

how will you know what God is saying, you might end up lost and dumbfounded, so please, endeavour to study God's word.

There is nothing better than sharing a close relationship with God, communing with God is a very great feeling, I urge us all to do better with our spiritual life/growth. I pray that God continues to bless us with His Spiritual Power, Amen.

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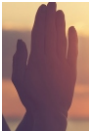
FOUNDATION BIBLE SCHOOL ARCHIVES

TOPIC: PRAYER “תפילה”

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PRAYER



Prayer is an act of communicating with God; it can be in form of a request or a petition. During the course of reading this pamphlet, we will learn how to pray better and how to enhance our prayer life.

TYPES OF PRAYER

Starting from the basics; let's take a look at the types of prayer.

- **Personal Prayer:** This is what we would be speaking on during the course of this pamphlet, Judging by its name, this is a prayer offered personally, be it for blessings, forgiveness, or guidance. A prayer between one's self and God.
- **Intercessory Prayer**
 - ❖ Group Intercession
 - ❖ Lone Intercession

Intercessory Prayer: This is a type of prayer offered on behalf of someone else other than the person/people praying. It can be offered in group or just by one person.

- **Group Prayer:** This is a prayer being offered by a group of people or more than one person. It can be offered due to certain situations, or can be for interceding on behalf of another person(s). It can also be offered for everyone praying in the group.

FORMS OF PRAYER

Now let's also take a look at some forms of prayer;

- **Singing;** Praying through singing songs
- **Mental Prayer;** Meditating, Contemplating
- **Vocal Prayer;** the regular form of prayer whereby we pray through words.

HOW TO PRAY BETTER

NOTE: This is restricted to personal prayer, i.e. it is a guideline only for personal prayers, not group prayers.

call. Don't think that, he has heard you but you're being cleansed. This also requires effort from you to keep your mind wholly focused on God, not to be thinking of the things of the world whilst meditating. For instance, how you forgot to upgrade your players after the last match in Dream League Soccer, or the perfect reply you were supposed to give the person that got you angry earlier in the day, or rather, how you're going to La Cuisine to treat yourself to a banquet after the prayer. Keep your mind off of all these things and put all efforts in concentrating so as for you to be cleansed. Once you're totally cleansed, you will definitely feel His presence.

Also, whenever you're praying, make sure that wherever it is you are, is very neat. God does not condone uncleanness, like we always say: *"Cleanliness is next to Godliness"*. Make sure your room is clean before going into prayer, God despises dirt (Deuteronomy 23:12-14).

PRAYER AIDS

Before we conclude let's look at some few things that aid prayer;

- **Faith;** There's really no point praying without faith. Faith is a very important aspect of a Christian, basically, you can't be a Christian without faith, cast away the seed of doubt in your mind and have faith in God, only He can do all things *"... but with God, all things are possible"*. Matthew 19:26
- **Fasting;** it works hand in hand with prayer. You need to mortify the flesh and fortify the spirit so as to grow spiritually, and what better way is there to do that rather than fasting. We are not talking about fasting till 3:00PM or 12:00PM, we are talking about fasting till 6:00PM for seven days or if you have the strength for a 24 hours fast. *"Matthew 17:21 However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting"* – this shows that there are some kind of situations that requires fasting to get what you want.
- **Studying the Bible;** This is also very important, in the process of building yourself up spiritually, studying God's word contribute a lot. When God is speaking to you in prayer, He mostly speaks through His word, revealing different scriptures to you. If you are someone that does not read the Bible,

Court of a temple. “Father give me this, Lord give me that”, everything here is all about asking, be it for forgiveness or mercy or blessings. But here, just like the Outer Court of a Temple, the presence of God is not known here. Mostly, outer court are made of brass not gold. That is what is present here, not the full glory and presence of God.

SEEK: At this point, you have waited longer; you have proceeded into the Inner Court, more glorious than the Outer Court. At this point, mental prayer comes in again, your words become fewer, this is the point when God starts to reveal himself to you gradually, this is when you start experiencing the presence of the spirit of God, goose bumps begin to appear all over your body, literal chills, God is bringing you to His presence gradually, transcendence is coming into place, the flesh is taking a break whilst the spirit is taking over, if you're standing, you might stagger at this point, because God is taking over.

KNOCK: You've waited even further at this stage. At this point, you knock, and wait for when God will open the door and call you in. He'll open the door for you to come in to the Holiest of Holiest, to dine and wine in His presence, this is when the real communion takes place, where God begins to speak with you, He begins to reveal things to you. Don't be in a haste or too excited to end the prayer, be patient, let God speak so as to get his message clearly.

After all these, you feel refreshed in spirit and body, you feel genuinely happy for you have experienced the presence of God. Do these more often, and your prayer life will be sound.

