

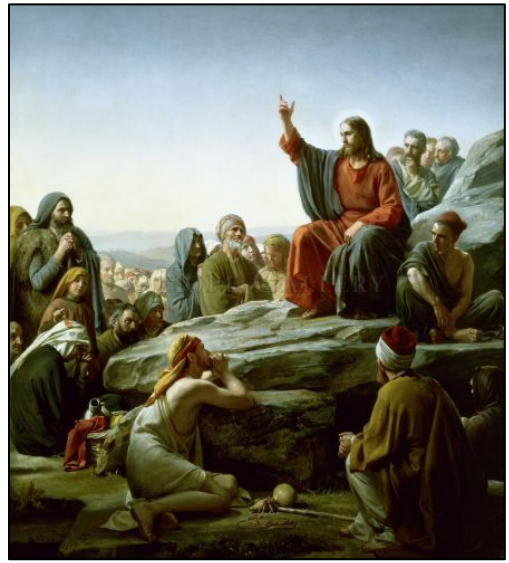


CHRISTIAN
UNION

Seven Keys to Kingdom Advancement

KEY THREE: SEEKING GOD LIFESTYLE: FREQUENT AND FERVENT PRAYER

May God's Kingdom Come



Matthew 6:9-10 - Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

Sermon on the Mount, 1877
Carl H. Bloch



3. Seeking God Lifestyle: 2. Frequent and Fervent Prayer

We live in the church age, and it's our role to hasten the day of Christ's return by deepening and expanding the kingdom of God.

Frequent and fervent prayer awakens God's heart to the plight of His servants, making tangible the sincere desire to seek Him wholeheartedly. When God becomes pleased with our desperate prayer, He responds with great outpourings of His Spirit providing power for radical positive change in the personal, territorial and cultural spheres.



Seven Keys to Kingdom Advancement

1. Aspiration and Desperation
2. Theological Foundations
3. **Seeking God Wholeheartedly**
4. Spiritual Practices
5. Supernatural Aspects
6. Impacting the Three Spheres
7. Leadership



3. Seeking God Lifestyle: 2. Frequent and Fervent Prayer

Seeking God Lifestyle (Wholeheartedly)

1. Humility with Help of Fasting
- 2. Fervent and Frequent Prayer**
3. Massive Intake of Scripture
4. Deep and Ongoing Repentance
5. Faithful Obedience
6. Strong Community
7. Relentless Perseverance



Frequent and Fervent Prayer

1. Importance of Frequent and Fervent Prayer
2. Content of Prayer
3. Frequency of Prayer
4. Effectiveness in Prayer



Frequent and Fervent Prayer

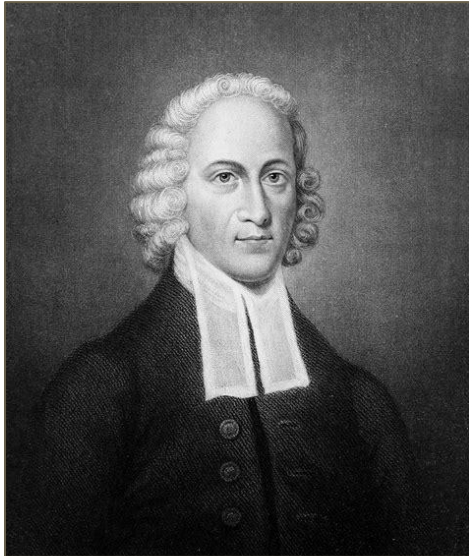
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Desperate Prayer As an Essential Condition

2 Chronicles 7:13, 14 - “When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, ¹⁴ if my people who are called by my name **humble themselves**, and **pray** and **seek** my face and **turn** from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

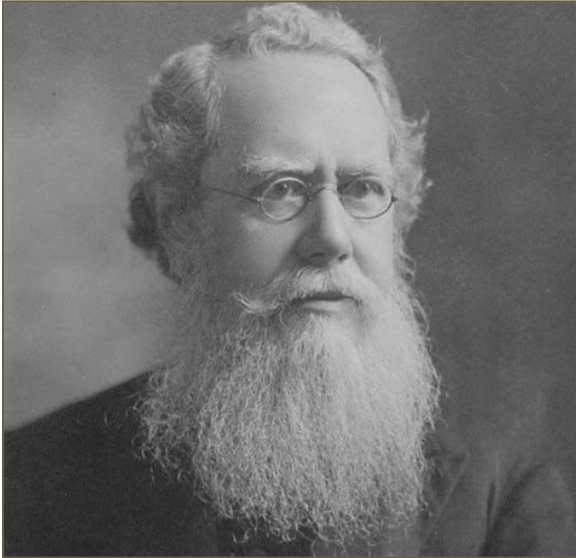
Prayer and Revival



“When God has something very great to accomplish for his church, it is his will that there should precede it the extraordinary prayers of his people.”

