

Biblical Prayer
Enjoying the Power and Confidence of Scripture-Centered Prayer

“God’s divine power has given us everything we need for life and for godliness. This power was given to us through knowledge of the one who called us by his own glory and integrity. Through his glory and integrity he has given us his promises that are of the highest value. Through these promises you will share in the divine nature because you have escaped the corruption that sinful desires cause in the world.” 2 Peter 1:3-4 NASB

1. Relationship: We enjoy privilege of prayer because of our relationship with Christ. Rom 8:15-17

*You have not received a **spirit of slavery** leading to fear you have received a **spirit of adoption**, as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are **children of God**, if children, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ. Romans 8:15-17*

a. God loves to hear your voice. God can tell your voice from the voice of others!

2. God’s will is in His Word “Your word, LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.” Ps 119:89 NIV

3. We pray according to the promises in God’s Word.

Psalm 119: 1-2, 11, 89-90; 2 Tim 3:16, Heb 4:12, Matt. 7:7, Jam 4:2, Isa 55:10-11

4. “It is written...” - Jesus’s example when tempted in the wilderness

Luke 4:4 “ *‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’*” From Deut. 8:3

Luke 4:8 “ *‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.’*” From Deut. 6:13

Luke 4:12 “ *‘It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’*” From Deut. 6:16

5. Pray the Scriptures: God has obligated Himself to fulfill the promises in His Word!

“Praying the scriptures give us the right vocabulary for prayer” Pastor Daniel Henderson

Why "Pray the Bible"? from Matthew Henry’s A Method for Prayer

<p>1 Praying scripturally will teach us what prayer is, even while we do it.</p> <p>2 It will correct “shopping list” views of prayer, which abound in the Christian community.</p> <p>3 It will begin to solve in our own minds the question of “unanswered prayer.”</p> <p>4 It will remind us of just how much there is to pray about day by day.</p> <p>5 It will teach us the extreme urgency of prayer.</p> <p>6 It will return proportion to prayers long on petition, but short on adoration, confession, and thanksgiving.</p> <p>7 It will instruct us how best to pray for ministers, missionaries, and one another.</p> <p>8 It will show us the proper way to approach God in prayer.</p>	<p>9 It will remind us of the good things that God does for us [which we sometimes take for granted]</p> <p>10 It will remind us to always give thanks to God [which is important for our assurance of God’s faithfulness in answering prayer]</p> <p>11 It will begin to engrave in our minds biblical patterns of thought, which can help immunize us from the enticing folly of the world’s view of life.</p> <p>12 It will force us to rehearse the solemn warnings and precious promises of God</p> <p>13 It will move us from our inherent man-centeredness in prayer to a biblical, God-centered way of praying.</p> <p>Taken from https://www.matthewhenry.org/about/why-read-the-method-for-prayer/</p>
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God-Centered Prayer vs Needs or Request-Based Prayer

1. Seeking God's **face** rather than seeking God's **hand**. *Ps. 27:4, 8; Ps 105:4; 2 Cor 3:18, Heb 11:6*

In order to have a right view of prayer, we must have a right view of God.

God-Centered prayer	Need or Request-Based prayer
Focuses on God, He is the only one worthy to receive glory, honor, and power. (<i>Rev. 4:11</i>)	Focuses on self or the current need. Can become self-centered or need-centered
Is something that all believers must do.	Can teach people that they only need to come to God when they have a need or request.
When we worship, we encounter God and He reveals our true need. We can then bring our true need to Him.	If we bring a need to God without encountering God first, we may miss God, not know our true need and/or not have our need met.

God-Centered vs Self-Centered Prayer Format	
Use scripture/testimony/music to focus on God's nature, desires, perspective, activity, purposes, attributes, intentions or promises.	Rather than allowing people's fears, needs, misconceptions, agendas, self-centered desires, personal ambition, distractions, etc. to prevail.

Prayer-Focused Scripture Passages

I John 5:14-15	Ask, according to His <u>will</u> .	Eph 6:18	Praying always with all prayer
John 14:13-14	Ask in His <u>name</u>	Luke 18:1	Pray Always, don't give up
John 15:7	Ask, according to His Word	Matt 7:7	Ask/given, seek/find, knock/open

Scripture-based Prayers for Christians - Sample Prayers ¹ (Insert the person's name in the blank)

_____ I thank You, Father, that Your eyes are on _____ and Your ears are attentive to his/her prayers and Your face is against those who plot evil against ____ (1 Pet. 3:12). For I know that in all things You work for the good of _____ who loves You (Ro. 8:28). Who can accuse _____ who is daily interceded for by Christ Jesus? (Ro. 8:33-34). Therefore, in all things _____ is more than a conqueror (Ro. 8:37).

I pray that the eyes of _____ may be enlightened to know the hope to which we are called and know the riches of our glorious inheritance in the saints. Let _____ know the incomparable great power which is in us who believe (Eph. 1:18-19).

Lord, as _____ spends quiet time with You, shed Your love abroad in his/her heart. Let _____ know how much he/she is loved (Ro. 5:5). Let the love of God be _____'s purpose in ministry. Send the spirit of prayer upon _____ (Acts 1:8, Ro. 8:26). Send others to join us in praying for ____ (1 Tim. 2:8)

O Lord, take _____'s hand so that he will not fear. Lead _____ through difficult times. Let _____ know that You are near and that You are his God. _____ will not be dismayed. You will strengthen _____ and help and uphold him with Your righteous right hand (Is. 41:10). Lord, make _____ strong and filled with courage for every task (Joshua 1). Thank You for being with _____.

¹Modified from 30 Scripture-based Prayers for Your Pastor, by Terry Teykl from <http://prayerleader.com>