

## How to Pray: Developing an *Intimate Relationship with God* By: Dr. Ronnie Floyd

### Introduction to Prayer

1 - Practical definition: *Effective prayer occurs when you talk to God and listen to what God is saying to you.*

The building of a relationship and fellowship... **John 15:5** "Apart from Me, you can do nothing."

The talking principles: 1) Praise, 2) Confession, 3) Thanksgiving, 4) Petition (Supplication), 5) Intercession

Listening principles: 1) Be still and Quiet, 2) Do not be in a hurry, 3) Schedule various retreats with God

Two ears, one mouth - listen twice as much!

2 - Reasons Christians do not pray: 1) Pride, 2) Unbelief, 3) Ignorance, 4) Time. **James 4:10** Humble spirit.

3 - Meaningful time with God: A special 1) Time, 2) Place, 3) Plan, 4) Book (hint - the Holy Bible),

5) Letter to God (one page), 6) Goal (daily prayer)

**Keys to a Powerful Prayer Life** Prayer leads you to power of God. **Matt. 6:13** Lord's Prayer-Temptation

4 - God's Will: 1) How do you know? Bible - God reveals to you His will about all matters. 2) Do you always know? Be cautious. 3) God's will be done anyway - why pray? a. His command, b. fellowship/relationship, c. it builds faith, d. it changes you and conforms your will to His will.

5 - In Jesus' name: 1) The gateway to God, 2) Jesus' intercession for you, 3) Powerful authority to seek God's will. Be specific when you pray. **John 14:6** "I am the way... no one comes to the Father except through Me."

6 - What it means to Pray in the Spirit: 1) According to the leadership of the Spirit (read Bible, be silent and listen, His spirit to your spirit, 2) Assistance from the Holy Spirit **Rom 8:26**, 3) Pray with power from the Holy Spirit - He fills, energizes, empowers, intercedes...

### Moving to a New Level in Prayer

7 - Call upon the Lord: We depend on God and not ourselves. Began in **Gen. 4:25-26**. Key - **Jer. 29:11-13**

When? 1) All the time, 2) In need, 3) Pursuing the future, 4) In Worship, 5) At a designated prayer time

8 - Pray it through: Pray persistently until it is answered - ask, seek, knock **Luke 11**. Answer = yes, no, wait.

9 - Pray for one another: Intercessory prayer - Pray specifically and Biblically. **Col 1:9-12**

1) Filled with God's will, 2) walk with God, 3) strengthen with God's power.

10 - Warfare praying: If you are not having a head-on collision with Satan, you're probably going in his same direction! **Eph. 6:10-12** (Armor of God). Satan is your only enemy - don't be in never-ending battles over insignificant things! We need God's help. Weapons - Name of Jesus, Blood of Jesus, Word of God, your testimony, a love for God greater than your life.

11 - Empower your prayers: Fasting - Typically abstinence from food, but can be from other natural desires you may be dependent on (internet, TV, social media, etc.) Fasting is the spiritual discipline of *humbling* of the body and soul before God to pursue God. Bible has many illustrations of fasting - Jesus fasted and encourage His disciples to fast. **Psalm 35:13, Ezra 8:21,23, Matt. 6:17-18**

4 problems - 1) your mind, 2) your will, 3) your emotions, 4) your body.

## Barriers to Prayer

12 - Wall of strained relationships: **Matt. 5:21-24**. The spiritual law regarding relationships - *Go immediately and resolve any and all issues/conflicts with anyone; otherwise, it is a hinderance to prayer*. Two actions: 1) the first move is always yours, and 2) Be a bridge, not a barrier.

13 - Wall of improper motives: God is omnipotent, He knows your motives! **James 4:3**. The purpose of prayer is always seeking God's will. How to check your motives in prayer - 1) Why am I asking God for this? 2) Am I willing to lay aside my will so that God can do His will? 3) Is my main concern that God will get the glory for my prayer?

14 - Wall of an unrepentant heart: **Psalm 66:18**. Do you regard, approve, *cherish* sin/wickedness in your heart? We must forsake all sin to be connected with God. What is your attitude toward sin? Repent means to have a change of mind about your sin. Symptoms of an unrepenting heart: 1) Keep on sinning... 2) Ignores God's convicting spirit about the sin, 3) Turns into a hard heart, 4) Manage sin vs. overcoming sin... victoriously! Clean the junk from your heart...

## Praying for Others

15 - Pray for the sick: **Psalm 103:3(1-5)**. God alone in our Healer. Why Christians get sick - 1) Imperfect world, 2) Poor choices, 3) Satanic attack, 4) To demonstrate God's Glory. Actions - 1) First priority; Prayer is the most significant factor in healing, 2) Practice faith and summon the Church to pray, 3) Pursue medical care. Scripture does not minimize pursuing medical care; it maximizes praying with faith!

16 - Pray for your family: 1) Spiritual protection, 2) Individual specific needs, 3) Pray together, 4) Seasonally with fasting.

17 - Pray for your Pastor(s) and Church: Pray consistently! For pastor(s) - 1) To love God, 2) Walk with God daily, 3) Marriage and family, 4) The Great Commission of Jesus Christ, 5) Preach the Word with God's power, 6) Decision making, 7) To persevere and finish well. **1 Cor. 15:58**. For the Church - 1) Spiritual revival and presence of God, 2) House of prayer for the Nations, 3) Be a Great Commission Church, 4) The many needs of the Church, 5) Pastoral prayer before the people, for the needs of the people, and for America!

18 - Pray for America: 1) To experience a Nationwide Great Spiritual Awakening, 2) Churches to wake up and be revived, 3) Nation's leaders, 4) Military, 5) Media, 6) Businesses, 7) Education, 8) Families, 9) Unity, 10) Security of our Nation, Schools, Churches, and all Public Venues. **Micah 6:8** Unity & Humbly.

19 - Prayer influences others: 1) Prayer and singing praises under a variety of personal circumstances influences us and those around us. 2) Prayer influences circumstances. 3) Prayer changes eternity.

Consider a Prayer Plan - Keep it 1) Simple, 2) Sequential/Orderly, 3) Specific, 4) Spiritual. Read God's Word when you pray. Reminder: Principles of prayer: 1) Praise, 2) Confession, 3) Thanksgiving, 4) Petition (Supplication), 5) Intercession.

**Phil. 4:4-7** "Worry about nothing. Pray about everything!" Chuck Swindoll *So, You Want to be Like Christ?*