#### The Paradox of Our Time – George Carlin

"The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings, but shorter tempers; wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints. We spend more, but have less; we buy more, but enjoy it less. We have bigger houses and smaller families; more conveniences, but less time; we have more degrees, but less sense; more knowledge; but less judgement, more experts, but more problems; more medicine, but less wellness.

"We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get angry too quickly, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too seldom, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom.

"We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often. We've learned how to make a living, but not a life; we've added years to life, not life to years.

"We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet the new neighbour. We've learned how to make a living, but not a life. We've conquered outer space, but not inner space. We've done larger things, but not better things. We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul. We've split the atom, but not our prejudice.

“We write more, but learn less. We plan more, but accomplish less. We’ve learned to rush, but not to wait.

“We build more computers to hold more information to produce more copies than ever, but have less communication. These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion; tall men, and short character, steep profits, and shallow relationships. These are the times of world peace, but domestic warfare; more leisure, but less fun; more kinds of food, but less nutrition.

“These are the days of quick trips, disposable diapers, throwaway morality, overweight bodies, and pills that do everything from cheer, to quiet, to kill.

“It is a time when there is much in the show window and nothing in the stockroom; a time when technology can bring this letter to you, and a time when you can choose either to share this insight, or just hit delete.”

## 4. Binding and Loosing

Definition:

Dismantling enemy strongholds and building Godly strongholds using the “keys” of the kingdom.

Key Scriptures:

- Matthew 16:19, 18:18 “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will (have been) bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will (have been) loosed in heaven.”

Keys represent right of access and are given as a tool of authority.

Meaning of the Words in Matthew

Bind: any sort of binding – tied, imprisoned, wrapped

Loose: untie, destroyed, released, break, set free

Sample usage in the Old & New Testament

- Deuteronomy 6:6-8, 11:18
- Proverbs 3:3-5, 6:20-22, 7:2-3
- Isaiah 58:6, 61:1
- Mark 5:3
- 1 Corinthians 7:27

We cannot bind the devil. That is yet to come (Rev. 20:2) rather we *oppose all spirits doing His will*

Binding and Loosing have more to do with people than spiritual entities. John 11:38-44

We are the ones that need to be set free!

### Binding and Loosing “Key” Points Summary

1. The keys of the kingdom represent *delegated authority*

They have been given to every believer.

2. The keys provide access to the spiritual realm for people.

Their usage is to *bind* (lock) or *loose* (open) in order to allow or disallow entry to and from the spiritual realm.

3. They are effective only as we use them to execute or *ratify* on earth (i.e. within human

relationships) the decisions approved by Heaven's legislature.

i.e. to *ENFORCE Heaven's will on earth,*  
*not FORCE our will on Heaven.*

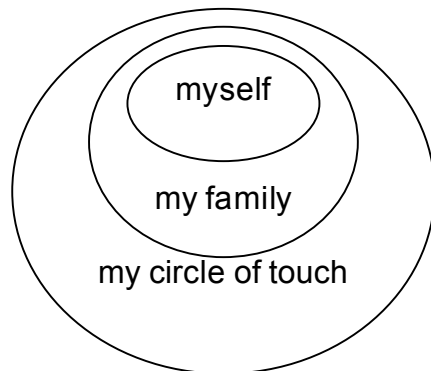
(The wording in Matthew 18:18 "Will have been" indicates prior action in heaven to our activity on earth.)

Note: 1 John 5:14,15, Rev 3:20

4. They are operated by the words of our mouth as we confess God's will and profess faith over the circumstances.
5. Repentance and Forgiveness are the two "Master Keys" of the Kingdom. (e.g. How Jesus opened the doorway to the kingdom for the Centurion - compare Luke 23:34,35 with 23:47)

**Q. Where can I use the keys of the kingdom?**

A. In whatever area I have (been given) spiritual authority.



A Definition of Stronghold:

**"A protected dwelling designed to keep the occupants safe."**

- Every one of us have some ungodly strongholds that require dismantling through various means (here is where "binding and loosing" prayers can be extremely effective.)
- The Holy Spirit wants to effect God's renovation program in us, to destroy ungodly strongholds and build within us a stronghold of God's presence and truth.
- Strongholds can be formed *around* groups of people as well as *within* individual persons.
- Ungodly strongholds passed from one generation to the next (through attitude or behaviour) become "curses" that require the key of repentance on behalf of those who lived before our time (see notes on intercession)

## **5. Agreement "Multiplying Faith"**

Definition: When two or more persons align their souls in prayer expressed through common confession of the mouth.

