
PRAYER

An important principle that we must learn to make a part of our lives is prayer. We must understand the significance and importance of the act and why YHWH takes pleasure when we communicate with him. There are scriptural instructions given which show us how to pray to YHWH and help us perfect our walk in truth. This information will help you in your desire to correctly pray to the Father.

One of the instructions that we must acknowledge in the scriptures is how our fore-father's prayed to YHWH. Deuteronomy 32:7: **"Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will shew thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee."** The scriptures clearly tell us that our learning will come from our fore-fathers so we must utilize the Bible to truly understand our past traditions. Establishing the direction of the earth we are to pray in must be understood. As Israelites we are to face the direction of our homeland which is Israel/Jerusalem. I Kings 8:44-45: **"[44] If thy people go out to battle against their enemy, whithersoever thou shalt send them, and shall pray unto the LORD toward the city which thou hast chosen, and toward the house that I have built for thy name:[45] Then hear thou in heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause."**

King Solomon gave instruction that YHWH hears the prayers of Israel in need when we face the chosen city. Now let's establish which city was chosen of YHWH. Zechariah 1:17: **"Cry yet, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad; and the LORD shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem."** Let's see how another great man of Israel prayed to YHWH. Daniel 6:10: **"Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime."** The Prophet Daniel also knew that facing towards Jerusalem was the correct direction to pray to the Father. Notice also that Daniel prayed three times a day (which isn't mandatory, however it is wisdom) as did also King David. Psalms 55:17: **"Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice."**

Prayer also requires a certain hand positioning and mental preparation.. Some may say that hand positioning doesn't matter or isn't relevant. Traditionally, religions teach that you should have closed palms or clinched fingers together. However, the Bible teaches differently. I Timothy 2:8: **"I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting."** The lifting up of holy hands means that we should have our arms raised with our palms open facing up. In doing this action, we show our humility to the Father and our acknowledgement that we need him. Similar to a young child who has just learned to walk or is tired of walking and wants assistance or desires to be picked up, they lift up their hands signaling they want help, need comfort and need to feel secure. This is why wrath and doubting must be eliminated from our thoughts when we pray to YHWH. Both of those Spirits hinder our desire for humility.

We must be sure to have a clear mind and prepare our thoughts and spirit when we get ready to pray. Ecclesiasticus 33:4: **"Prepare what to say, and so thou shalt be heard: and bind up instruction, and then make answer."** Have an idea of what you're praying about or plan to communicate with the Father.

YHWH doesn't take kindly to vain babbling and incoherent thoughts. Matthew 6:7: **"But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking."** If wickedness/sin is on our minds be advised your prayer is worthless and will not be heard by the Father! Psalms 66:18: **"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:"** The heart being spoken of is our minds. It is vital that we have a sincere, humble mind when praying.

Some may say what is the significance of praying? Since we no longer offer sacrifices to YHWH our prayers now are good and acceptable sacrifices. Hebrews 13:16: **"But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."** Prayer is a mental form of communication that allows one to mentally discern or judge. YHWH said that it is a good thing to communicate and looks at it as a form of sacrifice. Let's further prove that in Hosea 14:2: **"Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips."** Our mouths are symbolic to a sacrificial calf that was used for a sin offering!

What do we do if we don't know what to pray for some ask? Christ gave us clear instructions as to how and what to pray for. Matthew 6:5-13: **"[5] 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. [6] 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. [7] But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. [8] Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. [9] After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. [10] Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. [11] Give us this day our daily bread. [12] And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. [13] And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."**

Briefly breaking down this prayer the word "Our" shows possession or sharing. We acknowledge that YHWH is Our Father (Israel and only him showing he's the omnipotent Power). We express our desire to do His will and not our own, the bread we ask for is symbolic to strength, motivation and knowledge to do his will, and always seek for forgiveness as we must forgive our brothers and sisters in transgression. For further understanding on this principle lets read Ecclesiasticus 28:1-6: **"[1] He that revengeth shall find vengeance from the Lord, and he will surely keep his sins [in remembrance.] [2] Forgive thy neighbour the hurt that he hath done unto thee, so shall thy sins also be forgiven when thou prayest. [3] One man beareth hatred against another, and doth he seek pardon from the Lord? [4] He sheweth no mercy to a man, which is like himself: and doth he ask forgiveness of his own sins? [5] If he that is but flesh nourish hatred, who will intreat for pardon of his sins? [6] Remember thy end, and let enmity cease; [remember] corruption and death, and abide in the commandments."** In closing we ask that YHWH protect us from temptation (we must admit to our temptations in order no to be lead by them) and always pray to be delivered when evil and wickedness is present.

In closing, let us be reminded that sometimes we're in moments of despair and can't follow all of the protocols that are mentioned in this literature. Some situations we find ourselves in won't allow us the time, space or opportunity, so what happens in that instance? Romans 8:26-27: **"And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.[28] And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them**

who are the called according to his purpose.” The Spirit of Christ will intercede on our behalf and carry the righteous communication to the Father.

YHWH knows there are times when we cannot face Jerusalem, or are scattered in thoughts, or can't get on our knees (if that's how you choose to typically pray). Christ made the exception for situations as such, however this form of grace isn't made to be taken advantage of and disregard the protocols of prayer that have been discussed. So let us continue to grow in our knowledge of serving the Father in spirit and in truth (St. John 4:23) and pray to him with a greater understanding! 1 Peter 3:12: **“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.”**