



***There Are Four Important Growth-disciplines To Strengthen Every Fisher:
Prayer, [Bible](#), [Fellowship](#) and [Witnessing](#)***

1.) Fishers Need to Pray in Jesus' Name

Prayer is basically talking to, and hearing from God. Who of us doesn't need to go to God on our knees more often? Who doesn't need to go get alone with Him to praise Him and to listen closely to His words? We do this to see our will conformed to His, rather than visa versa. Prayer isn't about getting our will done on earth; it's about seeing His will done on earth. We all need more time alone with Jesus to build friendship. He is to be our Lord in all things. Yes we should desire to do this every day ...if at all possible.

Here are Eight Qualifications for Prayer:

- 1.) Prayer should be offered to God through Jesus Christ from a humble heart—one that is repentant if you have sinned (Ps. 10:17 ; Lk. 18:13–14).*
- 2.) Prayer should be bold and it should get to the point instead of sounding religious (1 Jn. 5:13-15).*
- 3.) Prayer should be communicated to God in faith—the address we put on our prayers is very important (Heb. 11:6).*
- 4.) Prayer should be sincere and often missions, soul-winning or others-orientated (Ps. 145:18).*
- 5.) Prayer should be kept simple without any attempt to impress any human being (Matt. 6:7).*
- 6.) Prayer should be persistent (Lk. 18:7; Col. 4:2).*
- 7.) Prayer should be definite (Ps. 27:4; Acts 12:5).*
- 8.) Prayer should be in accord with God's will as revealed in the Bible—we pray to see God's will done on earth, rather than our own will done on earth (1 Jn. 5:14).*

I would strongly encourage every Christian to start off their morning each day with a private time of candid prayer; to get real with the Lord. He knows it all anyways. You being honest God-ward in Jesus Christ—that's imperative! Yes, too many put the wrong address on their prayers, but God is the one we pray to in Jesus Name (the Bible Jesus). Do pray conversationally every single day and throughout the day like you are talking to a friend, using your own words rather than some stiff pious wording or a form prayer that you discovered in some dead church. Learn to do more than say your prayer—learn to pray without ceasing.

Praying—that's simply communicating and listening to God. He is your very best Friend and your Leader for life. You can fully trust Him even when things might not look good circumstantially. Praying enables us to seek and find God's forgiveness in Christ Jesus

who fully paid for your access before the throne of God the Father. Can you think of a greater need that we humans can have today? Prayer enables us to overcome all worry, anger, lust, fear, greed, hatred, suspicion, pride—any negative emotions you might have. You and I need to pray ardently, fervently, effectually through all circumstantial challenges or hurts that you might be experiencing. Talking with God just helps the Christian to grow up in spiritual knowledge, insight, and maturity. None of us will ever outgrow our need to get on our knees and pray.

For Christians, prayer is as necessary to thriving spiritually and knowing God as breathing is to living and staying healthy. Just like an employee or spouse needs to communicate effectively to be good at fulfilling their respective callings, so too is our walk with God only as vibrant as we will thoroughly communicate and stay in touch with our Lord using candor. Some people ask, *"If God in Heaven already knows what we need before we even ask Him, then why bother praying to Him in the first place?"* We pray because Scripture is authoritative and makes a very strong case for prayer in the life of the believer. God calls us to pray—to participate with Him in witnessing to the world.

- Christ strongly encouraged us to pray. Luke 18:1 says, ***"Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart."*** Jesus Christ commanded us to pray and He emphasized this discipline in His life and teachings. Can you think of a better reason to pray than this?
- Prayer is God's appointed way for us to go about obtaining the right things. We are not to have one eye on the world to meet our needs and one eye on God. We are to expect God to meet all our needs. James 4:2 says, ***"You do not have because you do not ask."*** Have you ever wondered why some people never seem to know the will of God for their life, or why they never have any cool opportunities to lead others to the Lord, or perhaps why they always seem to be barley scraping by spiritually? Maybe you also haven't seen answers in the affirmative, because you haven't gone to God to ask Him for the things you need. He wants you and I to experience the blessings He has for us, such as the salvation of a loved one, restoration of a mind, a divine healing, or some wonderful provision. But we first have to ask Him. Our heavenly Father longs to meet our needs and thus prepare us to be an effective instrument in His hands.
- Prayer is the way by which our heavenly Father helps us to address and overcome all our anxieties, inadequacies, and worries. Philippians 4:6 says, ***"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."***

