

An Omnibus of Prayer

By Don Edwards

A simple guide for communicating
with our Heavenly Father



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FOREWORD

We have all felt the joy of receiving blessings, and the pain of losing them. In early childhood we develop our reactions toward gains and losses. These reactions may become hard-to-change habits. For instance, many people react to loss with anger, the most damaging emotion perpetuated by satan. When an emotion becomes a habit, we become comfortable with its feeling , and we use it when we experience loss of any kind, such as loss of respect, self-worth, control of our surroundings, loved ones and things important to us. Even the fear of loss may prompt the reaction of anger. When we are faced with life's problems a deep-seated habit of handling the problem can affect how we speak to others even when words are thoughtfully chosen.

Our reactions toward receiving blessings are also affected by habits from our childhood. We can feel joy from a gift, or we can take our blessings for granted.

I am convinced that our reactions to gains and losses are directly affected by the relationship we have with our Heavenly Father. That relationship is based on our ability to communicate with Him on a personal level.

Accompany me through this "Omnibus of Prayer" and learn from God's Word how to communicate with Him. In learning how to pray you will receive the blessings of His Holy Spirit. These blessings will allow you to put aside those old satan-inspired habits that make life difficult and keep you from experiencing the joys of a love inspired life.

Don Edwards

An Omnibus of Prayer

What is Prayer?

Prayer is God, the Holy Spirit, speaking to God the Father in the name of God the Son, Jesus, from the believer's spirit.

Prayer allows God access to our needs when we ask for blessings.

From the first letter of the apostle John, the brother of the apostle James:
1st John 3:21-24

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and we receive from Him whatever we ask, because we keep His commandments and do what pleases Him. And this is His commandment, that we should believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as He commanded us. All who keep His commandments, abide in Him, and He in them. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit which He has given us.

Prayer is one of God's greatest gifts to us. It allows us to communicate and commune with Him. We have this gift only because Christ suffered and died to cover our sin with His blood and relieve us from the need of a human mediator.

Prayer is the key to open the storehouse of God's infinite power and grace.

Prayer is the prerequisite to ALL work in God's kingdom.

There is no greater ministry than the ministry of prayer.

There is no greater need of mankind than to communicate with God, our Father.

There is no greater tool to fulfill the Great Commission.

There is no greater tool to unify Christians.

There is no greater way to know the Trinity.

Prayer allows the Holy Spirit to come upon us and work within us.

The Holy Spirit is the spirit of prayer.

“Holy Spirit” in the Greek language is Paraclete, meaning Comforter. Someone who would go to court with you before a tribunal to comfort you and answer all questions wisely.

When Jesus was baptized, a new dimension of communication with God was opened to us. Our heavenly Father sent His Holy Spirit, with His unlimited power upon Jesus, to be shared with all who believe in Him.

From the Gospel, or “Good News” of the apostle Levi:
Matthew 3: 16-17

When Jesus was baptized, He went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened. John saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on Christ and a voice from heaven, saying ‘This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased.’

Christ told His disciples before He ascended into heaven.
Luke 24:49

“And now I will send the Holy Spirit upon you, just as My Father promised.”

When we receive the Holy Spirit, He convicts us to become a follower of Christ.

When the Holy Spirit comes upon us we are baptized with the Holy Spirit and receive the power to do God’s work.

When the Holy Spirit is in us, we know and communicate with him.

Christ prepared the eleven disciples for Pentecost on the Mount of Olives, forty days after His resurrection.

The apostle Luke tells us in Acts: 1: 6-8

When the disciples came together they asked Jesus, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom of Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons which the Father has fixed by His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.”

The apostle Paul baptized believers in water. Then He laid his hands on them and prayed that God would send the Holy Spirit upon them in order that they may receive spiritual gifts.

Acts 19: 1-6

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, 'into John's baptism.'" (John the Baptist) And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling people to believe in the One who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came upon them; and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

The Holy Spirit has united all who believe in Christ. This union comes with prayer as Paul tells us in his letter to the Corinthian church.

1st Corinthians 12: 12-13

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many are one body, so it is with Christ. For by the Spirit we were baptized into one body, Jews or Greeks, slaves or free and all were made to drink of one Spirit.



