

Back To Basics

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SPECIAL ISSUE: ACCEPTABLE PRAYER

Johnie Edwards

Have you ever prayed and thought that God did not answer your prayer? Perhaps all of us have. God answers prayer in various ways. Sometimes He says no; sometimes yes; and sometimes wait awhile. This special *Back To Basics* issue takes a look at acceptable prayer.

1) **PRAYER AMONG THE CHANNELS OF WORSHIP.** Prayer is included as one of the channels of worship in Acts 2:42. There is an example of the church engaging in a prayer meeting when there was trouble in the church. Herod had just killed James and Peter was put in prison. The Bible states, “prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him” (Acts 12:5).

2) **PRAYER IS REQUIRED.** Prayer is a privilege, as well as a command. Paul told the Colossians, “Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving” (Col. 4:2).

3) **PRAYER IS A CONTINUOUS ACT.** Writing the Thessalonians, Paul said, “Pray without ceasing” (1 Th. 5:17). This means don’t quit praying – continue to be a praying person.

4) **PRAYER MUST BE TAUGHT.** We are not born with prayer ability, but must be taught how to pray. “And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples” (Lk. 11:1). It would be good if churches would conduct men’s training classes and teach men how to lead public prayers. Sometimes men are called on to offer thanks and do everything but offer thanks!

5) **PRAYER IS TO GOD.** Our prayers are to be addressed to God. The model prayer begins after this manner: “Our Father which art in heaven...” (Mt. 6:9). When Jesus prayed, He addressed His prayer to His “Father” (Lk. 23:46).

6) **PRAYER IS TO BE IN THE NAME OF CHRIST.** Jesus declared, “And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do...If you ask anything in my name, I will do it” (Jn. 14:13-14). This means we pray by the authority invested in Christ.

Please take time to read and study this special issue on *Acceptable Prayer* to learn about prayer that is acceptable to God.

PRAYING POSITIONS

Johnie Paul Edwards

Some teach that the only Scriptural position in prayer is kneeling. Others teach that one must bow the head. What does the Bible teach about the position of one's body while praying? The Bible has examples of many different body positions in prayer.

1) **STANDING.** "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are" (Lk. 18:11). This man *stood* and prayed.

2) **LOOKING DOWN.** "And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven" (Lk. 18:13). This passage infers that one may *look down* and pray.

3) **LOOKING UP.** "These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee" (Jn. 17:1). In this text, Jesus prayed *looking up*.

4) **HANDS LIFTED UP.** "I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting" (1 Tim. 2:8). Paul was alluding to the ancient practice of the *lifting up of hands* in petition to God.

5) **LYING DOWN.** "And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Mt. 26:39). Jesus prayed in the garden *lying prostrate* on the ground.

6) **KNEELING DOWN.** We read a number of times where men kneeled down when they prayed. Paul serves as one example. "And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down, and prayed with them all" (Acts 20:36). So men *kneeled* in prayer.

Since we have read of all these different body positions men assumed while praying, which one of these is binding? A good question for those who bind kneeling only: how do you arrive at this conclusion over the others?



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THE MODEL PRAYER

John Isaac Edwards

The Model Prayer is recorded in Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4.

1) **THE MODEL PRAYER ASSUMES PRAYER.** When a disciple requested, “Lord, teach us to pray” (Lk. 11:1), Jesus said, “When ye pray” (Lk. 11:2); He did not say, “If ye pray.” Jesus took as fact that His disciples would pray.

2) **THE MODEL PRAYER IS AN INSTRUCTIONAL PRAYER.** The prayer contained in these verses is not the Lord’s prayer (for Jesus was not praying when He uttered these words), nor is it a prayer to be blindly recited or vainly repeated; it is an instructional prayer, giving the manner after which disciples were taught to pray. Jesus said, “After this manner therefore pray ye...” (Mt. 6:9).

