



ALWAYS PRAY

LET US ENCOURAGE YOU THAT GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS." FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE ON THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ARE OPEN TO THEIR PRAYERS; BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL" (1 PETER 3:12 NKJV). LET US REMIND YOU THAT NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD. "FOR WITH GOD NOTHING WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE" (LUKE 1:37 NKJV). WHATEVER YOUR SITUATION OR CIRCUMSTANCE MAY BE, AS THE OLD HYMN INSTRUCTS US, "TAKE IT TO THE LORD IN PRAYER."

A S H A K E T H E N A T I O N S D E V O T I O N A L

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

We are called to pray and to be a people of prayer. Jesus modeled this practice and even separated Himself from the disciples to spend quality time praying to His Father. In the Bible are over 650 recorded prayers. Of that, 25 were actually prayers that Jesus personally prayed.

There are different types of prayers that we can pray. While there are hundreds of prayers in the Bible, there are eight major types of prayer:

Prayer of Faith

A prayer of faith reaffirms our faith in God and His will. You can see an example of this prayer in James 5:15, "And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven."

Prayer of Agreement

A prayer of agreement or corporate prayer entails several people praying together. The most common example of corporate prayer is a church service.

Prayer of Petition

We are told to bring our requests to God, and a prayer of petition is one of the ways to do so. As stated in the Bible, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6).

Prayer of Thanksgiving

A prayer of thanksgiving shows our gratitude for what God has done for us, as stated in scripture, "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name" (Psalm 100:4).

Prayer of Worship

A prayer of worship helps us recognize God's power and greatness. There are many ways to worship God, such as simply saying, "God is good," or singing praise songs.

Prayer of Consecration

To consecrate is to make something holy. We may pray for consecration during different seasons of prayer and fasting, for example.

Prayer of Intercession

In a prayer of intercession, we pray for somebody else's well-being or for God to intervene in a specific situation. One of the most prominent instances of a prayer of intercession is in John 17, where Jesus prays for all His disciples.

Prayer of the Holy Spirit

Sometimes, we don't know what to pray for. When this happens, we can ask for the help of the Holy Spirit through prayer. Scripture states, "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God" (Romans 8:26-27).

Let us encourage you that God hears our prayers. "For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil" (1 Peter 3:12 NKJV). Let us remind you that nothing is impossible for God. "For with God nothing will be impossible" (Luke 1:37 NKJV). Whatever your situation or circumstance may be, as the old hymn instructs us, "Take it to the Lord in prayer."