Key Scripture:

Matthew 18:19-20 "Again I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for

you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”

### A Look at the Words

- In Greek the word ‘agree’ literally means “to produce a sound together”
- The word anything must be taken in context of
  - a) previous verse – Matthew 18:18
  - b) other words by Jesus on this topic – John 15:7

### Agreement as a Spiritual Law

1. Agreement Power takes at least two persons  
Deuteronomy 19:15, Matthew 18:16  
*All Biblical Truth is to be established “in the mouths of two or three...”*
2. Agreement Power can be negative as well as positive.  
Examples: Acts 4:29-35, Acts 5:1-10
3. Agreement Power is multiplied as numbers are added.  
It’s power is derived from the stronghold created by a majority of minds linked together over an issue.  
(Tower of Babel – Gen. 11)

### Let’s Get Started

“Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?”

Amos 3:3

Begin in your own home!  
Agree with God to meet with him  
Agree with spouse, friends and family to set time to pray together.

## ”Soul Power”

The Scriptural Ideal...

*“Love the Lord with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”* Deuteronomy 6:5, Matthew 22:37. Our souls were designed to be 100% pure receptors for God’s spirit and truth.

The Sin-Based Reality...

Our wounded souls easily become attached to persons, places and things, creating a variety of “soul ties”. Some of these can be good, others can be harmful.

The Result...

We need to cooperate with the process of identifying the harmful (or ungodly) soul ties for the purpose of pure fellowship and proper agreement power. See Deut. 30:6, Psalm 19:7, 23:3, 41:4, 42:1-6, 11, 116:7 etc...)

Easy Prayer pattern to break the ungodly soul ties  
in order to loose all negative agreement  
and position you for positive agreement power.

1. Recognize and Renounce the ungodly influence in your life – preferably in the presence of the person(s) with whom you have formed an unhealthy bond.
2. Repent for your part in the formation of this tie – and forgive all others involved.
3. Pray in this manner *“I place the cross of Jesus between me and ... (name all persons, places*

*and memories...)* so that nothing can pass between unless filtered through the grace and truth of God.

## 6. The Prayer of Faith

Definition: A declaration spoken over and against circumstance in response to a revelation of God's will for a specific situation.

It is the prayer of faith that changes *things!*

Key Scripture:

Matthew 21:18-22 "Early in the morning, as he was on his way back to the city, he was hungry. Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, "May you never bear fruit again!" Immediately the tree withered. When the disciples saw this, they were amazed. "How did the fig tree wither so quickly?" they asked. Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself in to the sea,' and it will be done. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

Hebrews 11:1,6

Every prayer must be prayed **IN** faith.

"whatever you ask in prayer believing you will receive."

But there is a special category for the prayer **OF** faith.

"even if you say to this mountain 'be taken up and cast into the sea' it shall be done"

- The "Prayer of Faith" is a *command*, not a *request*.
- The Prayer of FAITH cannot do its work until the prayer of INTERCESSION has done its work. (see notes on the Prayer of Intercession).
- The Prayer of Faith is impossible to pray until we are secure in our confidence of God's will to change a specific situation.

Faith is not a "work" of our soul

i.e. it can not be manufactured through effort or skill, Faith is the FRUIT of our relationship with the Heavenly Father,

leading to an ACT of obedience and enhanced by a GIFT of the Spirit.

Note: Luke 8:22-25

- "Attitude of Faith" - Jesus was asleep in the boat because he had an "attitude of faith" (trust based upon his relationship with the Father)
- "Act of Faith" - Jesus was awakened due to the disciples' fear of the circumstance and he commanded the elements to obey God's will.

