



Talking with God!

*Let us therefore draw near
with confidence to the throne of grace,
that we may receive mercy and
may find grace to help
in time of need!*

- Hebrews 4:16

**Christ-followers are friends of God.
God has spoken and still speaks to His friends.**

LISTEN TO THE [TALKING WITH GOD VIDEO HERE](#).



Lord, teach us to pray!

Prayer is talking to and with God. It is conversational and personal, and is to be open and natural from the moment we awaken to the time we sleep (and even in our dreams)!

When we pray we enter the PRESENCE of God! In what ways do you experience the presence of God?

When entering His presence PROTECTION from sin, Satan, and self is offered as we face our personal weaknesses. How have you seen His strength perfected in your weakness?

In His presence HARMONY in the Spirit and Oneness of mind is found! In what ways do experience harmony and oneness with GOD?



In His presence JOY is kindled by the Spirit!

What part of your life is reflecting joy?

A GRATEFUL HEART is unavoidable in His presence!

How does your life reflect gratefulness?

Look for God's HEARTBEAT...listen for it!

Recall His works. Recite His character. This can help as you look for His heartbeat!

Then allow Him to guide REQUESTS on behalf of yourself and others.

How easy do you find it to “pray in the Spirit?”

Remember:

The God-story is living, powerful and eternal.

The Spirit is willing even though our humanity is weak.

God is waiting for us! He wants us to want Him.



The teaching of Jesus about prayer.

“For the eyes of the Lord run throughout the whole earth to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is devoted toward Him.”

- 2 Chronicles 16:9

What do you see?

What do each of these passages teach you about talking with God?

Matthew 6:5-8

Matthew 6:9-13

Matthew 6:14-15

Matthew 18:15-20

Matthew 21:20-22

Matthew 26:36-41

Mark 11:15-26

Mark 12:38-40

Mark 13:33-37

Mark 14:32--42

Luke 11:1-13

John 14:1-14

John 15:1-11

John 16:23-33

Also note Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 - What do you see?



The teaching and example of Paul about Prayer.

*“I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with a clear conscience,
that without ceasing I have made mention of you in my prayers.”*

- 2 Timothy 1:3

Paul's Teaching

Romans 8:26,27

Romans 12:9-13

1 Corinthians 14:13-17

2 Corinthians 1:11

Ephesians 6:18-20

Philippians 4:6,7

Colossians 4:2-4

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

1 Timothy 2:1,2

1 Timothy 2:8

1 Timothy 5:5

Paul's Example

Acts 26:29



Romans 1:8-10

2 Corinthians 13:5-10

Ephesians 1:15-23

Ephesians 3:15-23

Philippians 1:18-20

Colossians 1:9-14

Some thoughts to consider when praying alone or together as a group:

- 1) Requests to God are only a part of prayer. Prayer includes praise, remembering, and focusing upon the person of God as well as making requests of God. It is very appropriate to **read His Word back to Him as we pray to Him!**
- 2) When praying in a group it is easier to be effective in prayer when requests are clear and succinct. **Listen** to where God is taking the group - not just you personally.
- 3) Be selective but don't hold back. Learn to **be sensitive** to the Holy Spirit when making request for yourself or one another.
- 4) **Be bold.** God is not concerned so much with how we say things than with the heart that is behind our words. "Nice prayers" may do nice things for the listeners but not necessarily anything for God.
- 5) **Be honest.** Pray concerning issues in which God truly stirs your heart and conscience. Always be discreet in what you share about others.
- 6) **Be quiet.** When God burdens your heart it does not necessarily have to be shared publicly. When we do pray verbally in a group we do so to honor God and to encourage those around us toward love and good deeds.
- 7) **Listen to the Spirit and to each other.** Approach God together and be responsive to the Holy Spirit as you pray. Ask God to give you the grace to come to God with "one voice" rather than as a group of individuals taking turns at prayer.

SOME ISSUES FOR PRAYER:

- 1) Passion concerning others' belief in the Gospel
- 2) Moral, governmental, and quiet life issues in our culture
- 3) Pressing needs that put pressure on others
- 4) Confessing sin
- 5) Praises that bless God for His greatness
- 6) Reading Scripture reflecting God's lovingkindness and character
- 7) Thanksgiving for specific mercies that you have observed
- 8) Success of the growth of the Good News through our lives and to our lost neighbors!

WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO PRAY:

- 1...It may be time for you to listen! (Romans 8)
- 2...It is possible you are too concerned about what others think.
- 3...Pray for those things that are prayed for in the Scriptures!