3) **THE MODEL PRAYER TEACHES REVERENCE IN PRAYER.** “Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name” (Lk. 11:2) is an expression of respect and reverence unto God. God’s “holy and reverend” name is not to be profaned, but is to be greatly respected (Ps. 111:9; Lev. 22:32).

4) **THE MODEL PRAYER TEACHES DAILY PRAYER.** Since the disciples were instructed to say, “Give us this day our daily bread” (Mt. 6:11), the model prayer teaches us to pray every day. The Psalmist said, “Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray” (Ps. 55:17). Prayer should be as much a part of our day as eating. If you ate as much as you prayed, how would you fare?

5) **THE MODEL PRAYER TEACHES FORGIVENESS IN PRAYER.** The Lord taught His disciples to pray, “And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors” (Mt. 6:12). This teaching makes God’s

forgiveness of our trespasses conditional upon our forgiveness of men’s trespasses. “For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Mt. 6:14-15).

6) **THE MODEL PRAYER TEACHES IMPORTUNITY IN PRAYER.** The story of the friend lending loaves, in connection with the model prayer (Lk. 11:5-10), shows an asking man receiving “because of his importunity” (Lk. 11:8). The Scriptures teach us to be persistent in prayer-entreaties.

May the model prayer help to shape our prayer into acceptable prayer.

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WOMEN WHO PRAYED

Melba Edwards

What a wonderful thing it is to be able to pray to God. We can learn from some examples of women in the Bible who prayed.

1) **REBEKAH INQUIRED OF THE LORD.** In Genesis 25:21-23, we read about Rebekah. Verse 22 reads, “And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to inquire of the Lord.” The NKJV reads, “If all is well, why am I like this?” When we are with child, so many concerns may run through our minds concerning the one we are carrying. What better place is there to go than to the Lord in prayer?

2) **HANNAH PRAYED UNTO THE LORD.** We read about Hannah in 1 Samuel 1-2. She was barren and wanted to have a child. The Bible says, “she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the Lord, and wept sore.” She also made a vow to the Lord that if He would give her a man child, then she would give him unto the Lord all the days of his life and no razor would come upon his head. The Bible also reads in 1 Samuel 1:12, “as she continued praying.” When Eli thought she was drunk, she told him she was not, “but have poured out my soul before the Lord.” Hannah conceives and bares a son named Samuel. Later she brought the child to Eli, and said, “I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the Lord. For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him...” In the first ten verses of chapter two, we can read Hannah’s prayer of rejoicing and praise to God. Samuel was

not only a judge of Israel, but an outstanding prophet too. The books of 1 and 2 Samuel bear his name. So much we can learn from Hannah concerning prayer. We see her intensity and sincerity. She continued praying and praised God when He answered her prayer.

3) **ANNA SERVED GOD WITH FASTINGS AND PRAYERS.** Anna was a prophetess and a widow of about eighty-four years. We read about her in Luke 2:36-38. Anna did not depart from the temple, “but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.” “She gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of Him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.” What a wonderful example she sets before us. She is sincere in her prayer that included fasting and giving thanks unto the Lord. We too learn that we are never too old to pray.

What wonderful access we have to the Lord God Almighty. As a child of God, we must use this access, but, as these examples show us, with sincerity, intensity, regularity, and reverence. We must “pray without ceasing” (1 Th. 5:17). Our prayers must include thanksgiving and praise to God. We also need to pray for others. James 5:15 reads, “And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up...” James also wrote in verse 16, “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” Also as mothers we need to be sure we teach our children to pray. We must never be too busy or forgetful to pray.

ELEMENTS OF ACCEPTABLE PRAYER

Donnie V. Rader

In 1 Timothy 2:1, Paul listed four elements of prayer: supplication, prayers, intercession, and giving of thanks. Let's consider each category and some specifics in each one.

1) **SUPPLICATION.** This refers to "a seeking, asking, entreating, entreaty" (*Thayer*). Supplication refers to the request of the averting of evil. We should pray for help in temptation (Mt. 6:13; Mk. 14:38). We should ask for strength to overcome weakness and discouragement (Heb. 4:16). Requests should be made when we face physical problems (Mt. 24:20; Jas. 5:13; Acts 12:5). Prayer should be made for God's protection and care so that we do not face great problems (Mt. 24:20).