Jonathan Edwards (1703 – 1758)
American Pastor and Theologian

Prayer and Revival



“If we want to see mighty wonders of divine power and grace wrought in the place of weakness, failure, and disappointment, let us answer God’s standing challenge, ‘Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not!’”

Hudson Taylor (1832-1905)
British Baptist Christian Missionary to China, and
Founder of the China Inland Mission

John Mulinde's Vision of America



But America Has Many Prayer Ministries!

“The level of prayer does not rise to the level of wickedness in the land.”

John Mulinde
Ugandan Pastor, Revivalist and Author

David Yonggi Cho's Commitment to Prayer



“The hour is not too late to begin a life of prayer.”

David Yonggi Cho
Pastor of the Largest Church in the World - Seoul, Korea

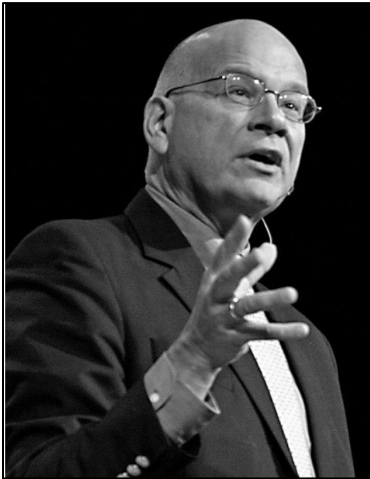
Repentance is Not Enough. The Need for Extraordinary Prayer



“They have no power!”

Savenaca Nakauyaka
Former Leader of Healing The Land Team, Fiji Islands

Extraordinary Prayer for Cultural Impact



“Over the last three centuries, revivals have had a great impact. Between 1730 and 1830 successive movements of the Holy Spirit brought a large proportion of the population into the churches. These awakenings are not ultimately the result of marketing or organization. They come, by God’s grace and in his time, in response to extraordinary prayer. Christian Union is making a serious attempt to spark this kind of prayer and devotion. I welcome it, and I’m very encouraged by it.”

Tim Keller

Chairman and Co-Founder Redeemer City to City



The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-15 - Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
¹⁰ **Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.** ¹¹ Give us
this day our daily bread, ¹² and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. ¹⁴ For if you forgive others
their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵ but if you do not forgive
others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.



3. Seeking God Lifestyle: 2. Frequent and Fervent Prayer

Need for Prayer

Colossians 1:9-12 - And so, from the day we heard, **we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,**¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy;¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.



Prayer is Sometimes Hard Work

Colossians 4:2, 12, 13 - ² **Continue steadfastly in prayer**, being watchful in it with thanksgiving...

¹² Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, **always struggling on your behalf in his prayers**, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. ¹³ For I bear him witness that **he has worked hard for you** and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis.

Prayer is Hard Work Sometimes

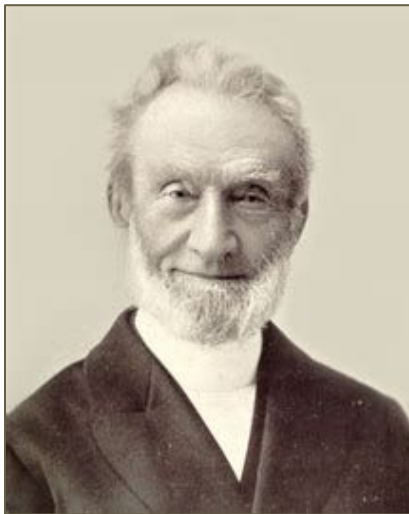


Romans 15:30-33 - I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, **to strive together with me in your prayers** to God on my behalf, ³¹ that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, ³² so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. ³³ May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

Agony in the Garden, 1590

El Greco

Faithful in Prayer - Not Just When It's Easy



“It is a common temptation of Satan to make us give up the reading of the Word and prayer when our enjoyment is gone; as if it were of no use to read the Scriptures when we do not enjoy them, and as if it were of no use to pray when we have no spirit of prayer.”