Father in heaven, send Your Holy Spirit upon me. I need His loving guidance and to have a closer walk with you to learn Your will for my life. Thank you Father.

To Whom Do We Pray?

We pray to God, our heavenly Father. The true meaning of our prayer is delivered and translated to God by the Holy Spirit, who intercedes for us, in the name of Jesus Christ.

From the apostle Paul's letter to the churches in Rome.
Romans 8:26-27

The Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Holy Spirit Himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. And the Father who searches our hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We believers have the power to commune with God without a human mediator.

The apostle Peter states in his first letter,
1st Peter 2:4-5

Come to Him, that living stone, rejected by men but in God's sight chosen and precious; and like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Note that the word priest, (hierous) is not applied specifically to an apostle or an ordained elder. It applies to every believer!

Read: John 17, Romans 5, Ephesians 2:11-22

From God's revelation to the apostle John.:

Revelation 1:6

To Him (Jesus) Who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood and made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Matthew 23:9-10

Call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. Neither be called masters, for you have one Master, the Christ.

Hebrews 4: 14-16

Since then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weakness, but we have one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Being in the Right Spirit for Prayer

☞ The Importance of Love in Our Lives ☞

Jesus commands us to love.

From the Gospel of the apostle John.
John 13:34

“A new commandment I give you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you.”

What is the love Jesus speaks of ?

The apostle Paul defines Christian love in his letter to the church in Corinth,
1st Corinthians 13: 4-13

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends; as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophecy is imperfect, but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put away childish ways. For now I see in a mirror dimly, but when I come face to face with God; then I shall understand fully, even as I have been fully understood by God. So faith, hope and love abide, these three; the greatest of these is love.

Love comes to us when we stop practicing jealousy, anger, resentment, fear, guilt and lust. These satan-inspired habits not only cause illness; they are the greatest barriers blocking the door to our Father's blessings

Paul wrote to the Christians in Colossae.
Colossians 3:14

“Above all put on love which binds all things together in perfect harmony.”

Love is the medicine for most illness!
Love is the best prevention against most illnesses and accidents!

There are three ways to feel toward someone: hate, indifference and love. We cannot love God and hate another.
1st John 4:20

If anyone says, "I love God." and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.

Christ said, in essence, "If you love, you fulfill the law." With the love Christ speaks of, we fulfill all of the Ten Commandments!
Matthew, 22:37-40

Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets."

Romans 13: 8-10

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "you shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet", and any other commandments, are summed up in this sentence. "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor, therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

God gives us a responsibility or debt each day to love one another. This debt of love never leaves us. The lack of love allows indifference, hate and anger into our lives.



Father, help me follow Christ's commandment to "love one another". Fill my heart with love for myself and others. Give me a loving spirit. Thank you, Father.

Understanding the Will of God

Our heavenly Father has a sovereign will or plan for the future. This sovereign will is shrouded in mystery as it is not revealed to man. There are instances in life when a great loss or situation will overwhelm and shake us deeply and we pray in earnest for God to intercede with His divine power. When no blessing or answer comes we ask WHY? Ask God for wisdom so you can move on through the pain of loss. That wisdom comes from studying His word and honest prayer. Read Matthew 6:25-30 and Jeremiah 29:11-14.

The story of Job teaches that we must love our Father God regardless of blessings or disasters and know that He is in control. We have no claim on His sovereign will. Believe that God's sovereign will is always designed for our good. Romans 8:28

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose.

God has a moral will that is revealed to us in His commandments and principles throughout the Bible. His words show us how to live and believe. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you through the study of God's word and ask for wisdom and understanding to know His will for your life. Read Colossians 1:9-10, 1st Thessalonians 5:16-21 and Romans 8:1-25

You are either led by the Holy Spirit or led by the flesh. If the Spirit leads you, you will possess the "fruit of the Spirit" which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

How Do We Approach God?

☞ With Biblical Fear ☞

The inspired writers of the Scriptures tell us to fear God. Not fear with superstition (which is the fruit of ignorance), but with an attitude of obeying without question, which leads to abstinence of sin.

The Biblical fear of God is: sincere reverence, honor and obedience. (Note how these words relate to the following Scriptures.)

