

## What is prayer?

- Prayer is in obedience
- Prayer is in faith
- Prayer is in a desire of worship and commune with God
- Prayer is in stewardship
- Prayer is in edification with the Holy Spirit
- Prayer is through the admission of Christ alone
- Prayer is in surrender
- Prayer is in service
- Prayer is in an intertwining with God

The whole issue of prayer to God is a simple one in the main sense of what it is – the tangible, bridging connection with God, the essence and means of our relationship with Him. Prayer is unique in that it is our means of conversing with God while still here in the body. The Spirit within every believer of Jesus demands the nurturing of commune with God, and while we are here, away from Him, this is the means we have to be spiritually sustained.

### There is no prayer in Heaven

There is no prayer in Heaven in the presence of God, because there is no need – the host of beings who are there with Him are directly fed and nourished.^ But for now, while we journey here, we are given the privilege of a connection of our common possession with God, the Holy Spirit.^ This connection crosses the divide between the Spirit gifted to us here in the physical world and the place where the Creator resides in that same Spirit. This is all in the parcel of the reconciliation that Jesus has provided; this is the means for us to flourish in serving God, by providing the foundation to be reshaped in our preparation for going back Home. Here, we are drawn near to the heart of God in prayer. Once we are gathered and at Home, we will draw near to Him in Person.^

Our prayers, just as the Salvation that they rest upon, are accomplished through faith, and faith alone. God has provided no physical representations of Himself that we may physically encounter Him in. And there is good reason, the most of which is in the claim of Jesus to be the One and Only way to the Father. God is responsible for all of our provision, for meeting all of our needs. And in this case of prayer, He provides the circumstance for the opportunity of prayer, He provides the means to do it, and He provides the results.

### The opportunity

The opportunity comes in the command, the world, and our obedience. The command is clear in Scripture, both directly and in the example of our Lord and His Church after His departure.^ Continually through the Gospels, Jesus teaches and practices prayer at all junctions, always showing His devotion to talking with God. Note, *with* God, not just *to* God. His constant command, and the command of the rest of the Bible, is clearly to pray.^ And as is the case in all commands from God, the only appropriate response is to obey.

To follow a command, the opportunity to carry it out is necessary. What sense would it make for God to direct us to do something when there was no need or occasion to actually exercise it? But He has provided the opportunity in great abundance in the world we live in. Everywhere we might look, be it anyplace around us or anyplace in us, there is *always* a need for prayer. Recalling the overall definition of prayer (What for, prayer?), consider the possibilities for God to be glorified, and for us to glorify Him as we strive to be like Jesus, among the issues of the world.

Is there any shortage of issues of prayer? Of course not.^ And is God sovereign over everything? Does He, in His plans for Creation, of mankind, and of everything else, know this is exactly where we would be right now? Of course He does.^ And why, then? To make opportunity to magnify His glory – first in His show of Creation, next in His merciful work of resurrecting our dead souls and building a purified nation of priests under Christ, and finally in His conclusion in the gathering of the Church to Himself and the destruction of all that is not Pure and Holy. It is no accident that we are here among abounding opportunity to pray. And it is no accident that we are here, made ready as believers with full access to the Throne of God and the resources of Christ. We have been Saved for good works, among them the distribution of Heaven's provisions, for God's glory.^ <in proof, refer to the passage w/ "to he whom much is given, much is expected" – mounting responsibility, in trust> He has created the arena. He has uttered the command. He has given us all things necessary to carry it out. The only thing remaining is our **obedience** - and that, He has left as our **responsibility**.

For what were you Saved, Christian? For the Glory of God, on all fronts. True, your Salvation was free. But now as a servant and slave of Christ, see what work you have been called to equip yourself for, called to do, and for what purpose. As His slave, you love God because He loved you first.^ And as Christian love is a love in service, come forward in loving service to the God Who has made you and made your work for you. See how He has provided every facet for you to carry out His command. Hear Him call you to labor in prayer, in joy as you experience the privilege of God working through you. You know His commands – *follow* them, **obey**, and draw close to God as His Spirit is moved in you. (John 14:21)