Petition speaks to God on behalf of the circumstance. The Prayer of Faith speaks to the circumstance on behalf of God.

It is the "gift of faith" (1 Cor. 12:9) expressed in prayer.

The success of this prayer depends upon 2 things.

- 1) Revelation of God's specific will for a specific situation.
- 2) Declaration of the specific supernatural result.

### Three Steps to Prepare for the Prayer of Faith

- GROW in GOD – John 15:7 *“If you abide in Me...”*
- SHARPEN your SWORD  
- Ecc. 10:10 – *“If the axe is dull...”*  
...*memorize the word. (Romans 10:17)*
- USE your WEAPON – Ephesians 6:17-18  
In Matthew 18:21-22 “You” is repeated 6 times. The prayer of faith requires you to pick up your weapon and use your will to change your world.

### “Putting God to Work”

“For from of old men have not heard, not perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen a God besides thee who works for those that wait for him.”

Isaiah

64:4

God has of His own motion placed Himself under the law of prayer, and has obligated Himself to answer the prayers of men.

It is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who makes demands on us to pray, and it is He who puts

Himself and all He has so fully in the answer. Jesus puts Himself at our service and answers our demands when we pray.

Prayer affects three different spheres of existence – the divine, the angelic and the human. It puts God to work, it puts angels to work, and it puts man to work.

Prayer puts God to work in all things prayed for. While man in his weakness and poverty waits, trusts and prays, God undertakes the work. “For from old men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen a God beside thee, which works for him that waits for thee.”

To no other energy is the promise of God committed as to that of prayer. Prayer puts God's work in His hands, and keeps it there.

If prayer puts God to work on earth, then, by the same token, prayerlessness rules God out of the world's affairs and prevents Him from working. Prayerlessness excludes God from everything concerning men, and leaves man on earth the mere creature of circumstances, at the mercy of blind fate, without any God at all.

God needs prayer, and man needs prayer, too. It is dispensable to God's work in this world, and is essential to getting God to work in earth's affairs. So God binds men to pray by the most solemn obligations. To not pray is plain disobedience to an imperative command of Almighty God.

God's secrets, councils and cause have never been committed to prayerless men. Neglect of prayer has always brought loss of faith, loss of love, and loss of prayer. Prayerless men have stood in the way of God fulfilling His word and doing His will on earth. They tie divine hands and interfere with God in His gracious designs. As praying men are a help to God, so prayerless men are a hindrance to Him.

No insistence in the Scriptures is more pressing than prayer. No exhortation is oftener reiterated, none is more hearty, none is more solemn and stirring, than to pray. No principle is more strongly and broadly declared than that which urges us to prayer. There is no duty to which we are more strongly obliged than the obligation to pray. There is no command more imperative and insistent than that of praying. Art thou praying in everything without ceasing, in the closet, hidden from the eyes of men, and praying always and everywhere? That is the personal, pertinent and all-important question for every soul.

- E.M. Bounds  
Pastor & Noted author

on Prayer

## 7. Intercession

**Definition: Standing in the Gap in order to restrain judgment and release mercy.**

Key Scripture:

**Ezekiel 22:30** – “I looked for a man among them who would build a wall and **stand before me in the gap** on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none.

### The Need for An Intercessor The Father God's Dilemma

The word “intercede is derived from two Latin words,

“inter” meaning between  
“cedere” meaning to go

**To intercede is to act as a “go between” or mediator.**

It is essential to understand that the whole reason for the existence of a mediator has to do with a **break** in a **relationship** between two parties. The need for intercession is entirely based upon consequences of **SIN**. Before Adam and Eve's **SIN**, there was no need for a mediator between God and people.  
(Isaiah 59:1-2, 1 Sam 2:25, Rom. 6:23, Rev. 20:13-15)

- Sin has caused judgment, sickness and death and separation from God.  
(Isaiah 59:1-2, Ezekiel 18:4, Romans 6:23)

- Sin does not “evaporate”  
(regardless of the amount of elapsed time)
- Forgiveness requires **confession**  
(Leviticus 5:5, 27:40, 1 John 1:9)

God’s **righteousness** demands **Judgment**  
Isaiah 63:4-5

God’s **love** desires **Mercy**  
Isaiah 59:16, 63:5

The only one who can grant forgiveness is the injured party or a qualified representative.