From the “Book of Wisdom”: Proverbs 3:7-10

Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and medicine to your bones. Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

From the “Book of Wisdom”: Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Fear God, and keep His commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into the judgment on every secret thing, whether good or evil.

Filial obedience, as a child to a parent, is a sincere love wishing not to offend God and to endeavor to please Him in all things.

From the book of praises, Psalms 111:10

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who practice it. His praise endures forever!

Proverbs 14:2

He who walks in uprightness fears the Lord, but he who is devious in his ways despises Him.

Romans 3: 14-18

Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood, in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they do not know. There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Angels protect those who fear God and submit cheerfully to His will.

Psalms 34: 7-10

The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them. O taste and see that the Lord is good! Happy is the man who takes refuge in Him! O fear the Lord, you, His saints, for those who fear Him have no want! The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

Fear (reverence, honor, obedience) and love must coexist in order to serve God, our Father.



Father God, help me put away my pride and give me faith to allow Your will to work in my life.

How Do We Approach God?

☞ With Confidence ☞

From Paul's letter to the Hebrews (The New Testament's Exodus):
Hebrews 4:14-16

"We have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God. Let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weakness, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

It is not the words we use when we pray that brings us the answers we seek. In all cases, it is the condition of the heart. We must retreat from the world into a prayer closet. A prayer closet can be any place or time, either alone, or in a group agreeing together. Nothing from the outside physical world can be allowed into our prayer closet in order that we may have confidence in prayer and enjoy God's presence. Know that neither satan or his helpers are omnipresent or omniscient. They are simply created beings. They cannot hear or discern our silent prayers!

Hebrews 7:25

Christ is able for all time to save those who draw near to God through Him, since He lives to make intercession for them.

John 15:3-5

Christ said, "You are already made clean by the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."



Thank you Father, for standing by me through the times when my faith was lacking and being near when I've needed Your guidance.

How Do We Approach God

✿ With a Clear Mind ✿

First, remove evil from your presence. Example: Say aloud, “You, satan, in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, I command you to remove your evil influence from me and this place. Holy Spirit, I invite You into my heart and my mind.”

The devil, himself, is not inside a baptized Christian; however, his evil influence is everywhere. The Holy Spirit will not leave us during our sin; however, He is grieved when we take Him into places and situations where we sin.

From the apostle Paul’s letter to the churches in Asia: Ephesians 4:30

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in Whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

From the letter of James, the brother to Jesus:
James 4: 7-8

“Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”

Ephesians 4:26 (paraphrased)

Don’t let the sun go down with you still angry. Get over it quickly; for when you are angry you give a mighty foothold to the devil.

Remember, all the hours you sleep while angry, satan can influence you through visions and dreams.

1st Peter 5:8-9 (paraphrased)

Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary, the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that other Christians throughout the world are suffering your same experience.

Anger, jealousy, fear and resentment are products of satan’s influence. When these emotions are not under control, communication with our Lord is doubtful. We should read His word until we feel in control of our emotions. Then, with a clear mind, approach God.



Father, I am angry and I feel resentment toward this person for what he did to me. Please, take away my anger and fill me with forgiveness and Your love. Guide me to keep my mind clear of anger and resentment.

How Do We Approach God?

☞ With Praise! ☞

Praise is the making of glory. . . Glory, means to exalt, adore and honor.

We can feel the joy of praising God throughout our prayers because of His goodness, as found in the Psalms.

Psalms 9:1-2

“I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart; I will tell of all His wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in God. I will sing praise to His name, my Lord God above all gods.”

From his book, 1st Chronicles 29:10-13, Ezra, a great priest and scribe writes about one of King David's prayers:

“Blessed are Thou, O Lord, the God of Israel our Father, for ever and ever. Thine O Lord, is the greatness, and the power and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord and Thou art exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from Thee, and You rule over all. In Thy hand are power and might; and in Thy hand it is to make great and give strength to all. And now we thank Thee, our God, and praise Thy glorious name.”

In his Gospel, the apostle Luke records Mary's song of praise to God;
Luke 1:46-50

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for He Who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. And His mercy is on those who fear Him.”

We may praise God in order to honor Him as the apostle Paul does in his first pastoral epistle to Timothy, a minister of the Gospel.
1st Timothy 1:17

“To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever.”