2) **PRAYERS.** This term includes any discourse with God (petition, praise, thanks, etc.). This is the most general of the four terms found in Paul's statement to Timothy. This refers to the request for the obtaining of good. We may pray for wisdom (Jas. 1:5), forgiveness of sins (Acts 8:22), the furtherance of the gospel (2 Th. 3:1; Col. 4:3), daily necessities (Mt. 6:9-13), the weather (Jas. 5:16), and that God's will be done (Mt. 6:10). Our prayers should be filled with praise. The model prayer Jesus gave to His disciples began and ended with praise (Mt. 6:9-13). Expressions of praise to be used in prayer can be found in passages like Isaiah 40; Jeremiah 32; Revelation 4, the Psalms, and the prophets.

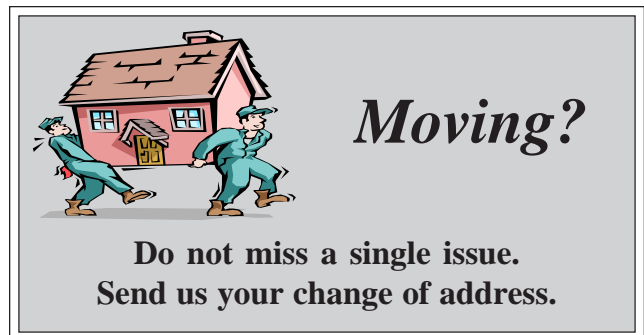
3) **INTERCESSION.** This refers to a plea to God on behalf of others. The word literally means "a falling in with, meeting with" (*Thayer*). This alludes to "a technical term for approaching a king" (*Vine*). Surely it is helpful for us to

pray for others and tell them that we have prayed for them as Jesus did for Peter (Lk. 22:32). Paul was specific in praying for certain people (1 Cor. 1:4; Eph. 1:15-16; Phil. 1:3-5; Col. 1:3-9; 2 Th. 3:1). We should pray that our brethren would grow and develop (2 Th. 1:11; Col. 4:12). We should pray for those who have sinned or have a need (Acts 8:18-24; Jas. 5:16; 1 Jn. 5:16). Prayer should be offered for our enemies (Mt. 5:44-46), rulers (1 Tim. 2:2), sinners (Rom. 10:1), the sick (Jas. 5:13-16), elders and preachers (2 Th. 3:1-2; Heb. 13:18), and our families.

4) **GIVING OF THANKS.** This is the expression of gratitude for the blessings of life. Thanks for *material blessings* should include food, clothing, shelter, health, cars, furniture, and modern conveniences (hot water, plumbing, AC, lights, phones, microwaves, computers, etc.). Thanks for *spiritual blessings* should include the sacrifice of the blood of Christ, remission of sins, hope of eternal life, brethren, the word of God, the privilege of prayer, and the freedom of worship.

May we be more of a praying people.

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CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTABLE PRAYER

Johnie Edwards

Prayer must be on God's terms – not ours. The Lord has laid down some specific conditions we must meet when we pray. Acceptable conditions are:

1) **ASK.** The first condition of acceptable prayer is to ask. Even though God knows what we need before we ask (Mt. 6:8), He still wants us to ask. "Ask, and it shall be given you...for everyone that asketh receiveth..." (Mt. 7:7-8). James uttered, "Ye have not, because ye ask not" (Jas. 4:2). Don't forget that God "is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Eph. 3:29).

2) **FAITH.** James penned, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering; For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways" (Jas. 1:5-8). Occasionally I will ask a sick person, "Would you like to have a prayer?" I have heard it said, "Well, I don't guess it will hurt – might as well try it." This kind of attitude will not get the job done! We must ask and ask believing.

3) **ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL.** We might ask for something which is contrary to God's will. Jesus often prayed, "Not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Mt. 26:39). John said it this way, "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us" (1 Jn. 5:14). "For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that" (Jas. 4:15). We need not expect God to grant requests that are not according to His will.