Sin affects not only the **vertical** relationship between God and humanity but also the **horizontal** relationship between people.

Jesus is the Answer to the Father God’s Dilemma

The law of Moses mediated only until the “seed” (Jesus) came.  
Galatians 3:19-21

The “**MAN**” Christ Jesus is the only effective mediator  
Between God and man.  
1 Timothy 2:5

Christ fulfilled the role of mediator by perfectly representing each party to the other:

**God to Man:** John 1:14, Col. 2:9  
**Man to God:** Heb. 9:13-14, 12:24, 2 Cor 5:21

Christ’s role as the perfect **human** is now complete.  
Matt 17:1-5

Christ’s role as the perfect **sacrifice** is now complete.  
He. 10:10-14

Christ’s role as the perfect **servant** is now complete.  
Phil 2:5-11

Christ’s role as God’s **ambassador** is now complete.  
John 19:30

Christ’s role as God’s **prophet** is now complete  
Heb. 1:1-2

*However...*

He holds a permanent **priesthood** (Heb. 7:22-24)

Therefore Christ’s role as **intercessor** continues every day until He returns as King. (Heb 7:25)

### **The Ministry of Intercession**

Intercession is the kind of prayer required when *unconfessed sin* separates **our need** from **God’s supply**.

All “Born Again” Christians have been given the role of a mediator’s (intercessory) lifestyle (following the pattern of Jesus.)

“He has committed to us

the **message** of reconciliation  
and gave us the **ministry** of reconciliation  
1 Corinthians 5:17-21

“Intercession is the act of pleading by one who in God’s sight has a right to do so in order to obtain mercy for one in need.”

*C. Peter Wagner*

Our **Qualification** for this ministry depends upon our **Identification** with Christ.

Our Identificational Rights come about through a combination of:

1. **Birthright**
2. **Ongoing Relationship**
3. **Obedience to Revealed Will**
4. **Condition of the Heart**

### **Intercessory Keys to the Kingdom**

#### **1. CONFESSION**

- the plan and purposes of God, revealed by the Spirit.
- the sins of ourselves and our forefathers.

Ezra 10:1 break the **curse** of generations  
Lev 26:40

Daniel 9:20 restore the **broken promises**

Matthew 3:6 precedes **ministry** (Mark 1:5)

James 5:16 bring **healing**

#### **2. REPENTANCE**

- Intercessory repentance is the greatest spiritual weapon in the hands of a qualified intercessor.
- Daniel 9:2-23

#### **3. PERSISTENCE**

- Genesis 18:16-33, 19:29

Abraham’s Q. “Will not the judge of all the earth do right”

Answer: Yes, **IF** we call for mercy

### **The Heart of an Intercessor**

**Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane** Matt  
26:36-46

**“Could you not Watch with Me ONE HOUR?”**

Jesus’ **agony** in the garden brought the **victory** of the cross.

“On the road to the cross, the Saviour is seen as *passive*, a man acted upon, not a man *active*... In the quiet solitude of Gethsemane’s olive grove, Jesus appears in an active role... It is here that he sets himself to endure the travail of a demanding prayer warfare and actively wills for God to do His work through Him regardless of the cost to himself. His troubled spirit expresses itself in groans, strong crying and tears. The battle is joined. The Intensity mounts. Heaven’s legions press forward to help, but this is not their battlefield; it is His alone. His will is assailed at every point, “His sweat as it were great drops of blood falling to the ground.” Here is God’s work being done God’s way. God willing it in heaven and a man willing it on earth. The sacrifice on Calvary happened because first, out of His soul’s depths in dark Gethsemane, the soldier of the Cross wills with God for it to happen.”

Arthur Matthews in Born for Battle

**John on the Island** of Patmos Revelation 4 and 5

The event did not take place until John **wept** over Heaven’s dilemma.