When you come to God and present your fears and anxieties to Him, He will give you His peace and comfort. That doesn't necessarily mean He will take away whatever it is that is causing your worry. But you can know that He is with you, helping you persevere.

- Prayer is one of the ways we make ourselves ready for the return of Jesus Christ. Luke 21:34–36 says, ***"But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will be as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."*** As believers living in the last days, our lives should be characterized by watchfulness and prayer (see also Mk. 13:32-33).

Whatever concerns you may have at this moment, it is always time to pray! Remember, Scripture tells you to "[cast] ***all your care upon Him, for He cares for you***" (1 Peter 5:7).

The Bible identifies several different types of prayers we can pray. One model for how we should pray is captured in the acrostic A.C.T.S. Each letter stands for a specific aspect of prayer, arranged in a very natural order.

A: Adoration (Worship)
C: Confession (Of Specific Sins)
T: Thanksgiving (Gratitude)
S: Supplication (Specific Requests)

- **Adoration:** Jesus essentially taught us the same thing in the Lord's Prayer, which begins, ***"Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name"*** (Matt. 6:9). This puts things in perspective for us. A good example of this type of adoration is found in Psalm 95:1-7. When we take time to praise and worship God in our prayers, we are placing God where He rightfully belongs. As a result, our problems and needs come into their proper perspective.
- **Confession:** The closer we draw to God, the more we sense our own sinfulness. When Isaiah came into God's presence, he said, ***"Woe is me, for I am undone!"*** (Isaiah 6:5). The confession of our sin removes any barriers and clears the air of anything that would cause God not to hear our prayers. As 1 John 1:9 says, ***"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us . . ."*** This is, once again, modeled in the Lord's Prayer. After ***"Our Father who art in heaven,"*** we find, "Forgive us our sins" (Matt. 6:12).
- **Thanksgiving:** Our immediate response after confession is thanksgiving. We should be thankful that God would indeed cleanse and forgive us. Should we give thanks because everything is going perfectly in our lives or because we are in a good mood? No, we should give thanks because God deserves our praise. Psalm 118:1 says, ***"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For his mercy endures forever."*** As another translation puts it, ***"His love endures forever."*** By giving thanks, or simply expressing gratitude for what we have, we prevent our focus from shifting to what we do not have.

- **Supplication:** If we are faithful in the first three steps, the last step will not degenerate into some spiritual shopping list. Too often in prayer, we cut to the chase instead of spending time in adoration, confession, and thanksgiving first. Yet, God does want to hear our needs and requests. Scripture tells us, ***"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God"*** (Phil. 4:6-7). We are also promised, ***"And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus"*** (Phil. 4:19).

Here are ten elements in the Lord's (the disciple's prayer) prayer that correspond:

1. A personal relationship with God—"Our Father"
2. Faith—"which art in heaven"
3. Worship—"hallowed be thy name"
4. Expectation—"thy kingdom come"
5. Submission—"thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven"
6. Petition—"give us this day our daily bread"
7. Confession—"and forgive us our debts"
8. Compassion—"as we forgive our debtors"
9. Dependence—"and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil"
10. Acknowledgment—"for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever"

We are not neglect so great a salvation or this spiritual discipline in our Christian walk. As someone once said, *"Prayer is the breath of the newborn soul, and there can be no Christian life without it."*

Let's look at how many prayers we find in the Bible:

1. For an heir
 - a. Prayer of Abraham
Gen. 15:2-3
 - b. Prayer of Isaac
Gen. 25:21-23
 - c. Prayer of Hannah
1 Sam. 1:9-13
 - d. Prayer of Zacharias
Luke 1:13
2. For a city
 - a. Abraham's prayer for Sodom
Gen. 18:23-33
 - b. Hezekiah's prayer for Jerusalem
2 Kings 19:14-19
 - c. The citizens' prayer for Nineveh
Jon. 3

3. The prayer of Abraham's servant for a bride for Isaac

Gen. 24:12–14

4. For deliverance from danger

a. Jacob's prayer that God would save him from Esau

Gen. 32:9–12

b. David's prayer that God would save him from Saul

Ps. 31, 57, 142

c. The sailors' prayer that God would spare their lives

Jon. 1:14

d. The disciples' prayer that Jesus would save them from drowning

Matt. 8:24–25

e. Peter's prayer that Jesus would save him from drowning

Matt. 14:28–31

f. The Jerusalem church's prayer that God would deliver Peter from prison

Acts 12:5

5. Moses' prayer for plagues on the Egyptians

Exod. 8–12

6. For waters to part

a. Moses' prayer for the Red Sea to part its waters

Exod. 14:21

b. Joshua's prayer for the Jordan River to part its waters

Josh. 4:15–18

7. Moses' prayer for a glimpse of God's glory

Exod. 33:18

8. Moses' prayer for a new leader

Num. 27:15–17

9. The apostles' prayer for someone to take Judas Iscariot's place

Acts 1:24–25

10. Moses' prayer for a visit to Canaan

Deut. 3:23–25

11. Moses' prayer for Aaron after his sin in making the gold calf

Deut. 9:20

12. Joshua's prayer for extended daylight

Josh. 10:12

13. Gideon's prayer for a sign

Judg. 6:36–40

14. Samson's prayer for strength

Judg. 16:28–31

15. For forgiveness

a. David's prayer to be forgiven for numbering the people

2 Sam. 24:10

- b. David's prayer to be forgiven for his immorality with Bathsheba
Ps. 32, 51
 - c. Manasseh's prayer to be forgiven and reinstated as king
2 Chron. 33:11–13
 - d. Job's prayer to be forgiven for pride
Job 40:3–4; 42:6
 - e. The Prodigal Son's prayer to be forgiven for backsliding
Luke 15:17–19
16. Solomon's prayer for wisdom
1 Kings 3:5–9
17. For rain
- a. Elijah's prayer for rain
1 Kings 18:42–43
 - b. Joel's prayer for rain
Joel 1:19–20
18. For fire
- a. David's prayer for fire
1 Chron. 21:26
 - b. Elijah's prayer for fire
1 Kings 18:36–37
19. Elisha's prayer for spiritual vision for his servant
2 Kings 6:17
20. Hezekiah's prayer for a lengthened life
2 Kings 20:1–3
21. Jabez's prayer for prosperity in his work
1 Chron. 4:10
22. For false friends
- a. Job's prayer
Job 42:7–10
 - b. Paul's prayer
2 Tim. 4:16
23. David's prayer for personal guidance in war matters
1 Sam. 17:45; 30:8; 2 Sam. 2:1; 5:19
24. Prayer by Daniel and his three friends for interpretation of a dream
Dan. 2:18
25. For new birth information
Acts 10:1–6
26. The rich man's prayer for relief in hell
Luke 16:22–31