In his epistle, Jude, a brother of Jesus, honors God.

Jude 24-25

“Now to him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you without blemish before the presence of His glory with rejoicing, to the only God, our Saviour through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever.”

Hebrews 13:15-16

“Through Jesus Christ let us continually offer up sacrifice of praise to God, that is the fruit of lips that acknowledge His name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have with those in need, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”

Glorify God’s person, character, and His attributes by reading aloud the Psalms, numbers 24, 65, 92, 104, 139. Sing a doxology (a hymn of praise) before praying. Colossians 3:16-17

Let the words of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Praise prepares us for what we will do in heaven.

Revelation 7:9-10

Behold a great multitude, which no man could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb!”

There are so many more examples of praise in the Scriptures. It strengthens us to search them out and read them before we pray.



Praise you Father God. You are merciful and all powerful. Thank you for your love that sustains me.

Notes

How Do We Approach God?

☞ With Forgiveness for Others ☞

We must forgive, for our Father has forgiven us.
Ephesians 4:31-32

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Matthew 6:14-15

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Luke 6:37

Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive and you will be forgiven.

When we approach God to have our sins forgiven, we must have put aside our judgments and condemnations of others, and, of course, forgiven those who have apologized and asked our forgiveness.

We cannot forgive others if we harbor anger. Anger causes us to judge and condemn and anger will make us sick. God wants us to be healthy and feel the joy of being His children!

Read the parable from Jesus, "The Lost Son", in the book of Luke, chapter 15. The father in this story had forgiven his son before the son returned to ask for forgiveness! The father was waiting, and ran to the son to embrace him. This is what our heavenly Father has done for us! Many times a situation in life will test our ability to forgive. It is during this time that Satan takes advantage of us, tempting us to justify our anger or disappointment towards others and God, so that we don't forgive. If we can't forgive others, we are not in the right spirit to accept God's forgiveness. Of course, Satan will take advantage of our weakness and we will convince ourselves that we are unworthy of God's forgiveness. Thus our belief system is shattered.



Father God, guide me to forgive (name the sin of the one you feel has wronged you) and show love toward (name the person). Thank you Father.

How Do We Approach God

✧ With Faith ✧

Faith is trusting God's word. Without some measure of faith, we cannot approach God. Faith gives us the conviction to follow God's commandments. A faith killer is "man's reason". We have an ungodly need for explanation or proof of things not seen, felt, or heard. Blessed was the faith of the disciples during the days and nights waiting for Christ's return after His crucifixion in a world filled with hate and fear around them.

John 20:26-31

Eight days later, His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and that believing you may have life in Him.

Studying God's word builds faith. Faith and prayer are directly related. Faith provides the power for prayer. Faith opens the soul for the Holy Spirit to enter, and work His loving power.

There are many examples in the Bible of someone's faith being tested. One is in the First Book of Kings, 17th, 18th, and 19th chapters. This wonderful story is filled with examples of the prophet Elijah, who obeyed God with amazing faith and was blessed to be used by God to accomplish many miracles. Elijah experienced what some would consider to be an off and on protection by God, something we may feel if we are impatient in our faith.

It is a blessing to find these many examples of faith by men and women, who, in some cases, risked their lives believing and acting in their faith.

Read the story of the Canaanite woman whose unashamed and determined faith in Jesus healed her daughter in Matthew 15:21-28.

In the book of Job, chapters 2 and 3 you will read that when Job's faith was weak, Satan worked through Job's family and friends to depress him into asking God to take his life.

When Elijah's faith was weak from the fear that satan induced upon him in 1st Kings, chapter 19, he asked God to take his life.

When Peter's faith was weak, satan seduced him with depression and fear that caused him to question Jesus. Each of these and millions more allowed satan to influence their life and death decisions. When you are filled with fear or despair, call on your heavenly Father and allow Him to use you for His glory and remove satan's grip on you.

Satan is the angel of death and deceit and when our faith is weak he takes advantage of that weakness and fills our sinful nature with doubt and fear. We all have experiences in life that test our faith, but know that God has sealed us to Himself.

2nd Corinthians 1:22

God has put His seal upon us and has given us His Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

Hebrews chapter 11 defines faith and cites many examples of faith in God that, in several instances, has set a course for history.