The Angel calls Jesus the **Lion** of the tribe of Judah, but when he opened the scroll he appeared as the **Lamb** of God.

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**Jews in the Land of Israel** Isaiah 49:8, 61:4,5 62:6-7

God’s ultimate plan for individuals is to produce worshippers from every nation *through Israel’s spiritual blessing*

Acts 15:16-17

God’s ultimate plan for the earth includes the judgment of the nations through the **restoration** of the nation of Israel

Joel 3:1-2

The restoration of Israel and the Heart of God

- Jeremiah 30:3, 17:18, 33:11, Daniel 9:25

**Notes:**

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### The Problems of an Intercessor

1. The **accumulation** factor  
*Taking on burdens outside of God's will or timing.*  
1 Sam 15:10-11, 16:10
2. Lack of **wisdom**  
bringing reproach upon themselves or their calling.
3. Lack of **prayer** for themselves  
Intercessors can take the spiritual opposition for those they are praying for in the role of "personal intercessor" resulting in getting "beat up", unbalanced, or isolated; this leads to ineffectiveness and discouragement.
4. Prophetic insight leading to **judgmental** or **critical** attitudes if not carried with a spirit of humility and repentance Matt 7:1-2

### Other Biblical Examples of Intercessors

**Moses** Numbers 14:2-5, 16:2-4, 20-24, 41-50  
Exodus 32:32

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**Samuel** 1 Samuel 7:3-12, 12:23, 15:10-11

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**Job** Job 1:1-5, 42:5-8

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**Esther** Book of Esther, especially chapter 7  
King Ahasuerus

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Jews

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Esther

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Mordecai

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## 8. Praying in the Spirit

Definition: The Mind of the Spirit praying the will of God through me.

Key Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 14:2,14-15 “ For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit. For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. So what shall I do? **I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind.** I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.”

The FACTS:

1. The Church of Jesus Christ was born speaking in tongues (Acts 2:4)
2. The Church at large lost its ability to exercise this gift. (see church history AD 300 to 1900! )
3. The Church is learning how to receive this gift again (>300 million persons since 1906)

The FEELINGS:

1. FEAR due to false teaching  
resulting in barrenness of spiritual gifts
2. PRIDE due to lack of wisdom  
resulting in confusion and offence.
3. HUNGER due to **understanding**  
resulting in fruitfulness in prayer

How the Apostle Paul felt (1Cor. 14:18)

*“I thank God I speak in Tongues more than you all”*

### Biblical Purpose for Tongues

To edify people.

**1 Cor. 14:4-5**

The Greek word (oikodomeo) means “to build, build up , embolden, strengthen”  
Oxford dict. “to be an uplifting influence”

Something to think about . . .

It is not surprising that the enemy’s plan throughout church history has been to “tear down” rather than “build up” the church through the misuse of and controversy over tongues.

The distinction is made by the Apostle Paul between the two ways in which the gift of tongues can be used to edify:

1. The whole church gathering,

through public use *with interpretation* 14:5

2. An individual person  
through private use in prayer 14:4

### **Biblical Guidelines for using this gift**

1. Do not forbid  
i.e. make room for it when you meet 1 Cor.  
14:39
2. Use it publicly only with interpretation  
i.e. when speaking to the assembly 1 Cor 14:27
3. Blend it with other kinds of prayer  
for maximum power Ephesians 6:18

A closer look at Ephesians 6:18 *“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and request. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints”*

Praying in the Spirit is associated with

1. a soldier who is alert

and ready for battle!

Look at the context of praying in the Spirit . . .  
*“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the rulers , against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms”*  
Ephesians 6:12

The battleground for this unseen warfare is primarily in our mind .

The gift of tongues can function as a confidential coded message between Earth and Heaven, which the enemy cannot intercept or understand!