27. The disciples' prayer for boldness in witnessing

Acts 4:24–30

28. Stephen's prayer for his murderers

Acts 7:59–60

29. For the ministry of the Holy Spirit

a. The disciples' prayer for the Holy Spirit to come upon the Samaritans

Acts 8:14–15

b. Peter's prayer for the Holy Spirit to come upon the Greeks

Acts 11:5

c. Paul's prayer for the Holy Spirit to come upon the Ephesians

Acts 19:6

30. Paul's prayer at his conversion

Acts 9:5–6

31. Prayer by Antioch elders for outgoing missionaries Paul and Silas

Acts 13:3

32. Paul's prayer for a prosperous journey

Rom. 1:9–11

33. Paul's prayer for the removal of a handicap

2 Cor. 12:7–10

34. Martyred souls' prayer for justice to be meted out

Rev. 6:10

35. Paul's prayer for a successful ministry for Timothy

2 Tim. 1:3–6

36. Prayer by wicked men for rocks and mountains to fall upon them

Rev. 6:16–17

37. John's prayer for Jesus' return

Rev. 22:20

38. For healing

a. Abraham's prayer for Abimelech

Gen. 20:17–18

b. David's prayer for his sick child

2 Sam. 12:16

c. A man of God's prayer for Jeroboam

1 Kings 13:6

d. A leper's prayer for himself

Matt. 8:2

e. A centurion's prayer for his servant

Matt. 8:5–9

f. A maniac's prayer for himself

Mark 5:6

g. Jairus's prayer for his daughter

Matt. 9:18

h. A diseased woman's prayer for herself

Matt. 9:20–21

i. Two blind men's prayer for themselves

Matt. 9:27

j. A Canaanite mother's prayer for her daughter

Matt. 15:21–28

k. A father's prayer for his son

Matt. 17:14–16

l. Bartimaeus's prayer for himself

Mark 10:46–47

m. A deaf and dumb man's prayer for himself

Mark 7:32–34

n. Ten lepers' prayer for themselves

Luke 17:12–16

o. A nobleman's prayer for his son

John 4:46–50

p. Mary and Martha's prayer for their sick brother

John 11:30

q. Paul's prayer for Publius's father-in-law

Acts 28:8

39. For resurrection

a. Elijah's prayer for a dead son

1 Kings 17:20–21

b. Elisha's prayer for a dead son

2 Kings 4:33–35

c. Peter's prayer for Dorcas

Acts 9:36–43

40. For the welfare of Israel

a. Jacob's prayer that God would bless the twelve tribes

Gen. 48–49

b. Israel's prayer that God would deliver them from Egypt

Exod. 2:23

c. Moses' prayer that God would spare them

Exod. 32:31–32; Num. 11:1–2; 21:7–9

d. Moses' prayer that God would protect them

Num. 10:35–36

e. Israel's prayer that God would lead them

Judg. 1:1

41. For the forgiveness of Israel

a. Israel's prayer for themselves

Judg. 10:10

- b. Moses' prayer
Num. 14:13–19
- c. David's prayer
Ps. 85
- d. Jeremiah's prayer
Jer. 14:20–22
- e. Daniel's prayer
Dan. 9
- f. Ezra's prayer
Ezra 9:5; 10:4
- g. Nehemiah's prayer
Neh. 1:4–11
- h. Habakkuk's prayer
Hab. 3

42. For sanctifying Israel's tabernacle

1 Kings 8:22–54

43. For the salvation of Israel

Rom. 10:1

44. For the welfare of the church

- a. Paul's prayer for Rome
Rom. 1:8–10
- b. Paul's prayer for Ephesus
Eph. 1:15–20; 3:13–21
- c. Paul's prayer for Philippi
Phil. 1:2–7
- d. Paul's prayer for Colosse
Col. 1:1–14
- e. Paul's prayer for Thessalonica
1 Thess. 1:2–3; 3:9–13; 2 Thess. 1:3, 11–12; 2:13, 16–17
- f. The prayer for Jerusalem
Heb. 13:20–21
- g. Peter's prayer for Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, Bithynia
1 Pet. 5:10–11

Here's some praise and thanksgiving in the Bible:

1. Israel's praise for the Red Sea deliverance

Exod. 15

2. Hannah's praise for the birth of Samuel

1 Sam. 2:1–10

3. David's praise for God's goodness

Pss. 100, 103, 106–107

4. David's praise for God's word

Ps. 119

5. Ezra's praise for deliverance from Babylon
Ezra 7:27
6. Mary's praise for being chosen to give birth to the Messiah
Luke 1:46–55
7. The angels' praise for the birth of Jesus
Luke 2:25–38
8. Simeon and Anna's praise for the child Jesus
Luke 2:25–38
9. Paul's praise for God's wisdom
Rom. 11:33–36
10. Paul and Silas's praise for being allowed to suffer for God
Acts 5:41; 16:25
11. The hosts of heaven thanking God for his wonderful redemption
Rev. 5:8–14; 7:9–12
12. The elders thanking God for finally taking matters in hand
Rev. 11:16–18
13. Crowds in heaven thanking God for judging the great harlot
Rev. 19:1–10

Here are some honest complaints in the Bible:

1. Moses' complaint about returning to Egypt
Exod. 3–5
2. Moses' complaint about leading Israel into Canaan
Num. 11:11–15
3. Joshua's complaint that Israel had just suffered defeat at the hands of Ai
Josh. 7:6–9
4. Elijah's complaint that Jezebel was trying to kill him
1 Kings 19:4
5. Job's complaint that he was suffering terribly
Job 3:3–12; 10:18–22
6. Jeremiah's complaint that God had deceived him
Jer. 4:10; 20:7–13
7. Jonah's complaint that God had spared Nineveh
Jon. 4
8. Habakkuk's complaint that he could not understand the affliction of the godly and the apparent prosperity of the wicked
Hab. 1
9. David's complaint about his persecution by Saul
Pss. 42; 43; 102:1–11

Here are seventeen reasons to pray that are found in the Bible:

1. God's repeated commands us to do so
1 Sam. 12:23 Rom. 12:12; Col. 4:2; 1 Thess. 5:17; 1 Tim. 2:8
2. The example of Christ

Heb. 5:7

3. The example of the early church

Acts 1:14; 2:42; 6:4; 2:5

4. The example of Paul

Acts 9:10–11; 16:25; 20:36; 21:5; Rom. 10:1

5. Prayer defeats the Devil.

Luke 22:32; 1 Pet. 4:7

6. Prayer saves the sinner.

Luke 18:13

7. Prayer restores the backslider.

James 5:16

8. Prayer strengthens the saint.

Jude 20

9. Prayer sends forth laborers.

Matt. 9:38; Acts 3:2–3

10. Prayer heals the sick.

James 5:13–15

11. Prayer glorifies God's name.

Rev. 5:8; 8:2–4

12. Prayer accomplishes the impossible.

Matt. 21:22; Mark 9:29; Acts 12:5–7; James 5:17–18

13. Prayer gives good things.

Ps. 102:17; Matt. 7:7–11

14. Prayer imparts wisdom.

James 1:5

15. Prayer bestows peace.

Phil. 4:5–7

16. Prayer keeps one from sin.

Matt. 26:41

17. Prayer reveals the will of God.

Luke 11:9–10

Here are eleven hindrances to prayer:

1. Unconfessed sin

Ps. 66:18

2. Insincerity

Matt. 6:5

3. Carnal motives

James 4:3

4. Unbelief

James 1:5–6

5. Satanic activity

Dan. 10:10–13

6. Domestic problems

1 Pet. 3:7

7. Pride
Luke 18:10–14
8. Robbing God
Mal. 3:8–10
9. Refusing to submit to biblical teaching
Prov. 1:24–28; 28:9; Zech. 7:11–14
10. Refusing to forgive or to be forgiven
Matt. 5:23–24; 12, 14
11. Refusing to help the needy
Prov. 21:3; 1 John 3:16–17

Here are eight things to pray for that we find in the Bible:

1. Ourselves
Gen. 24:12; Matt. 14:30; Luke 23:42
2. One another
James 5:16; Rom. 1:9
3. Pastors
Eph. 6:19–20; Col. 4:3
4. Sick believers
James 5:14–15
5. Ruler
1 Tim. 2:1–3
6. Our enemies
Matt. 5:44; Acts 7:59, 60
7. Israel
Ps. 122:6; Isa. 62:6–7
8. All men
1 Tim. 2:1