Father, bless me with increased faith as I study Your word. Open my eyes to Your wisdom and guidance.

Experiencing victories builds faith. Write a list of blessings asked for, and a list of prayers answered. It may surprise you what our Lord has done.

How Do We Approach God?

☞ With the Personal Cleansing of Confession ☞

When praying for a change of circumstances, first pray for a change of character. Many times it is our own attitudes that cause life's unbearable circumstances.

Through confession of sin we can find joy in God. A good model for the confession of sin and cleansing of the heart is found in King David's prayer of repentance. Take David's prayer as your own.

Psalms 51:1-10

Verse 1

Have mercy on me, O God according to Thy steadfast love; according to Thy abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. (Name the sin: temper impatience, etc.)

Verse 2

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

Verse 3

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Verse 4

Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in Thy sight, so that Thou are justified in Thy sentence and blameless in Thy judgment.

Verse 5

Behold I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Verse 6

Behold, Thou desirest truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Verse 7

Purge me with hyssop, (the plant used to spread the lamb's blood on the door posts of the Israelites), and I shall be clean. Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Verse 8

Fill me with joy and gladness; let the bones which Thou hast broken rejoice.

Verse 9

Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Verse 10

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Verse:

1. David asked God for mercy to blot out his transgressions (sins).
2. Wash out his iniquity
3. Cleanse him of his sin
6. Teach him wisdom
7. Cover him with the blood of the lamb
8. Fill him with joy
9. Completely forget his sin
10. Give him a right spirit

To deny our guilt of sin is to impede the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and keep us from receiving God's wonderful gift of forgiveness.

1st John 1: 9-10

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we accuse God of lying, and His word is not in us.

James 5: 13-16

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is any cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is any 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; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects.

Why deny God and hold onto sin when Christ died for our forgiveness and our Father is so willing to forgive our sin?

Consider the Samaritan woman at the well with Jesus and her genuine repentance in the book of John, chapter 4.



Father without Your forgiveness, I am surely lost. Help me continue to grow in wisdom and in faith that I may love and forgive and be worthy of Your forgiveness.

How Do We Approach God?

✧ With Thanksgiving ✧

In Paul's letter to the church in Philippi, Philippians 4:4-7, he exhorts the Philippian Christians to:

“Always be full of joy in the Lord; I say again, rejoice! Let everyone see that you are unselfish and considerate in all you do. Remember that the Lord is coming soon. Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs and don't forget to thank Him for His answers. If you do this you will experience God's peace, which passes all understanding. His peace will keep your thoughts and your heart quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus.”

In Paul's first letter to the church in Thessalonica, 1st Thessalonians 5:15-18, he exhorts the Thessalonian Christians to:

“See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

When we are living in God's will and we are handed one of life's problems or pains, give thanks to God, for it is His will. If we ask that His will be done with us or a problem, and we ask for strength to endure the problem, He will use us or the problem for our spiritual growth. It may take hours or years for God to use us or the problem for His glory, and when He does, then our reward will be great!!

Consider the young man who returned home to his family from a recent war where he was struck by the shrapnel from a mortar shell. He lost his left leg, his manhood, his left arm, the hearing in his left ear and both of his eyes. His wife ultimately left him, and he lost his home. While in a conversation on the subject of thanksgiving; I asked him, “What could you possibly be thankful for?” This brave Christian answered, “I thank God that He allowed me to keep my tear ducts so I can cry.” When was the last time you thanked God for your tear ducts? Have you thanked Him for the feeling in a hand, the ability to hear the words of a friend, or the sense of taste and smell to be able to enjoy the flavor and fragrance of a simple fruit?

Let us not forget how precious our senses are and how easily they can be taken from us.



Father God, thank you for my body and its senses. Father, I know it is Your will that Your children be healthy

Principles of Asking

When asking in “Christ’s name”, we claim to represent a Christian life style. We strive to have His desires and qualities. We must ask ourselves, “What would Christ want in this situation?” Then ask for understanding of His will.

Ephesians 1:15-18

Because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints.

Pray in God's will. For example: Father I know it is Your will that Your children love and trust one another. Lord I ask that You bless our marriage or relationship and guide us to grow in a love and trust that is pleasing to You. I ask that Your will be done so You are glorified, that (name the person) and I will be blessed.