2. receiving revelation by the Holy Spirit.  
1 Corinthians 14
3. boldness in spreading the Gospel  
Prime examples are found in Acts 2:4 and 4:31

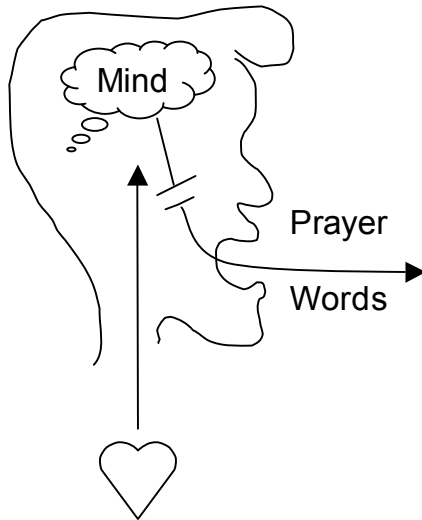
The gift of tongues has prophetic significance in relation to God bringing HIS Kingdom to this earth: compare **Genesis 11:1-9** - Tower of Babel , dividing of the nations with **Acts 2:5-12** - Nations gathered to hear the Gospel)

*The gift of tongues on the day of Pentecost marked the key turning point from the period of judgment to  
Grace!*

## How it Works

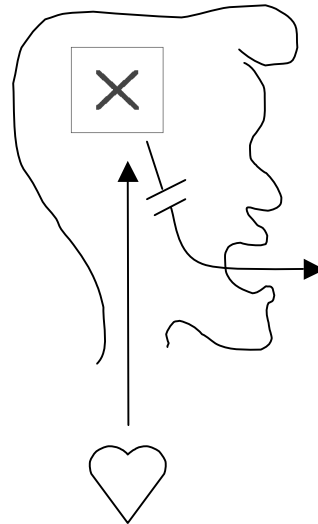
1 Cor. 14:14-15 “For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. So what shall I do? I will sing pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind. I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.”

Praying with the Mind



“out of the abundance of the heart”  
Matt 12:34  
intercedes”

Praying in the Spirit



“out of the abundance of God’s heart the Spirit

1 Cor. 14:2  
Romans 8:27

## 9. Petition – Presenting our Needs

Definition: Bringing our requests before the Throne of Grace in expectation that Heaven’s resources will meet our needs.

Key Scripture: Philippians 4:6 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Note: Petition is number nine because effective asking is a natural result of the other 8 kinds of prayer.

Basic Requirements for “Good AIM”  
when sending our requests to Heaven...

1. Good Vision

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– Ps 66:18

2. Correct Target

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1 John 5:14

3. A Steady Hand

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Matthew 7:7-8

In order to be able to persevere, every prayer warrior has to learn to stand on “his own two legs” of scriptural truth: (see next page)

Romans 5:1-2

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*a blameless conscience*

Hebrews 4:14-16

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*a shameless confession*

...”and having done *EVERYTHING* (else) to *STAND firm...*”

Ephesians 6:13

If our Heavenly Father LOVES to hear His children ASK (Luke 11:1-5), then why doesn't God answer my prayer?

Why the Father didn't give Jesus what he asked for...

1. Matt 26:39 A better \_\_\_\_\_.
2. John 17:11,20-11 A later \_\_\_\_\_.

**A Lesson from Luke about  
“unanswered” prayer... Luke 1:5-23**

1:6 You are not necessarily to

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when a prayer has been unanswered for a long time.

1:8-11 An answer will come to those who remain \_\_\_\_\_ with the saints and faithful in service.

1:13 God has been \_\_\_\_\_ your prayer all along

1:13-17 God's answer is \_\_\_\_\_ than your request

1:14 God will use it as a \_\_\_\_\_ to others

1:15 There will be a special blessing of the \_\_\_\_\_ on the situation

1:16 He will create \_\_\_\_\_ from the answer

1:17 There will be \_\_\_\_\_ revelation involved (i.e. spiritually discerned insight as to the ways of God)

1:18-23 You must agree with God via \_\_\_\_\_ in order to retain God's provision.

In summary...

John 15:7 \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus.

John 14:11-17 \_\_\_\_\_ in the Name of Jesus!

Luke 18:1-8 NEVER \_\_\_\_\_ !