George Muller (1805-1898)

**Director of the Ashley Down Orphanage in Bristol, England, and a
Founder of the Plymouth Brethren Movement**



Frequent and Fervent Prayer

1. Importance of Frequent and Fervent Prayer
- 2. Content of Prayer**
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ATRIP Prayer

- A. Adoration
- T. Thanksgiving
- R. Repentance
- I. Intimacy (hearing from God and speaking to God)
- P. Petition



A - Adoration (or Praise)

Isaiah 61:1-3 - The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion— to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, **the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit**; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.



A - Adoration (or Praise)

- **Starting in Praise** - Starting a devotion in praise is a wonderful way to welcome the presence of God and set the tone for meeting with Him.
- **Sufficient Time** - Substantial time is to be spent every devotional time adoring, praising and magnifying God.
- **His Greatness** - Adoration and praise is usually centered on His greatness.



3. Seeking God Lifestyle: 2. Frequent and Fervent Prayer

A - Adoration (or Praise)

- **Praise Through Music** - Praise music is one way to spend time adoring God in addition to regular prayer. Singing praise songs to God is a type of prayer and very powerful.
- **Not a Competition in Originality** - Angels circle the throne and say forever, “holy, holy, holy!”. It’s ok to be repetitive, even if someone praying before you said the same thing.
- **See 300 Names of God** - ([Google for it](#))



Praise, Thanksgiving and Worship

Psalm 95 - Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! ² Let us come into his presence with **thanksgiving**; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of **praise**! ³ For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. ⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. ⁵ The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. ⁶ Oh come, let us **worship** and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!



Praise, Thanksgiving and Worship

Psalm 95 (cont'd) - ⁷ For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today, if you hear his voice, ⁸ do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness, ⁹ when your fathers put me to the test and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work. ¹⁰ For forty years I loathed that generation and said, “They are a people who go astray in their heart, and they have not known my ways.” ¹¹ Therefore I swore in my wrath, “They shall not enter my rest.”



Praise, Thanksgiving and Worship

- **Praise** - Primarily entails the greatness of God, and focusing on His nature.
- **Thanksgiving** - Primarily entails a remembrance of the kindness of God, especially of some specific act of His.
- **Worship** - Primarily entails a focus on God's holiness.

T - Thanksgiving



1 Thessalonians 5:18 - give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

The Thankful Poor, 1894
Henry Ossawa Tanner



T - Thanksgiving

It's the Christian's privilege to thank God often for everything. A healthy practice is to thank God every day for:

- Three things He's done in the previous 24 hours,
- Three things He's done through the years in your life or nation
- Three things He's done during the life of Jesus Christ on earth
- Three things He's done in the thousands of years leading up to Jesus Christ

R - Repentance



Ask the Spirit of God to search your heart and forgive anyone who has caused you harm. Unforgiveness and other sins cripple many Christians (Matthew 18:21-35).

Forgiven
Aaron and Alan Hicks



3. Seeking God Lifestyle: 2. Frequent and Fervent Prayer

R - Repentance

- **Deep** - Allow for deep repentance for any action, attitude or inaction that may have been displeasing to your Lord and Savior.
- **Corporate** - Repent on behalf of yourself, family members, your community, the church, your nation.

I - Intimacy (Has Two Parts to It)



Speaking to God Openly - It's a privilege to speak to God about anything and everything on one's heart, sharing the most intimate hopes and concerns.

Jacob Wrestling with the Angel, 1861
Eugène Delacroix

I - Intimacy (Has Two Parts to It)



Listening to God - It's the privilege of Christians to know the voice of God (John 10:27) to hear what He has to say. If this is underdeveloped, it can get better with teaching and help from other Christians.

Jacob Wrestling with the Angel, 1861
Eugène Delacroix

P - Petition



James 4:2 - You do not have, because you do not ask

“It is not what we do, but what we pray that gives us power with God.”

George Whitefield (1714-1770)
Evangelist of the Great Awakening



P - Petition

- **God's Priorities First** - The content of one's requests is to be focused on God's priorities first and foremost as explained in the following slides.
- **Ask, and With Good Motives** - It's also important to remember that often one doesn't have what one wants or needs because one never asks, or asks with wrong motives (James 4:2,3) or without faith (James 1:6).
- **Ask Impudently** - Luke 11 teaches that persistent, impudent prayer is needed.