1st John 5:14-15

This is the boldness we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have obtained the requests made of Him.

We must not allow ourselves to fall for temptation, allowing other thoughts, outside distractions, and desires of the body to interfere with our communion with God. We must be sincere and humble.

Luke 22:40

Jesus said to His disciples, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.”

Ask for wisdom and faith.

James 1:5-8

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, Who gives to all men generously and without reproaching, and it will be given to him. Let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.

Read the inspiring words of King Solomon in Proverbs, chapter two! This is a wonderful example of seeking wisdom.

Know that in asking, God may answer our prayer differently than we might expect in order to help us grow in faith and character. Discover how God answered the prayers of Moses and the Israelites in the book of Numbers, chapter 21, verses 4 through 9.

After praying remain in your prayer closet for a while listening for God's answers and feeling the peace He offers while in this quiet time.

Asking for Forgiveness

Ask for forgiveness of judgments and condemnations towards others. Example: The person didn't apologize or ask for your forgiveness after cutting you off in traffic. If you became angry, you did judge and condemn and you may have assaulted or insulted that person. In any case, you allowed satan to move in and take control from you. Thankfully, you have a Father who will forgive these thoughtless acts. You must keep control and forgive others who trespass against you. You will experience the joy of living in God's will.

You need only ask God once for forgiveness of a sin, if you ask in the right spirit. When a sin is forgiven, it is covered by the blood of Christ and is not seen by God again. When you continue asking Him to forgive the same sin, you limit God's word and power.

When our God forgives a sin, He chooses not to remember it!

In the book of the prophet Isaiah 43:25

God said to Isaiah, "I am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins."

In the book of the prophet Jeremiah 31:34

God said to Jeremiah, "I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

Believe that you are worthy of God's forgiveness, for it is sinful to remember a sin that God has forgiven.



Pray: Father I know you have forgiven me of (name the sin), help me to accept your blessing of forgiveness in the name of Jesus. Father, let me be aware of my feelings toward others that I don't condemn or judge them.

Following Christ's Example

There is a wonderful simplicity in the prayer that our Lord taught His disciples after His "Sermon on the Mountain" in Matthew 6:9-13

The disciple's prayer is similar to the index prayers taught the Jewish people by their Rabbis. It is one sentence per petition without elaboration. This proves that one need not produce an elaborate and flowery prayer to be heard by God. It is the Christian's "right spirit" that touches God's ear. I count it a joy to have been led to study this prayer from Jesus. The prayer is translated from the Hebrew text.

avinu shebashamayim — Our Father Who is in heaven

This shows a personal relationship between a loving father and a grateful child.

yitkadesh shimcha — May Your name be sanctified

God is above all. He is:

omnipotent — having infinite power

omniscient — having infinite knowledge

omnipresent — being present everywhere

Recognize God for all He is while praying

tamlich malchutcha — May you continue establishing Your Kingdom/Kingship

Jesus instructed His disciples in the apostle John Mark's Gospel to increase God's kingdom.

Mark 16:15-16

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He who believes and is baptized will be saved, he who does not believe will be condemned."

Millions of souls are waiting to be saved.

ye'ase r'tzoncha — May Your will be done.

Not "if" Your will be done. For example: It is God's will that all be saved. We can pray for anyone to be saved, and if we cannot love that person enough to "sincerely" ask God to save him, we can ask God to love him through us, and give us the "right spirit!" for loving him. We can find God's will through studying His word and praying for wisdom.

bashamayim uva'aretz — in heaven and in earth

God's glory knows no space or time barriers.

et lechem chukenu ten lanu hayom — *Give us this day our necessary portion.*

God wants to care for us so we should ask, with thanksgiving, for His care.

um'chol lanu et chovotenu ka'asher machalnu gam anachnu l'chayavenu — *Forgive us our sins as we also "have" forgiven those who have sinned against us.*

This is asking God to allow the blood of Christ to cover our sins that removes them from His sight. We must "have" (past tense) forgiven all others before we can expect that God would forgive our sins. If we refuse to forgive others that is proof that we have not repented of our own sin. We can go no further with our prayer if we hold resentments towards others or ourselves.

v'al t'vienu lide nisayon — *Do not bring us into the grasp of temptation.*
This petition puts us on guard. We must recognize temptation in order to overcome the forces of the evil one, satan and his helpers.

