

Small Steps to a Better Prayer Life

Prayer is conversation with God. Prayer is our direct line with heaven. God wants us to communicate with Him, like a person-to-person call. Prayer is the needful practice of the Christian. Many people think that prayer seems complicated, but it is simply talking to God. Jesus prays in the Bible (Matthew 6:11). In Matthew 6:5-15, Jesus provides a model to His disciples (which includes us) listing several elements for prayer. Today, we will look at some small steps that, if taken, will improve our prayer life.

STEP ONE: Know who God is. Improve your relationship and communication with God by talking to Him more. Learn more about Him, and listen as He speaks to you in His Word.

If you were trying to improve your relationship with anyone such as your spouse, friend, or family member, one step would be to get to know them better by spending more time with them. Many people in the Bible begin their prayers reminding God of His promises and stating who He is. Then they ask for His deliverance. Jehoshaphat opens his prayer by honoring God and acknowledging who He is.

- II Chronicles 20:5–12

Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD before the new court, and he said, "O LORD, the God of our fathers, are You not God in the heavens? And are You not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand so that no one can stand against You..."

STEP TWO: Get sin out of your life.

- Isaiah 59:1-2

Behold, the LORD's hand is not so short that it cannot save; nor is His ear so 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.

- Matthew 6:12, 14-15. This follows the model prayer that Jesus gives in Matthew 6.

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

- Psalm 66:18

If I regard wickedness in my heart, the Lord will not hear.

- I John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

STEP THREE: Seek to do God's will. This will affect what you pray about and how you pray.

- Read Matthew 7:18-27 where Jesus explains to His disciples what it means to be part of His kingdom. He tells them to hear His words and do God's will.

STEP FOUR: Present your requests to God—and you can be persistent.

- Luke 11:5-10 Below are verses 9-10
So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened.
- I John 5:14-15
*This is the confidence which we have before 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 which we have asked from Him.*
- John 15:7
If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.
- Philippians 4:6
Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

STEP FIVE: Eagerly Watch!!

- Psalm 5:1-3
Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my groaning. Heed the sound of my cry for help, my King and my God, for to You I pray. In the morning, I will order my prayer to You and eagerly watch.

CONCLUSION:

We have many examples and types of prayers in both the Old and New Testament of the Bible. We have prayers of praise and prayers by people in distress. There are prayers by ordinary people like you are me, and prayers by kings and queens:

- James 5:16b-18
The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.

Elijah was a man like us (ordinary), but his prayer life was unlike most of ours.

Prayer is the key to heaven; just a little faith will unlock the door.

