

# WHAT IS THE RIGHT WAY TO PRAY?



Faith Apostolic Church Of Christ  
358 East North St. Buffalo NY 14204  
*Elder Gerald F. Gibbs Jr., Pastor*



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# WHAT IS THE RIGHT WAY TO PRAY?

- Nowhere in the Bible says that just any kind of praying will bring peace and joy to our hearts or will be answered by God.
- The purpose of prayer is not to change God's mind or to convince God to do something that He does not want to do (Matthew 6:25-34). The purpose of prayer is to align our thoughts, our will, and our ways with God's thoughts, will and way.

Prayer is described in the Bible as:

- “beseeching the Lord” (Exodus 32:11);
- “pouring out the soul before the Lord” (1 Samuel 1:15);
- “praying and crying to heaven” (2 Chronicles 32:20);
- “seeking unto God and making supplication” (Job 8:5);
- “drawing near to God” (Psalm 73:28);
- “bowing the knees” (Ephesians 3:14).

# INTIMACY WITH GOD

- ◉ What is the right way to pray? Before you ask for anything, Prayer must begin with adoration, praise, and thanksgiving toward God. Enjoying the presence of God, and honoring Him in worship.
- ◉ While many servants of God in Scripture approached God in prayer in various ways, the three common characteristics of each was that they put a priority on prayer; they demonstrated a pattern of prayer and they prayed with a purpose.



# INTIMACY WITH GOD

- Prayer is the catalyst for developing spiritual intimacy with God. Through prioritized and patterned prayer, the believer experiences the riches of God's spiritual blessings. God's highest purpose of prayer is to usher us into His presence. Therefore a profitable prayer life should include all of these elements:
  - 1) Worship - Approaching God
  - 2) Praise - Applauding God for what he *has done*
  - 3) Thanksgiving - Attitude of gratitude
  - 4) Confession - Sin lieth at the door
  - 5) Adoration - *enjoying the presence of God*
  - 6) Intercession - Putting others first
  - 7) Requests - Receiving divine help from God
- God has no desire to live up to the image of being a spiritual Santa Claus. While God listens to the request of His children, He does not always answer us in the way that we might want. Sadly, merely using prayer as a means to get what we want is a sign more of carnality, and immaturity than spirituality.

# COMPONENTS OF A PROFITABLE PRAYER LIFE

- ◎ Worship - Is the act of approaching God. a beginning step toward an end. Coming nearer to something that is distant. (i.e., light at the end of a tunnel)





## COMPONENTS OF A PROFITABLE PRAYER LIFE

- ◉ Worship - When entering into God's presence, there should be a sense of awe and reverence. This should be our natural response when approaching the greatest being there is. God must be valued above all else as we approach Him in prayer.
- ◉ When you meditate on who God is and concentrate on the perfection of God's being, your mind will be cleared of the “*daily clutter*” from life that distracts us from sensing God's presence.
- ◉ Rushing into his presence and begging for what we want will never produce desired results.

## COMPONENTS OF A PROFITABLE PRAYER LIFE

- ◉ Praise - Whereas worship is honoring God for who He *is*, Praise applauds God for what He *has done*. Worship is "to" God, Praise is "about" God.
- ◉ Praise is opening up, worship is entering in. Praise is boldly declaring, worship is humbly bowing in the presence of a Holy God.
- ◉ God deserves praise, "Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness." - Psalm 150:2
- ◉ God is honored and Saints spiritually grow when they give credit to Him. Praise projects a positive outlook on life by acknowledging God's favors and benefits toward them. (Psalm 103:2, Psalm 116:12)

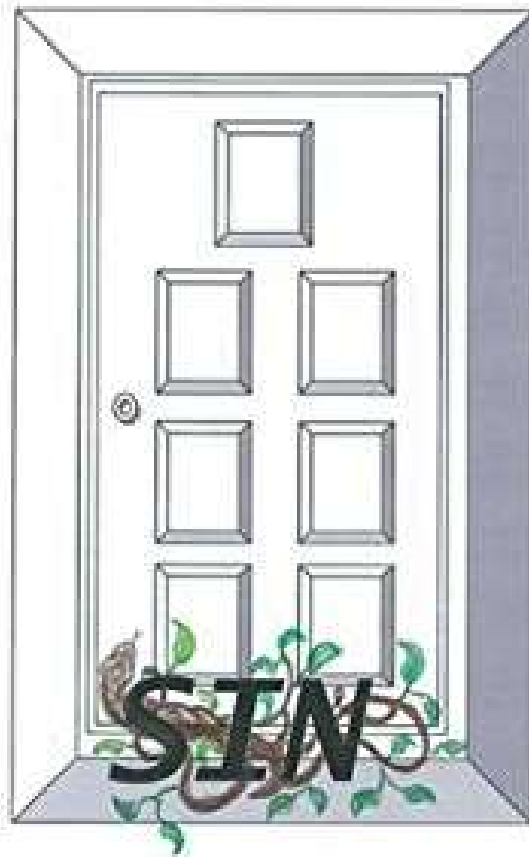
# COMPONENTS OF A PROFITABLE PRAYER LIFE

- ◉ Thanksgiving - Thanksgiving is an attitude of gratitude!! No aspect of prayer is more essential than thanksgiving. Having received God's forgiving grace and sustaining strength, Saints owe Him a deep sense of gratefulness.
- ◉ Thanksgiving is an attitude for all seasons. Hard times are as much an occasion for gratitude as good times (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Even experiences that normally cause tension are to be faced with thankful prayer. (Philippians 4:6,7). It takes faith to thank Him for uncomfortable circumstances or for requests not yet granted.
- ◉ Knowing that God is in control and will use this hardship to promote spiritual growth is sufficient reason to pray thankfully - (Romans 8:28, James 1:2-4)



# COMPONENTS OF A PROFITABLE PRAYER LIFE

- ◎ Confession - is an admission of guilt, fault, or a mistake.



