

“CLOSER TO GOD SERIES”

GET CLOSER
TO GOD



**IF YOU WANT TO GET CLOSER TO GOD
YOU MUST PRAY**



I. DEFINITION OF PRAYER

**Prayer is communicating with God.
Sharing your intimate thoughts, feelings,
needs.**

“Prayer is the supreme expression of verbal worship.”

Daniel Block, For the Glory of God, pp. 193-194.

**“Prayer is the outstretched arms of the
child for the Father’s help.”**

E. M. Bounds

“Prayer is the offering up of our desires to God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, by the help of his Spirit, with confession of our sins and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies.”

Thomas O. Summers, The Golden Censer, p.9

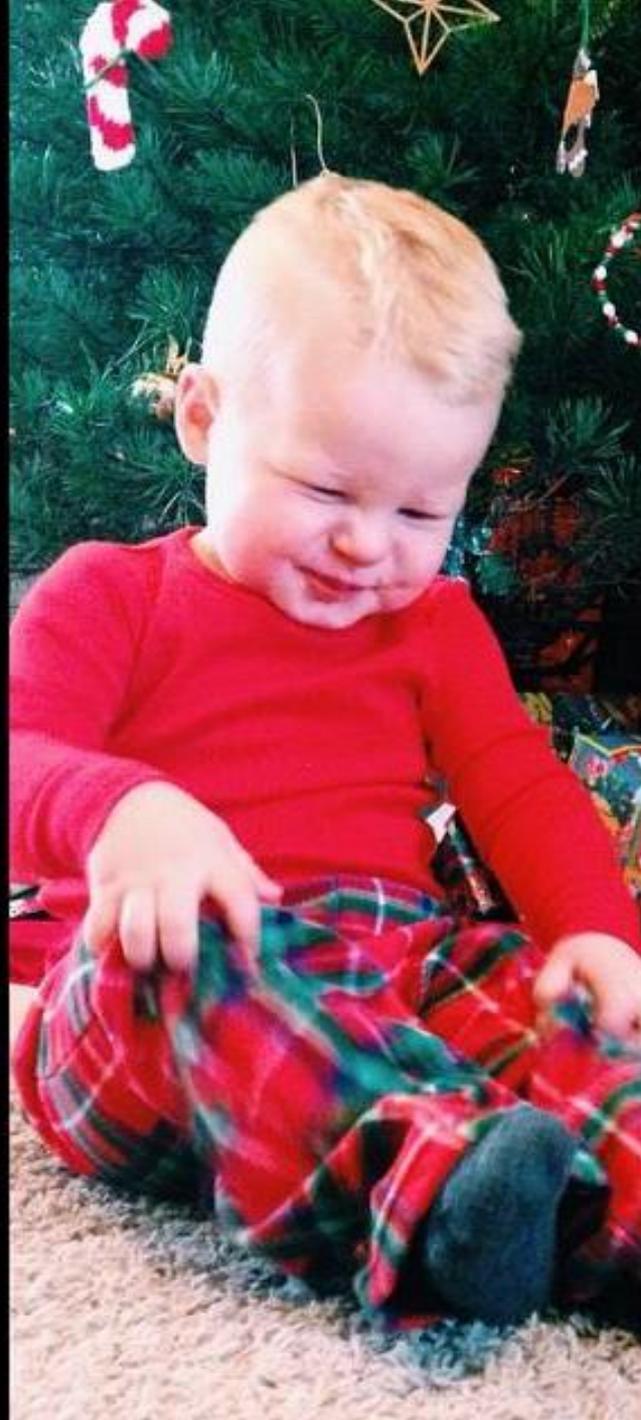
“Prayer is simply the key to everything we need to do and be in life.”

Timothy Keller

II. SUBJECT OF PRAYER

Who can pray?

Anyone can pray.



III. OBJECT OF PRAYER

We do not pray to false gods

“Then the sailors became afraid and every man cried to his god.”

Jonah 1:5

We do not pray to angels

“I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. But he said to me, “Do not do that... Worship God.”

Revelation 22.8

We do not pray to the saints

“When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they raised their voice saying in the Lycaonian language, ‘The gods have become men and have come down to us. And they began calling Barnabas, Zeus, and Paul, Hermes.’”

Acts 14.10

WHO DO WE PRAY TO?

WHO is the object of our prayers?

**The TRIUNE GOD of the Bible
God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Holy Spirit.**

**Acts 7.59, Stephen addressed his prayer to
Jesus: “Lord Jesus receive my spirit.”**

BIBLICAL PATTERN FOR PRAYER:

- 1. Addressed to the Father**
- 2. In the Name of the Son**
- 3. By the power of the Holy Spirit**

Jesus said, “When you pray, say, Our Father.”

IV. CONTENT OF PRAYER

What should we include in our prayers?

The Lord's prayer is the model prayer.

Matthew 6:9,

"Pray, then, in this way."

Our Father who is in heaven

Hallowed be Thy Name

Thy kingdom come

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Give us this day our daily bread

**Forgive us our debts as we also have
forgiven our debtors**

Do not lead us into temptation

Deliver us from evil

**Thine is the kingdom, the power and the
glory forever, Amen.**

V. TIME OF PRAYER

You can pray at any time.

“Pray at all times in the Spirit.”

Ephesians 6:18

“To succeed the pray-er should have a specified time devoted to its exercise, a period definitely and sacredly set apart for this purpose.”

Norman B. Harrison

VI. LOCATION OF PRAYER

You can pray anywhere.

The key is finding a good place to pray where you will not be interrupted.

“Every pray-er should have a place, be it only a chair or a corner, where he is accustomed to meeting his Lord.”

Norman B. Harrison

VII. ATTITUDE OF PRAYER

**“Devote yourselves to prayer,
keeping alert in it with an
attitude of thanksgiving.”**

Colossians 4:2



VIII.UNANSWERED PRAYER

A. YOU NEVER MADE A REQUEST

“You have not because you ask not.”

James 4:2

VIII.UNANSWERED PRAYER

B. YOUR REQUEST WAS DENIED

1.BECAUSE OF SIN.

“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.”

(Ps. 66:18)

“Your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear.”

(Is. 59:2)

“The prayer of the upright is His delight. No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly.”

(Prov. 15.8; Ps. 84:11)

B. YOUR REQUEST WAS DENIED

2. BECAUSE OF WRONG MOTIVES

“You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.”

James 4:3

B. YOUR REQUEST WAS DENIED

3. BECAUSE OF UNBELIEF

“He must ask in faith without doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord.”

James 1:6-7

B. YOUR REQUEST WAS DENIED

4. BECAUSE IT CONFLICTS WITH GOD'S WILL

**“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.”**

1 John 5.14-15

B. YOUR REQUEST WAS DENIED

5. BECAUSE OF SOME UNKNOWN REASON

VIII.UNANSWERED PRAYER

C. YOUR REQUEST WAS DELAYED

1. BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T PRAYED THROUGH

C. YOUR REQUEST WAS DELAYED

- 2. BECAUSE THE TIME ISN'T RIGHT**
- 3. BECAUSE OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

“From the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days.”

Daniel 10:12

IX. ANSWERED PRAYER

**“God does nothing except in
response to believing prayer.”**

John Wesley