Frequent and Fervent Prayer

1. Importance of Frequent and Fervent Prayer
2. Content of Prayer
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Frequency of Prayer - See Spiritual Practices Teaching

Regular

- Morning and Evening 30-60 Minute Devotions Each
- Sundays - Much of the Day
- Once a Month - All Day
- Twice a Year for Multiple Days

Extraordinary Sessions



Christians Sought God Morning and Evening

Professor of Liturgy at Notre Dame, Paul Bradshaw, documented the prayer practices of the first-century church, noting that the book of Acts confirms the **morning and evening prayer patterns** of the Apostles and Christians:

“The observance of the afternoon time of prayer is mentioned in the New Testament: Peter and John go up to the Temple ‘at the **hour of prayer, the ninth hour**’ [3 pm] (Acts 3:1), and Cornelius the centurion keeps the **night hour of prayer in his house** [3pm] (Acts 10.3, 30). The ninth hour, 3 p.m., appears to have been chosen for the afternoon prayer in order that it might coincide with the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice in the Herodian Temple.”



Christians Sought God Morning and Evening

Acts 3:1 - Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at **the hour of prayer, the ninth hour**

Additional New Testament Evidence: Acts 2:14, 15, 42, 43; 10:9, 30, 31; 1 Thessalonians 3:9, 10; 2 Timothy 1:3

The consensus among historians is that first-century Christians practiced similar devotional patterns of the devout Jews of the day.



Frequent and Fervent Prayer

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Effectiveness in Prayer

- **Prioritizing God's Kingdom**
- Attaining Greater Standing
- Repenting on Behalf of Self and Communities
- God's Name as Basis
- Bold and Impudent Prayer
- Persistent and Prevailing Prayer
- Male Leadership in Prayer
- Praying in the Spirit
- Assorted



Petition With God's Priorities

Matthew 6:5-15 - “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, **that they may be seen by others**. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”



Petition With God's Priorities

Matthew 6:5-15 (cont'd) - ⁷ “And when you pray, **do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words.** ⁸
Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹
Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread, ¹²
and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. ¹⁴ For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵ but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”



Petition With God's Priorities

Matthew 6:25-34 - ²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, **do not be anxious about your life**, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?”



Petition With God's Priorities

Matthew 6:25-34 (cont'd) - ³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' **For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.** Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.



Content of Prayer Primarily on God's Kingdom Priorities

Focus: Focusing first and primarily on God's kingdom and his righteousness as in the Lord's Prayer

Why:

- **God Already Knows** - God knows personal needs and will surely provide.
- **God Hears Personal Prayers When His Concerns are Prioritized** - When focusing on God's priorities, instead of one's own priorities, He answers personal priorities all the more.



Prayer Teaching From Jesus

- **Praying Like a Pharisee** - Praying to be seen by others, to appear righteous in their eyes
- **Praying Like a Pagan** - Praying primarily for personal concerns instead of for God's kingdom and righteousness. Gentile's prayers are dominated with personal requests (They are anxious about their lives, what they will eat, what they will drink, their clothing...). They think that by repeating the prayer requests constantly, "heaping up many words," that they will be answered. Christians can still pray for personal needs, but secondary in priority.



Petition With God's Priorities

Personal Prayer Concerns

- The average American has reasonable safety, food, drink, shelter and clothing supply. This reality is all the more reason to pray for God's kingdom and His righteousness, instead of dominating one's prayers with personal matters.
- To be clear, it's not wrong to pray for personal concerns, just that prayers are to be dominated by God's priorities instead of personal priorities: His kingdom and His righteousness are to be the Christian's primary concerns, otherwise Christians are praying like non-Christians.



Petition With God's Priorities

God's Prayer Concerns (His Kingdom and Righteousness)

Praising His name, asking for His kingdom to be established, forgiveness of others, protection from temptation and evil, faith to increase, salvation of souls, revival to come, His name to be glorified, thanksgiving to His name, His purposes to prevail, etc.