**Lieth At The Door**

# COMPONENTS OF A PROFITABLE PRAYER LIFE

- ◉ Confession - Recognition of God's holiness naturally leaves people with a sense of sinfulness requiring confession. Experiencing how utterly holy God is, the prophet Isaiah cried out, “Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips . . . for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts” - Isaiah 6:5.
- ◉ Saints are reminded that God faithfully forgives the sins of those who confess them (1 John 1:9). James admonished his readers not only to pray for one another but also to confess their sins to one another (James 5:16)
- ◉ Every believer needs a daily cleansing that comes from acknowledging personal sin - (1 John 1:9). Saints often stop growing spiritually because they fail to “lay aside every weight,” and the “sinful clutter” in their heart. A profitable prayer life is an antidote to spiritual paralysis.

# COMPONENTS OF A PROFITABLE PRAYER LIFE

- ◉ Adoration - Expressing our deep love for God, *enjoying the presence of God*, and honoring Him in worship.
- ◉ “Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.” - Psalm 37:4
- ◉ “And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved.” - Psalm 119:47
- ◉ Reassured by the loving forgiveness of the heavenly Father (1 John 4:10), believers need create an atmosphere of adoration and tell God how much they love and appreciate Him.
- ◉ Expressing love to God by word and obedient actions is the only appropriate response to the one who loves and cares for you (1 John 3:1; 4:16).
- ◉ Jesus taught that our first responsibility is to love God with our whole being, “**all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind**” - (Matthew 22:37). This love is not an empty sentimental gesture. It should reflect the resolve of the will as well as one's feelings toward God.

# COMPONENTS OF A PROFITABLE PRAYER LIFE

- ◉ **Intercession** - Prayer is also a time to ask God to meet the needs of others. The phrase, “God first, others second, self last” applies well to prayer. Through prayer, you can contribute positively to the lives of others way beyond the limits of your personal resources and capabilities (Philippians 1:19).
- ◉ **Requests** - Finally, prayer is telling God all the details of everything that concerns you (Philippians 4:6). Seeking help from God for personal challenges, problems, and opportunities is not selfish. Jesus encouraged His disciples to take their requests to God in His name (John 16:23,24). Through prayer, you can receive divine help for your daily needs.

# WHAT CAN HINDER MY PRAYER?

- ◉ We must have a heart that does not condemn us (1 John 3:21-22).
- ◉ Differences between a Godly husband and his wife can hinder their prayers (1 Peter 3:7).
- ◉ If there is a disagreement between you and another saint, you must settle it (Matthew 5:23-25).
- ◉ Disobedience - unless a believer is abiding in Christ, in love and obedience, his prayers will not be answered (John 15:7).
- ◉ Unbelief - Lack of faith or doubt - James 1:6-7
- ◉ Asking outside of God's will - 1 John 5:14-15
- ◉ An unforgiving spirit will hinder your prayer life - God does not forgive us because we forgive others but it is based on the shed blood of Jesus Christ (1 John 1:9).



# WHAT PRAYER IS NOT

- Although public prayer is certainly authorized in the Bible; It would be hypocritical to pray in public if one does not pray in private.
- In Matthew 6:5-15, Jesus points out three common errors concerning prayer:
  - (1) Praying to impress others (vv. 5-6);
  - (2) Praying mere words, vain (empty) repetition (vv. 7-8); and
  - (3) Praying with sin in the heart (vv. 14-15).

# EFFECTIVE PRAYER

- Pray always - This does not mean “always saying prayers,” because we are not heard for our “much speaking” (Matthew 6:7). But, it means, “Pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17), which is to always be in communion and fellowship with the Lord. This also means that you shouldn't just seek God in prayer only when you are sick or in trouble, But seek him every day because you need him every day.
- Pray in the Spirit - The most important part of prayer is transitioning from the natural to the spiritual. It is possible to pray fervently in the flesh and never get through to God in the Spirit. It is also possible to pray quietly in the Spirit and see God's hand do great things. (see Romans 8:29, Jude 20)

# NOT MY WILL

- ◉ Pray in God's will - “And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.” (1 John 5:14-15)
- ◉ “Thy will be done” (Matthew 6:10) - Prayer is a mighty instrument, not for getting man's will done in heaven but for getting God's will done on earth,
- ◉ There are many promises in the Bible that we can claim in prayer. God has promised to supply all our needs (Philippians 4:19)—not our *greeds*! If we are obeying His will and need something, He will supply it in His way and in His time.

# WHY MUST I PRAY?

- ◉ Why pray? Because God has ordained prayer to establish a closeness with his children, “Abide in me, and I in you” - John 15:4
- ◉ God chose prayer to be the channel that He would use to deliver blessings to His children. “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” - John 15:7
- ◉ Prayer is a powerful means by which the follower of Jesus Christ utilizes the resources of God to further His kingdom here on earth. “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” - (James 5:16).

**PRAYER MAKES A  
DIFFERENCE!**