4) **THE RIGHT MOTIVE.** Not all who pray pray with the right motive. Purpose in prayer is important. Why we are praying must be considered. James penned, "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts" (Jas. 4:3). We can pray "amiss" by asking for things that might be used for lustful purposes. God will only say no to such prayers.

5) **THE RIGHT SPIRITUAL CONDITION.** A person cannot live as he pleases and expect God to grant his requests. No way! Prayer is designed for those who strive to please God. The Psalmist wrote, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear" (Ps. 66:18). The wise man put it this way, "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination" (Prov. 28:9). When Isaiah discussed prayer, he recorded, "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear" (Is. 59:1-2). Peter stated the condition as it is, "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil" (1 Pet. 3:12). It pays to be righteous, if we expect the Lord to hear and grant our petitions. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (Jas. 5:16). Why not make these conditions for acceptable prayer a little checklist, that we may know whether our prayers are acceptable to God? How are you doing so far?

6) **A FORGIVING SPIRIT.** In the model prayer, Jesus said, "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive

you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Mt. 6:14-15). That’s pretty plain, isn’t it? It will do us absolutely no good to pray to God for forgiveness of our sins if we do not have a forgiving heart toward others. It is just that simple! A lot of folks hold lifetime grudges against others, never trying to work it out, and this is sad. The Holy Spirit revealed, “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you” (Eph. 4:32).

7) **DOING HIS WILL.** John 9:31 says, “Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man...doeth his will, him he heareth.” Not willing to do God’s will? You might as well forget about praying! Jesus said this best, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Mt. 7:21). No will-doing, no praying!


8) **BEING A WORSHIPPER OF GOD.** Back to that John 9:31 passage. “Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man...be a worshipper of God...him he heareth.” God has always demanded and expected His people to worship (Ex. 20:4-5). As Jesus faced the devil’s temptation concerning worship, He said, “Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve” (Mt. 4:10). As Jesus conversed with the woman at the well, He stated, “God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (Jn. 4:24). When John fell before the feet of an angel to worship, the angel said, “See thou do it not...worship God” (Rev. 22:8-9). If you are not willing to worship God on His terms, forget about praying!

9) **PRAYING BY THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST.** All praying must be regulated by Christ’s authority. To act by the authority of Christ is to

act in His name. So “whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you” (Jn. 16:23-24). It is again written, “If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it” (Jn. 14:13-14). As we pray to God, the Father, we need to ask in the name of Christ.

10) **ABIDING IN CHRIST.** In the parable of the vine and branches, Jesus taught, “If ye abide in my words, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you” (Jn. 15:7). Not only do we not “have the Father and the Son,” if we fail to abide in the teachings of Christ, we will not be able to ask and expect God to grant our petitions. Are you in and abiding in Christ?

By the way, how is your checklist coming? Have you been able to check off all these prayer conditions?



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THE LORD'S PRAYER

Morris Hafley

Two men were talking, and one asked the other if he knew the Lord's prayer. The other said, "Sure I know it, 'Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep.'" The other fella said, "Why, you do know it!" Both unknowingly showed their ignorance.

1) DO YOU KNOW THE LORD'S PRAYER?

The Lord prayed a "model prayer" in Matthew 6:9, showing His disciples how to pray, in contrast with the hypocritical scribes and Pharisees of verse 5. Many call this "The Lord's Prayer," and in vain repetition quote it as a talisman (a charm to keep evil away or to bring good fortune, much like a rabbit's foot which didn't bring that particular rabbit too much luck), showing their ignorance of Scripture and the purpose of prayer. Many memorize and repeat it, but it is not from the heart. Unless the heart is in our prayers, our prayer is vain (Mt. 15:8-9). The teaching of Matthew 6:5-15 shows that our prayers don't have to be eternal to be immortal, but they must be from the heart. This prayer cannot be prayed today because it contains items which have already occurred; like: "Thy kingdom come" (Mt. 6:10). The kingdom is the church and has been established since the Lord taught His disciples how to pray.