3. Seeking God Lifestyle: 2. Frequent and Fervent Prayer

Effectiveness in Prayer

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Some Have Greater Standing in Prayer Before God

Ezekiel 14:12-21 - And the word of the LORD came to me: ¹³“Son of man, **when a land sins against me** by acting faithlessly, and I stretch out my hand against it and break its supply of bread and send famine upon it, and cut off from it man and beast, ¹⁴**even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver but their own lives by their righteousness, declares the Lord GOD.** ¹⁵“If I cause wild beasts to pass through the land, and they ravage it, and it be made desolate, so that no one may pass through because of the beasts,



Some Have Greater Standing in Prayer Before God

Ezekiel 14:12-21 (cont'd) - ¹⁶ even if these three men were in it, as I live, declares the Lord GOD, they would deliver neither sons nor daughters. They alone would be delivered, but the land would be desolate. ¹⁷ “Or if I bring a sword upon that land and say, Let a sword pass through the land, and I cut off from it man and beast, ¹⁸ though these three men were in it, as I live, declares the Lord GOD, they would deliver neither sons nor daughters, but they alone would be delivered.



Some Have Greater Standing in Prayer Before God

Ezekiel 14:12-21 (cont'd) - ¹⁹“Or if I send a pestilence into that land and pour out my wrath upon it with blood, to cut off from it man and beast, ²⁰ **even if Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, as I live, declares the Lord GOD, they would deliver neither son nor daughter. They would deliver but their own lives by their righteousness.** ²¹“For thus says the Lord GOD: How much more when I send upon Jerusalem my four disastrous acts of judgment, sword, famine, wild beasts, and pestilence, to cut off from it man and beast!



Some Have Greater Standing in Prayer Before God

Jeremiah 15:1 - Then the LORD said to me, “**Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my heart would not turn toward this people.** Send them out of my sight, and let them go!

James 5:16-18 - Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. **The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.** ¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.



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Repenting on Behalf of Self and Communities

Nehemiah 1:6-7 - ...let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, **confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father's house have sinned. ⁷ We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses.**



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God's Name as the Basis for Petitions in Prayer

יהוה

Exodus 32:9-14 - And the LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. ¹⁰ Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you.” ¹¹ But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?



God's Name as the Basis for Petitions in Prayer

יהוה

Exodus 32:9-14 (cont'd) - ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, 'With evil intent did he bring them out, to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your burning anger and relent from this disaster against your people.



God's Name as the Basis for Petitions in Prayer

יהוה

Exodus 32:9-14 (cont'd) - ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by your own self, and said to them, ‘I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your offspring, and they shall inherit it forever.’” ¹⁴ **And the LORD relented from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people.**



God's Name as the Basis for Petitions in Prayer

Daniel 9:19 - O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention and act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, **because your city and your people are called by your name.**”

Malachi 1:11 - For from the rising of the sun to its setting **my name will be great among the nations**, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. **For my name will be great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts.**



God's Name as the Basis for Petitions in Prayer

Isaiah 48:9-11 - “**For my name’s sake I defer my anger**; for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you, that I may not cut you off. ¹⁰ Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tried you in the furnace of affliction. ¹¹ For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another.”

John 14:13, 14 - “Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ **If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.**”



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Boldly Drawing Near to the Throne of Grace



Hebrews 4:14-16 - Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ **Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

Trône de Grâce, 1345

Anonymous



Shameless Pursuit of Holy Spirit Through Prayer

Luke 11:1-13 - Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” And he said to them, “When you pray, say: “Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And plead us not into temptation.” And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’?



Shameless Pursuit of Holy Spirit Through Prayer

Luke 11:1-13 (cont'd) - I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, **yet because of his impudence** he will rise and give him whatever he needs. And I tell 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 the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father **give the Holy Spirit** to those who ask him!”



Shameless Pursuit of Holy Spirit Through Prayer

1. **Impudence** - Christians are to shamelessly, eagerly, repeatedly, persistently seek God in prayer.
2. **Holy Spirit Presence** - Christians are to seek Him for the presence and power of the Holy Spirit and much more, knowing that God is an amazingly good God.



Impudent Prayers Necessitates Imperative Form

- **Biblical Example** - The vast majority of petitions to God in the Bible are in imperative form.
- **Godly Behavior** - The man or woman of God is not politely or timidly asking God to answer prayers, but almost demanding that God answer.
- **Imperative Form** - The petitions are very rarely indirect requests. That is, prayers are “Give me my daily bread,” and not “Even now I pray that you would give me my daily bread if it’s in your will”



Daniel's Imperative Prayers

Daniel 9:16-19 - “O Lord, according to all your righteous acts, **let your anger** and your wrath turn away from your city Jerusalem, your holy hill, because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and your people have become a byword among all who are around us. ¹⁷ Now therefore, O our God, **listen to the prayer** of your servant and to his pleas for mercy, and for your own sake, O Lord, **make your face** to shine upon your sanctuary, which is desolate.



