

PRAYER

Read these Scriptures ... 1 Thessalonians 5.16-18 2 Chronicles 7.14 Philippians 4.6

‘The key to prayer is simply praying’ A. W. Tozer. Prayer is simply having conversation with our living God. It is more than a religious practice; prayer underpins our vital connection with God. Philippians 4:6-7 encourages us to, ‘Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication (*request*), with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.’ Prayer cultivates in us, a deeper relationship with God, particularly when we communicate our love toward Him, confess our sins/struggles and present our personal requests.

**To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible
than to be alive without breathing. Martin Luther**

The prayer of faith is the primary means by which believers can connect with God to receive guidance, experience divine power and witness miraculous interventions in the world. It is a vital spiritual warfare tool, enabling us to resist demonic forces and claim victory over evil. 2 Corinthians 10.3-5 states ‘For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ’

**God answers our prayers not because we are good, but because He is good.
A.W Tozer**

There are several types of prayer commonly practiced by Pentecostal Christians:

Adoration and Worship: This type of prayer focuses on exalting God for His character, power and love. It is not about asking for anything but simply acknowledging God's greatness. We often express this through praise, singing and lifting of hands, recognizing God's supreme authority and worthiness. Psalm 100:4 declares, "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His Name."

Repentance: By recognizing our human fallibility, we confess our sins to God, seeking His forgiveness and cleansing. If we are open to God, this leads to a renewed sense of His righteousness in our lives and a deeper communion with Him. 1 John 1:9 (NKJV) assures, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Supplication/Petition: This is the act of presenting requests and needs to God in faith. We strongly believe in a God who hears and answers prayer today. Therefore, we can boldly bring petition for salvation, healing, provision, guidance, or deliverance, before Him. This often involves specific and persistent prayer, believing that God's will is for His children to be blessed. Matthew 7:7 states, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."

Intercession: This involves praying on behalf of others- family members, friends, the sick, those in authority (church and government, or even entire nations). Intercessory prayer is

often intense and sustained, driven by a deep compassion for others and a fervent desire to see God's will accomplished in their lives and in the world. 1 Timothy 2:1 encourages, "Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men." Romans 8:26 says, "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."

Tongues: Perhaps the most distinctive type of prayer in Pentecostalism, praying in tongues is a supernatural utterance inspired by the Holy Spirit. We can experience a direct line of communication with God, bypassing the intellect and emotions, and is a powerful means of spiritual edification, intercession, and spiritual warfare. It's expression can be both a private prayer language and a corporate experience.

Declaration Prayer: This involves speaking God's promises and truths over situations and circumstances, believing that words spoken in faith have power. Instead of merely asking, we declare God's will in Scripture promises. This is frequently used in prayer for salvation, healing or deliverance, where believers declare health and freedom in the name of Jesus. Mark 11:23 teaches, "For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says."

<p style="text-align: center;">One can believe intellectually in the efficacy of prayer and never do any praying. Catherine Marshall</p>

DAILY SCRIPTURE AND REFLECTION

Read the Scriptures for each day and journal what this means to you and anything that God might be revealing to you. You can use the dot points as a guide.

DAY 1. 2 Chronicles 7.14 If My people who are called by My name will 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.

- What does it mean to "seek the face of God"?
- Having God first in everything is key to successful Christian living. How intentionally and consistently do you "pray and seeking God's face" in your daily life, and what might it look like to deepen that pursuit?

DAY 2. 1 Thessalonians 5.16-18 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

- In what practical ways can you integrate a more continuous and mindful practice of prayer into your daily routine, beyond just dedicated prayer times, so that your life reflects an ongoing conversation with God?
- How can you intentionally shift perspective to identify reasons for thankfulness in difficult circumstances, trusting in God's overarching purpose?

DAY 3. Matthew 18:19-20 "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

- Can you recall a specific instance where you experienced the power of "agreement" in prayer with others? How did that shared prayer impact the situation or strengthen your faith?
- Networx Church provides abundant opportunities to engage in corporate prayer. How might you intentionally participate in shared prayer with family, friends, small groups and church ministries?

DAY 4. Luke 18:1 "Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,"

- Can you recall a time when persistent prayer brought about a significant outcome in your life or the life of someone you know? What did you learn from that experience about God's faithfulness and the power of perseverance?
- What specific areas of your life or the world do you feel called to pray for with greater consistency and not "lose heart"? It could be church, finances, family or health.

DAY 5. James 5:15-16 "And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. ... The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

- What does "the prayer of faith" in this passage mean to you? Does this imply we can approach God in unbelief and have our prayer unanswered?
- What does it mean for a prayer to be truly a "prayer of faith," and how does this differ from simply wishing or hoping?

DAY 6. Jude 1:20 "But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit"

- Praying in the Spirit (tongues) strengthens our personal faith capacity. Do you regularly pray in tongues? If so, describe what this experience is for you.

DAY 7. Mark 11:24 "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."

- Discuss the prayer of faith, "believing that you receive" regarding the effectiveness of your prayers, especially for breakthrough and miracles?
- What practical steps can you take to cultivate this kind of bold and unwavering belief when you present your prayer to God?