2) **GOD SPEAKS TO GOD.** The Lord's prayer of John 17 is also a prayer that teaches. Unlike the hypocritical prayer of the Pharisee of Luke 18 that was consumed on himself, Jesus' prayer of John 17 was consumed on others. Of the 15 recorded prayers of Jesus, Luke records 11. The longest recorded prayer of Jesus is in John 17. The beautiful poetical prayer, "Others,"

written by C.D. Meigs nearly a century ago, declares, "Lord, help me live from day to day in such a self-forgetful way; That even when I kneel to pray, my prayer shall be for others." Though it was just moments before Judas' betrayal and a few minutes before His mock trial would begin and hours before his scourging and crucifixion, about whom was He thinking? Read this beautiful prayer of our Lord. It won't be very long.

3) **JESUS PRAYED FOR OTHERS.** He prayed for God to be glorified (Jn. 17:1), for His apostles (Jn. 17:6-19), and for us (Jn. 17:20-21). We glorify God when we keep His commandments (Mt. 5:16; 1 Jn. 2:3-5).

4) **FOR WHOM DO YOU PRAY?** Since we are in the "Me" Generation, it is easy to get hooked on praying just for my needs and no one else. That shows I'm living in my own little world; I am not concerned about others; I am not helping others; I am not a Dorcas, who was "full of good works and alms deeds which she did" (Acts 9:36-39). If I were like Dorcas, I would see the need of others far outweigh mine. I'd forget "Me," and remember to thank God that things are as well with me as they are, and I would pour my heart out to the Almighty for those who have greater need of Him.

5) **IF YOU WANT TO PRAY FOR ME.** Pray that I may speak the word with all boldness (Acts 4:29). Pray that I will not fear what man may do to me (Mt. 10:28). Pray that I will die "the death of the righteous" (Num. 23:6; Ps. 23:10).

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LEADING PUBLIC PRAYER

Connie W. Adams

The key word here is “public” as opposed to private. One called upon to lead prayer in a public assembly needs to understand that he is wording a prayer for an entire congregation. It is time to speak of *we* and *us*.

1) **THINGS TO AVOID.** Jesus warned of “vain repetitions” (Mt. 6:7). The endless repeating of a phrase, or the counting of the number of times we repeat the same thing, thinking there is some virtue in that, must be avoided. Also, out of nervousness, brethren will sometimes repeat “Father” sometimes two or three times in a sentence until it becomes a distraction. Prayer is not for show or display. Jesus warned of praying “to be seen of men” (Mt. 6:5). It is an honor and privilege to be called on to lead a public prayer, but it is not a time to hold an oration nor to preach a sermon. Some use the occasion to quote Scripture to the Lord who is the author of it anyhow. Every prayer is not for the same purpose. Giving thanks for the bread and the cup should be just that. No matter what else you may say, unless you thank the Lord for the bread and the cup, you have not given thanks. Some prayers in public meetings will, of necessity, be longer than others. But in general, public prayers do not need to be so long as to destroy the purpose of worship. When called upon to “dismiss” the congregation, remember that means to let them go, not hold them a long time. Often, a congregation has stood through an invitation song and closing remarks. Mothers (or fathers) are shifting from foot to foot with small children who are sometimes fretful by then, while a brother repeats everything that has already been said in earlier prayers. It is appalling to see how many brethren all over the country, including preachers, do not know how to “dismiss” a congregation.

2) **WHAT TO INCLUDE.** When Jesus taught His disciples how to pray (Mt. 6:5-13), He taught them to begin by an expression of praise for the Almighty. He is “Our Father...in heaven” and His name is “Hallowed” or holy, sacred. God must be addressed with reverence. It is in order to pray for the church (kingdom) and to ask for the will of God to be done. It is right to pray for our needs (daily bread) and don’t forget to give thanks for what He has abundantly given us. We need to ask for forgiveness and to be forgiving toward others. We must be aware of our enemy, Satan, and seek help to overcome temptations. It is right to pray for the sick, the bereaved, the weak and the apostate, and for wisdom. We are to pray for rulers (1 Tim. 2:1-2). Be careful not to preach politics as you pray. We need to pray for each other that we might grow spiritually. Study the prayers of Paul, usually in the first chapter of His epistles. What better way to learn to pray than to follow the example of our Lord and the apostles?