Daniel's Imperative Prayers

Daniel 9:16-19 - ¹⁸ O my God, **incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations**, and the city that is called by your name. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. ¹⁹ O Lord, **hear**; O Lord, **forgive**. O Lord, **pay attention and act. Delay not**, for your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people are called by your name.”



Daniel's Imperative Prayers

1. Let your anger and your wrath turn away from your city Jerusalem
2. Listen to the prayer of your servant
3. Make your face to shine upon your sanctuary
4. Incline your ear
5. Hear
6. Open your eyes
7. See our desolations
8. Hear
9. Forgive
10. Pay attention
11. Act
12. Delay not



Imperative Petitions in Psalms

Psalm 5:8-12 - **Lead me**, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies; **make your way straight** before me. ⁹ For there is no truth in their mouth; their inmost self is destruction; their throat is an open grave; they flatter with their tongue. ¹⁰ **Make them** bear their guilt, O God; **let them fall** by their own counsels; because of the abundance of their transgressions **cast them out**, for they have rebelled against you. ¹¹ But **let all** who take refuge in you rejoice; **let them** ever sing for joy, and **spread your protection** over them, that those who love your name may exult in you. ¹² For you bless the righteous, O LORD; you cover him with favor as with a shield.



Imperative Petitions in Psalms

Psalm 4:1 - **Answer me** when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. **Be gracious** to me and **hear my prayer!**

Psalm 6:1-4 - O LORD, **rebuke me not** in your anger, **nor discipline me** in your wrath. ² **Be gracious to me**, O LORD, for I am languishing; heal me, O LORD, for my bones are troubled. ³ My soul also is greatly troubled. But you, O LORD—how long?
⁴ **Turn, O LORD, deliver my life; save me** for the sake of your steadfast love.



3. Seeking God Lifestyle: 2. Frequent and Fervent Prayer

Removing Word Salad

Father, would you bring my mother to Christ?

Father, ~~would you~~ bring my mother to Christ.

Lord, I pray that you would heal my friend.

Lord, ~~I pray that you would~~ heal my friend.

Lord, even now, I pray that you would pour forth your Spirit.

Lord, ~~even now, I pray that you would~~ pour forth your Spirit.



3. Seeking God Lifestyle: 2. Frequent and Fervent Prayer

Removing Word Salad

Father, just bring your peace to this situation.

Father, ~~just~~ bring your peace to this situation.

Lord, even now, I just pray that you would honor your great name.

Lord, ~~even now, I just pray that you would~~ honor your great name.



3. Seeking God Lifestyle: 2. Frequent and Fervent Prayer

Effectiveness in Prayer

- Prioritizing God's Kingdom
- Attaining Greater Standing
- Repenting on Behalf of Self and Communities
- God's Name as Basis
- Bold and Impudent Prayer
- **Persistent and Prevailing Prayer**
- Male Leadership in Prayer
- Praying in the Spirit
- Assorted



Persistent Prayer

Luke 18:1-8 - And he told them a parable to the effect **that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.** ² He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. ³ And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ ⁴ For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’”



Persistent Prayer

Luke 18:1-8 (cont'd) - ⁶ And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. ⁷ And will not God give justice to his elect, **who cry to him day and night**? Will he delay long over them? ⁸ I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”



Praying in the Spirit With Perseverance

Ephesians 6:16-20 - In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ **praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,** ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.



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Special Prayer Role of Male Leadership

Acts 6:1-4 - Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ² And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³ Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴ **But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.**”



Special Prayer Role of Male Leadership

Takeaway for Men - It's the role of men, and especially pastors, elders and Christian leaders to engage in a “ministry of prayer and the word.” Others can do the important work of feeding the widows.



Special Prayer Role of Male Leadership

1 Timothy 2:8-12 - I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; ⁹ likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, ¹⁰ but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. ¹¹ Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. ¹² I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet.

The Greek Word for “men” here is not the generic term for a person.