Take note that the time taken for God to make himself known to you will vary depending on your spirituality. “...*However little, the sin cannot come near thee*” – CCC Hymn 205. The time passing whilst you were waiting for the presence of God is the period when God is cleansing you, washing away every filthiness before bringing you to his presence. So, this might require a little perseverance on your part. The devil might want to trick you into leaving, concluding that God won't answer your

If we take a look at the Bible, specifically Matthew 6: 5-13 where Jesus Christ spoke on Prayer, you'll see there's a lot to learn. Let's take it one after the other. From verse 5-8, he made us understand that praying on the streets or a public place is wrong. If you're praying in public places, it means you're seeking praises from men, for people to see that you can pray which is wrong as Jesus has made us understand. When you want to pray, go to your room, pray to God in secret and he'll reward you openly. Also, when you pray, don't use vain repetitions, repeating the same thing over and over again, e.g. repeating a certain prayer point/request about twenty times. A lot of us are culprits of this, now this is wrong. Be not like the heathen for they think they are heard for their many words, it is not by praying with many words that guarantees answers to prayers nor offering a lengthy prayer means it will be answered. Before you ask God of anything, He already knows what you want, you don't need vain repetitions for your prayer to be answered, endeavour to be short and precise in prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER



Let's move on to the *Lord's Prayer* (Matthew 6:9-13). The Lord's Prayer is not just a Mantra that is meant to be recited from time to time; it has a meaning to it. The Lord's Prayer is a formation on how to pray given to us by Jesus Christ, I'll try to break it down and explain it line by line.

- *Our Father who art in heaven* – When you pray, address whom you're praying to, call his name. The way we pray as Celestial members already covers this, i.e. *Jehovah*. (Why we call *Jesus Christ*

is this, “And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it” - John 14:13-14. And the reason we call *Holy Michael* is for him to battle any Prince of Persia that wants to delay our prayers, read Daniel 10 for better understanding.)

- *Hallow be thy name* – Eulogise God before proceeding to full prayers, as Celestial Members, we also do this. i.e. “*Jehovah, Jesus Christ, Holy Michael, King of Kings, Ancient one, Eternal Rock of Ages...*”
- *Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven* – Ask for the will of God to be manifested in your life, His will for you is of paramount importance, ask for that.
- *Give us this day, our daily bread* – Ask for the daily blessings of the Lord, *Psalms 34:10. Also, his blessings in general, that's important too.
- *And forgive us, all our trespasses, as we forgive those, who trespass against us* – Ask for the forgiveness of God, “*Roman:3:23 for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*”. This prayer would be rendered null and void if you don't forgive those who offend you, Jesus has told us it is until a person offends us 70x7 times “*Matthew 18:21-22*” that we are allowed not to forgive that person, and we all know that's realistically impossible, so if there is anyone you're at logger heads with, after this Bible class, go on and reconcile, so God would also forgive you, remember, God is love.
- *And lead us not into temptation* – Ask God for the power not to be led by the flesh, because the flesh only leads to sin, but the spirit gives life. “*Romans 8:6 To be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace*”.
- *But deliver us from evil* – Ask for protection from and victory over spiritual warfare, “*Ephesians 6:12 for we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places*”
- *For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever, Amen.* – Before bringing your prayers to an end, give him praises and thanks out of assurance that your prayers have been answered.

All these are key points that need to be included in one's daily prayers

COMMUNING WITH GOD

Now a lot of times when we pray seeking something from God, we just pray and leave without actually waiting to speak with God or to know his response, we pray without waiting to hear the voice of the Lord.

Basically, when we pray, all we do is talk and when we're done, we just get up and leave. Let's go back to the meaning of prayer, “...*communicating with God*”, now what is communicating when its only one person speaking. When you're communicating with someone, every party speaks, and at a point you stop talking so as to hear what the other person is saying or rather, to listen to them. That is the same way it is with God, we shouldn't be in a hurry with God, and God is never in a hurry. All we want to do is quickly pray and go do something else, it shouldn't be so.

This is where Singing and Mental Prayer (Meditation) comes in, when you want to pray, you can start by singing, be it songs of praise or spiritual songs so as to put yourself in a spiritual mood. After singing, you can just kneel and wait silently, (Isaiah 40:31, Psalms 40:1, Habakkuk 2:20 – these verses will make you understand the importance of waiting/ being quiet before the Lord), you'll notice that your mind becomes quieted and you are slowly transcending to the spiritual realm. It is not compulsory you go into vocal prayers at this point, remember “... *for your father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.*” – Matthew 6:8b. He already knows what you want and what is in your heart, the main aim is to hear what he has to say to you.

Now let's move on to the point of vocal prayers, we would be dissecting a few things. Firstly, the bible says we are the temple of God, in a temple; we have the Outer Court, the Inner Court and the Holiest of Holiest (Altar). Also, the bible says, ASK it shall be given, SEEK you shall find, and KNOCK it shall be opened unto you.

ASK: At this point, everything here is just talk, just like it is in the Outer