3) **SPEAK UP.** Do not mumble. Speak loudly enough to be heard. Many do not hear well and if they cannot understand you, they cannot make it their prayer. If there is a microphone, then use it. It will not bite you. Speak right into it. Sometimes prayers are ineffective simply because they are not heard. Do not speak in bursts of words, or run them all together. Speak distinctly. And please don’t take offense at efforts to help you improve. We can all do better.

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Kid's Activity Page

Paul Adams

Memory Verse: "Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray; and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice" (Ps. 55:17).

Prayer

Use the clues below to fill in the corresponding blanks. This will reveal a secret word in the box.

1. In Luke 22:40, Jesus said to pray so as not to enter this.
2. In Philippians 4:6, we are told that in prayer we make these known to God.
3. In Matthew 6:7, Jesus warned against using these repetitions.
4. According to Matthew 6:5, we should never pray as these.
5. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says to pray without this.
6. James 5:16 tells us that this man's prayer avails much.

1.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
		2.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
			3.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
				4.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
					5.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
						6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

**"Suffer the little children to come unto me,
and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14).**

Question: *“I have heard that one must go into his closet when he prays. Is this correct?”*

Answer:

The Bible does mention closet praying. “But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly” (Mt. 6:6). One of the basic rules of Bible study is to ask why the writer said what he did. So, “Why did Jesus say what He did in Matthew 6:6?” A reading of the context of Matthew 6:6 will find men giving and praying to be seen and heard of men (Mt. 6:1-8). Jesus uttered, “And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward” (Mt. 6:5). So, in light of the fact that men were praying on street corners and in synagogues just to be seen and heard of men, Jesus told them, “enter into thy closet” and pray behind closed doors, if that is the reason for their praying.

Question: *“Do I have to pray and never stop, in order to obey 1 Thessalonians 5:17?”*

Answer:

No, you do not. When Paul told the Thessalonians to “Pray without ceasing” (1 Th. 5:17), he is teaching them to not quit praying. Prayer is to be part of the daily activities of a child of God. It is like Paul said in Colossians 1:9, “For this cause we also since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.” Surely we know that Paul did things other than just pray, even though he stated that he did not “cease” to pray. He, from time to time, prayed for the Colossians. Paul wrote the Thessalonians, “Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling” (1 Th. 1:11). Paul prayed for them often. The Romans were told, “continuing instant in prayer” (Rom. 12:12). It is written in Colossians 4:2, “Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving.” Well, this should be enough to show that to pray without ceasing certainly does not mean that one must pray 24/7 without stopping!

Have A Bible Question? Send to: Back To Basics, P.O. Box 251, Ellettsville, IN 47429

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Doing the work of an evangelist / Preaching in today's world / Carrying out the great commission / Overcoming stage fright / Finding and putting together sermons / Conducting weddings and funerals / Radio preaching / Building a good library / Publishing a church bulletin / Teaching home Bible studies / Writing effective articles / Conducting gospel meetings / Studying and understanding the Bible / Learning to be a good listener / Personal evangelism / Bible history and geography / Combating false doctrines / Working with a local church / Various Bible topics too numerous to list / Many other areas related to the work of preaching

Classes taught by: Johnie Edwards, Johnie Paul Edwards, and John Isaac Edwards

If you are serious about wanting to preach, don't miss this opportunity!

Name _____
Complete Address _____
E-mail _____ Telephone _____ Age _____
Name and location of congregation where you are a member _____
Will you need a place to stay during the program? _____
Will you have your own transportation? _____

Back To Basics

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