

# Pray Without Ceasing

A briefly comprehensive topical study of prayer

# Pray Without Seizing

How to pray freely, without locking up

Does God hear everyone's prayers?

# Does God hear everyone's prayers?

When you spread out your hands,

I will hide my eyes from you;

even though you make many prayers, I will not listen;

your hands are full of blood.

Isaiah 1:15

# Does God hear everyone's prayers?

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save,

or his ear dull, that it cannot hear;

but your iniquities have made a separation

between you and your God,

and your sins have hidden his face from you

so that he does not hear.

Isaiah 59:1-2

Does God hear everyone's prayers?

Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?

And who shall stand in his holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
who does not lift up his soul to what is false  
and does not swear deceitfully.

Psalm 24:3-4

# Does God hear everyone's prayers?

The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous  
and his ears toward their cry.

The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,  
to cut off the memory of them from the earth.

When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears  
and delivers them out of all their troubles.

Psalm 34:15-17

Does God hear everyone's prayers?

If one turns away his ear from hearing the law,  
even his prayer is an abomination.

Proverbs 28:9



# Does God hear everyone's prayers?

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

James 1:5-7

# Does God hear everyone's prayers?

You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?

Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

James 4:3-4

# Does God hear everyone's prayers?

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

1 Peter 3:7

# Does God hear everyone's prayers?

The only prayer of a non-believer that we know God will hear and answer, thankfully, is a prayer of repentance and faith.

Do we have a biblical example of this?

Yes, the original sinner's prayer, according to Jesus in Luke 18:9-14.

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’

Luke 18:9-12

But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Luke 18:13-14

# Redemption (salvation) accomplished and applied

1. Election and predestination (God's sovereignty)
2. Effectual calling (different than the gospel call)
3. Regeneration (new spiritual life)
4. **Conversion (faith and repentance)**
5. Justification (legal standing)
6. Adoption (children of God)
7. Sanctification (becoming who we are)
8. Perseverance of the saints (eternal security)
9. Union with Christ (so important!)
10. Glorification

# 5 solas of the Reformation

1. Sola Scriptura (according to Scripture alone)
2. Sola Gratia (by grace alone)
3. Sola Fide (through faith alone)
4. Solo Christo (in Christ alone)
5. Soli Deo Gloria (to the glory of God alone)



Why should we pray?

# Why should we pray?

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

Romans 8:15

# Why should we pray?

...do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

# Why should we pray?

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

1 Peter 5:6-7

# Why should we pray?

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

When should we pray?

# When should we pray?

...pray without ceasing...

1 Thessalonians 5:17

# When should we pray?

Give us this day 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 evil.

Matthew 6:11-13



# When should we pray?

Since then 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 do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, 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.

Hebrews 4:14-16

How should we pray?

# How should we pray?

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

1 John 5:14-15

# How should we pray?

“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

Matthew 6:5-6

# How should we pray?

“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”

Matthew 6:7-8

# How should we pray?

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in  
heaven.

Give us this day 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 evil.”

Matthew 6:9-13

# How should we pray?

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’”

Luke 18:1-3

# How should we pray?

For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'"

Luke 18:4-5



# How should we pray?

And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

Luke 18:6-8

# How should we pray?

ACTS (A pattern for prayer)

- Adoration
- Confession
- Thanksgiving
- Supplication

Adoration

# Adoration

I will extol you, my God and King,  
and bless your name forever and ever.

Every day I will bless you  
and praise your name forever and ever.

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,  
and his greatness is unsearchable.

Psalm 145:1-3

# Adoration

One generation shall commend your works to another,  
and shall declare your mighty acts.

On the glorious splendor of your majesty,  
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,  
and I will declare your greatness.

They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness  
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

# Adoration

The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
The LORD is good to all,  
and his mercy is over all that he has made.

Psalm 145:8-9

# Confession

# Confession

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

1 John 1:8-10



# Confession

Search me, O God, and know my heart!

Try me and know my thoughts!

And see if there be any grievous way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting!

Psalm 139:23-24

Thanksgiving

# Thanksgiving

But thanks be to God, who put into the heart of Titus the same earnest care I have for you.

2 Corinthians 8:16

# Thanksgiving

...giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father  
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,...

Ephesians 5:20

# Thanksgiving

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven.

Colossian 1:3-5

# Supplication

# Supplication

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in  
heaven.

Give us this day 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 evil.”

Matthew 6:9-13

# Supplication

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith —

Ephesians 3:14-17



# Supplication

— that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:17-19



# Looking ahead: the final three lessons in our three-year Sunday school journey

- Becoming Like Jesus
- Jesus Will Return
- New Heaven and New Earth