James 1:12-14

Blessed is the man who endures trial, for when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life which God has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted with evil and He Himself tempts no one; but each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

1st Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful and He will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Isn't it exciting to know that with our Father's blessing, we have control over all the temptations of this world!

ela tatzilenu min hara — *but deliver us from the evil one*

We need power over satan's influence for it is always close by in all our activities. This is a petition for protection as well as deliverance.

"Amen" may be added. It simply means, "may it be so". It is used to express solemn agreement that God will answer our prayer.

When to Pray

Some examples:

Before reading the Bible, ask for wisdom and understanding that you may learn God's will for your life.

Before every important decision or act, lift your heart to our Father for guidance and wisdom.

After every important decision or act, lift your heart in praise and thanksgiving.

When any emotion is about to get out of control, ask for strength against satan's influence and for peace.

Before sleep, ask that satan's influence not invade your dreams.

Before meals, ask for nourishment and good health to continue living in God's will.

Before travel, ask for protection and patience. After travel, give a prayer of thanksgiving.

Before you give counsel or therapy to someone, ask God to send His Holy Spirit upon that person and ask the Holy Spirit to claim him for our Father in the name of Jesus Christ. Ask God for wisdom, and to guide your counsel or your hands to heal him in the name of Jesus.

You must have a special time each day for an appointment with God, a time that will not be broken by any excuse. It is not possible to be too busy or tired to meet with the King of all.

Write some reminders for when you should pray.

CAUTION

Man invented his own version of time and space and he is limited by his invention. We cannot understand "endless" time and space. Just because we cannot see or explain God's endless time and space, certainly does not mean they don't exist. Read the story in 2nd, Kings chapter 5, verses 15 through 17, about the prophet, Elisha's servant having his eyes opened and being allowed to see the spirit world. Imagine the thrill when God opens our eyes and we receive that wonderful reward of wisdom and understanding for our faith!

The unlimited power of prayer does exist. We can allow our lack of faith to limit that power, or we can strive to increase our ability to use God's wonderful healing power by studying His word. The more we read of the proof of God's love, the stronger our faith becomes, and we learn His will for us.

Man and his ideals will disappoint you. God will never, never, never leave you! So guard the door to your mind that no unwanted or ungodly seed be planted in it's fertility. . .

If you are living in sin by choice, how can you expect God to honor your prayers and bless you?

Discover the will of God for your life by living His word.

EXHORTATION

Build a desire to be close to God by praying, and reading His word. Consider the quotes from these men who knew God.

Our heavenly Father said, *“Seek me and live.”*

Moses, *“Seek the Lord your God and you will find Him.”*

Ezra, *“Seek the Lord and His strength.”*

Job, *“As for me I would seek God, and to God would I submit my cause.”*

King David, *“Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with their heart.”*

King Solomon, *“Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the Lord understand it completely.”*

Isaiah, *“Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near.”*

Jeremiah, *“The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul that seeks Him.”*

Daniel, *“ I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking Him by prayer and supplications with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.”*

Hosea, *“Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of steadfast love, it is time to seek the Lord.”*

Amos, *“Seek the Lord and live.”*

Jesus, *“Seek first His kingdom and these things (food, clothing and shelter) will be given to you.”*

Paul, *“Seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.*

Philippians 4:8-9

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.



Christ paid too high a price for me to fail Him.

❧ Dedication ❧

This inspired work is dedicated to our heavenly Father and His wonderful love for us. God came to us as Jesus Christ to teach us love and prove His love by defeating death. Neither man nor satan took the life from Christ. He gave His life up for all who would believe in Him. The apostle Luke tells us the last words of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, in chapter 23 of his book, verse 46.

“Father, into Thy hands I commit My spirit!”

From that moment on, God completely forgives the believer’s sin. God’s spirit is now with us every minute of each day to love and guide us. He protects us from our sinful nature that is inspired by the evil influence on earth.

My prayer is for each reader to accept the love our Father gives us and share His love with everyone, for in the sharing is the joy of life!

“We are at our best when we give.”

Don Edwards

Bibliography

All Biblical quotations are taken from:

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