Special Prayer Role of Male Leadership

- **Men and Women, Too** - The focus is not to reduce or discount women praying, because their prayers are needed and powerful. The goal is to call men to take initiative in an area where they have been failing.
- **First Century Pattern** - In the first century, the twelve apostles and all elders were men. They have a special responsibility to lead in prayer and ministry of the word.
- **Men Taking the Lead** - Men should be the first to call a prayer meeting, to attend prayer meetings in the greatest numbers, and to contribute and give leadership in prayer meetings.



Special Prayer Role of Male Leadership

- **Prayer as Masculine** - Prayer is first and foremost masculine work in aggressiveness, persistence through difficulty, and boldness.
- **Hallmark of Vitality** - Male prayer leadership is a hallmark of vibrant churches.



3. Seeking God Lifestyle: 2. Frequent and Fervent Prayer

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Praying in the Spirit

Jude 17-21 - But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ They said to you, “In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions.” ¹⁹ It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. ²⁰ But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and **praying in the Holy Spirit**, ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.



Praying With One's Spirit

1 Corinthians 14:13-15 - Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. ¹⁴ For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. ¹⁵ What am I to do? I **will pray with my spirit**, but I will pray with my mind also; I will **sing praise with my spirit**, but I will sing with my mind also.



Prayer in the Spirit (Ephesians 6:18, Jude 1:20, (1 Cor 14:15))

1. Don't Grieve Him (Isaiah 63:10 Eph 4:30)
2. Don't Quench Him (1 Thess 5:19)
3. Don't Resist Him (Acts 7:51)



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Arriving Ready to Pray

Psalm 66:18, 19 - **If I had cherished iniquity in my heart**, the Lord would not have listened. ¹⁹ But truly God has listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

Proverbs 1:28-30 - Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me. ²⁹ **Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD**, ³⁰ would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof,



Group Edification in Prayer

1 Corinthians 14:13-19 - Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. ¹⁴ For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. ¹⁵ What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also. ¹⁶ Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say “Amen” to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying? ¹⁷ For you may be giving thanks well enough, **but the other person is not being built up.** ¹⁸ I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. ¹⁹ Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

Meeting with God as God and not as a Therapist



We come before God as His servants first and foremost. He loves us and blesses us, but devotional time is meant to honor Him and not serve primarily as a therapy session.

David Danced Before the Lord With All His Might



1 Chronicles 15:29 - And as the ark of the covenant of the LORD came to the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw **King David dancing and celebrating**, and she despised him in her heart.

Michal Despises David, 1898
James Tissot



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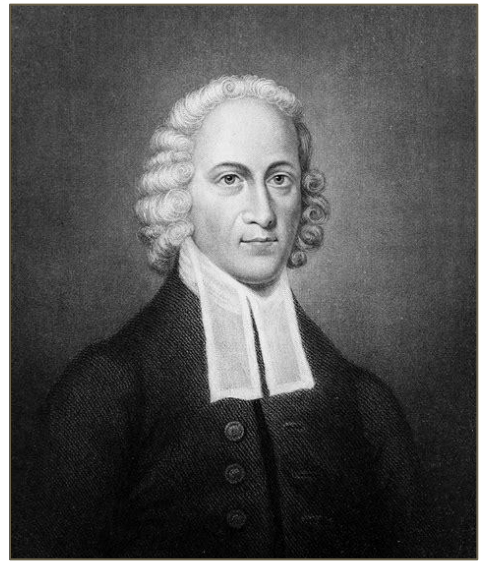


Frequent and Fervent Prayer

- 1. Importance of Frequent and Fervent Prayer**
- 2. Content of Prayer**
- 3. Frequency of Prayer**
- 4. Effectiveness in Prayer**



3. Seeking God Lifestyle: 2. Frequent and Fervent Prayer



“It seems to me it would be becoming the circumstances of the present day, if ministers in a neighborhood would often meet together and spend days in fasting and fervent prayer among themselves, earnestly seeking for those extraordinary supplies of divine grace from heaven, that we need at this day.”

Jonathan Edwards (1703 – 1758)
American Pastor and Theologian



We live in the church age, and it's our role to hasten the day of Christ's return by deepening and expanding the kingdom of God.

As Christians seek God wholeheartedly, He gives grace, power and direction to be used as His instruments in our families, communities and nation.

**Help America Return to God by Becoming a Cornerstone Partner
with Christian Union: christianunion.org/cornerstone**

**Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!**

Psalm 33:12



**CHRISTIAN
UNION**