

Prayer: Communicating with The Father Series: 2

Types of Prayer

Ephesians 6.18

“praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints ”

Paul wrote this verse at the end of his teaching on the Christian armoury and was understood to be used as a weapon against the enemy. This verse tells us to pray always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit – I believe this shows us some different aspects about prayer that we ought to take note:

- *praying always..* – our prayers are not relegated to a particular time but we should be unceasing in our praying. Neither does this mean that we spend 24hrs/day in prayer so that we don't actually do any work. This statement means that we should always be in the attitude and spirit of prayer and that we are ready to pray whenever the need arises.
- *with all prayer and supplication* - that is all kinds of prayer (see NIV) - there are different kinds and types of prayer and we pray according to the need or situation.
- *in the Spirit* - these prayers are in the Spirit, not in the flesh. We do not pray to be seen or heard of men. The words '*in the spirit*' can also mean 'with breath' – that means our prayers are to be voiced.
- *all perseverance* - these are deliberate prayers – they are not just vainly repeated words or rituals. We pray diligently and with effort. We likened prayer to a tool and a tool is used deliberately to perform a task.

Different Types of Prayer

- **Prayer of Faith / Prayer of Petition** - James 5.15
“And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven”
 - petitioning God for our requests, problems and needs
 - based on God's word – His revealed will. That means we cannot pray 'if it be thy will' in the prayer of faith
 - No if's in this prayer – when you pray the prayer of faith believe that you receive and act accordingly (faith in action).
“And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.” Matthew 21.22
“Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive *them*, and you will have *them*.” Mark 11.24
 - all prayer should be in faith, but not all prayer is the 'prayer of faith'
- **Prayer of Supplication** - Philippians 4.6
“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God”

- means 'earnest entreaty or request'
 "Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the labourers *are* few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest."” Matthew 9.37-38
- with fervency and desire, heartfelt and continued
 "Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit."
 James 5.16-18
 "pray [*also*] for one another, that you may be healed and restored [*to a spiritual tone of mind and heart*]. The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [*dynamic in its working*]."
 (vs16 Amp)
- **Prayer of Intercession** - Ezekiel 22.30-31
 "So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads," says the Lord GOD"
 - stand in the gap between parties (umpire) - e.g. salvation of a loved one
 - prayer to hold back judgement
 - prayer for God to heal and bless the land - revival
 "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." 2 Chronicles 7.14
 - like supplication, it is earnest and continued
 - Jesus is our Intercessor
- **Prayer of Commitment** – 1 Peter 5.7
 "casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."
 - casting your cares upon the Lord – cast them in prayer
 - roll them onto Jesus
 "You can throw the whole weight of your anxieties upon him, for you are his personal concern " (vs7, JBP)
 "Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring *it* to pass." Psalm 37.5
 "Commit your way to the Lord [*roll and repose each care of your load on Him*]" (Amp)
 - do not worry or fret or be anxious about anything, cast all your cares onto Jesus – do it in prayer
 - seek (enquire/ask/pray) first the kingdom of God
 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." Matthew 6.33
- **Prayer of Consecration** - Luke 22.41-42
 "And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and

prayed, saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."

- dedicating our lives to the service of God
- we can pray 'if it be thy will' – only used by Jesus in his prayer of consecration in the garden of Gethsemane.

- **Prayer of Worship** – Acts 13.1-4
“..as they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent *them* away” (vs 2-3)
 - waiting on God / ministering to God
 - not asking for anything just talking with God and worshipping
 - “But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew *their* strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.” (Isaiah 40.31)
 - praise and thanksgiving
“But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.” Acts 16.25

- **Prayer of Agreement** – 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. ”
 - tremendous power as two or more come together and agree in prayer
 - foundation is God's word
 - pray in Jesus' name
 - unity and harmony
“Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* For brethren to dwell together in unity!... For there the LORD commanded the blessing— Life forevermore”
Psalm 133.1,3
 - forgive – prayer and forgiveness go together, specially in prayer of agreement.
“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.” Mark 11.25-26
In Matthew 18, these verses are sandwiched by teaching on forgiveness and dealing with a sinning brother.

There are other kinds of prayer which have not been mentioned above.

- United Prayer – where the church meet together for prayer. Acts 4.23-30
- Prayer in the Spirit – praying in tongues for self edification. Jude 20
- Prayer of Binding & Loosing - enforcing the authority invested in you as a believer. Matthew 18.18