

**?** And receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. 1 John 3v22

**How should we ask?**

**?** This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us--whatever we ask--we know that we have what we asked of him. 1 John 5v14-15

**What does it mean to ask in God's will?**

God always answers prayer. Sometimes the Answer is yes, sometimes it is no and sometimes it is wait. Some of us are very grateful that God did not always say yes to all our prayers!

**▶ Prayers that don't get answered**

Selfish prayers

Bad Attitude Prayers

Doubting prayers

Actionless Prayers

Wrong Prayers, against God's commands or will

Thoughtless prayers

Prayers out of unforgiveness

Self righteous prayers

Half hearted Prayers

Sinful prayers

Wordy Prayers

Disunited prayers

Prayers that are unsaid

James 4v3

James 4v3

James 1v6-7

James 2

1 John 5v14

2Cor 1v16-17

Mark 11v25

Luke 18v10

Romans 12v12

Ezekiel 14v3

Matthew 6v7

1 Peter 3v7

James 4v2

**What are the opposites of these?**

**?** **Is there a perfect technique that will guarantee a prayer will be answered?**

No there isn't but there are some good guidelines, most of them are the opposite of the list above!

**✓** Prayer often changes us. we see things differently when we pray. When we pray we often find that God leads us to do something about what you are praying for. Prayer leads to action.

**✓** It is a good idea to pray through a list. Make a list now of things you need to pray for on the blue sheet. Pick one of these things and pray for it now.

When God answers your prayers thank Him

**Do you think God will always answer your prayers the way you expect?**

*The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5v16*

**?** **Why do you think prayer is so important?**  
**Do you have any questions about prayer?**  
**How are you going to pray this week?**

# FREEDOM

Christian Church

## How to pray

**\*** Fundamentally a Christian is someone who has a relationship with Jesus. In all relationships communication is important. We communicate with God in prayer. God speaks to us in a whole variety of ways. (We will do this another week). If you want to grow as a Christian you are going to need to pray. Prayer is going to need to become an important part of your life.

**♥** *One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." Luke 11v1*

Prayer is something that you learn. Jesus disciples saw how important prayer was for Jesus and the effect it had in his life and they wanted to pray like him. You might feel you are not good at praying, but like most things in life it is something you learn. The best way to learn is to practice.

**?** **What do you think makes a good prayer?**  
**What do you think you should pray for?**  
**When do you think you should pray?**  
**How long do you think you should pray for?**

Most people seem to have very limited ideas about prayer, how you pray and when you should pray.

**!** Prayer is a really broad subject, there are so many different forms that prayer takes. Although there are things good ideas and bad ideas in prayer, it is a personal thing for everyone. Every Christian needs to develop a way of prayer (a prayer life) that works for them.

**!** If you find praying hard, then don't do it just talk to Jesus!

**!** Prayer is communicating with God. It's not just about our needs or about us, it is about God.

When Jesus answered the disciples question he gave them an example of how to pray. It is called the Lord's prayer or more accurately the disciples prayer.





## What do you think each line means?

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,*

*Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us today our daily bread.*

*And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

*And lead us not into temptation,*

*but deliver us from the evil one.'*

*Matthew 6v9-13*



It is interesting that the first line of the prayer focuses on worshipping God. Hallowed means holy. It also focuses on relationship God is our father not some disinterested distant uncaring force. When you ask for God's kingdom, we are saying we are going to obey God as our king and help others to be a part of His kingdom. When we pray that his will will be done we are praying that we will know what God's will for us is and that we will do it. Our daily bread are the things we need every day. We need to ask God to forgive the things we do wrong – that's what are debts are! We need to pray that we won't give in to temptation to do wrong things. We need to ask for protection from the enemies plans for us.



**Is it wrong to pray for the things you need?  
Is it wrong to pray for only our needs?**



**You do not have because you do not ask God. James 4v2  
What do you think this verse means?  
What things don't we have?  
What does this verse tell us about God?**



**How to pray.  
Check out these verses how did the people involved pray?**

Colossians 4v12  
1 Thessalonians 1v2  
Mark 6v46  
Matthew 6v6  
Acts 12v5

*Pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5v17-18*



**Who do you pray continually?  
What should go along with our prayer?  
Does this mean thanking God for the problems we have?**



**When do you pray?**

Pray in the morning.  
Pray during the day whenever you remember.  
Pray whenever you face a crisis or problem  
Pray when you just don't know what to do.  
Pray before meals or journeys etc.  
Pray together with other believers.  
This is a great mix of regular and spontaneous prayer.



**Do you need to pray for an hour a day?**

Smith Wigglesworth said that he rarely prayed for more than an half an hour, but that he never went more than half an hour without praying.

Sometimes praying for something once is all you need to do. At other times you may need to keep praying until God answers your prayer.



**If you pray for the wrong thing or for something God doesn't want to do, what will happen?**

You can't force God to answer your prayers. Prayer does not control God. When you pray for the wrong thing, if you do so honestly, God will, over time, change what you are praying for until you are praying for what He wants.



*For your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Matthew 6v8*  
**If this is true, why do you think God wants us to pray?**

There are lots of answers to this question. He wants us to be involved in what he is doing, He wants us to use faith and He wants to build relationship with us. God loves to hear from us.



**What should you pray for?**

Wisdom	James 1v5
Healing	James 5v13
For Help	1 Timothy 5v5
Needs	Matthew 6v8
People to be saved	Matthew 7v11
Revelation of God	Exodus 33v13
Blessing	1 Chronicles 4v10
Guidance	Jeremiah 6v16
Success	Genesis 24v12
Protection	Genesis 32v11
Strength	Nehemiah 6v9
Forgiveness	1 John 1v9
Growth	Colossians 1v10
Enemies	Matthew 5v44
The Government	1 Timothy 2v2
The Church	Ephesians 6v18, Psalm 122v6
Opportunities to serve God	Acts 4v28



**Why do you think Jesus told us to pray for our enemies?**

You need to balance your praying, pray for yourself, pray for your friends, pray for the church etc.

Pray as needs arise.

When you pray, take time to listen for God to speak or to give you direction.



*Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. Mark 11v24*

**How should you pray?**



*In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. John 16v23*

**What do you think it means to ask in Jesus name?**