

The Prayer of Thanksgiving



Philippians 4:6-7

- The Spiritual Principle of Prayer - is God's plan to keep us connected to Him.
- Emphasis – God's plan to usher His will into the earth realm.
- Purpose - A relationship building principle
- Objective – to teach us how to intercede for the needs of others and ourselves.
- Goal – to have divine fellowship with God.
- Lesson #1 – Statements about prayer
- Lesson #2 – Praying correctly
- Lesson #3 – The different types of prayer
- Lesson #4 – The foundation of prayer
- Lesson #5 – The power of agreement in prayer.

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- “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God; (7) and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (NKJV)
 - Our time of prayer should include thanksgiving, because that relates to what God is already doing in and for us.
 - Paul reminds us not to be anxious or worried. He uses three different words to describe “right praying.”
1. Prayer – this word prayer is the general word for making requests known to the Lord.
 2. Supplication – an earnest sharing of our needs and problems.
 3. Giving of thanks – appreciation
 - When Jesus healed ten lepers only one of the ten returned to give thanks (Luke 17:11-19).
 - The two words “thank you” are considered to be the most powerful words we can speak.
 - Ephesians 5:20 – “Giving thanks always for all thing to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- A grateful heart is usually humble, a heart that gladly acknowledges God as the “giver of every good and perfect gift.” (James 1:17).
 - This exhortation in itself proves our need of the Spirit of God, because in our own strength we could never obey this command.
 - Note the words “always’ and “for all things.”
 - Psalm 136 is a great psalm that reminds us why we should have an attitude of gratitude.
 - The words “give thanks” are a reminder to us that thanksgiving should be an important and regular part of worship and prayer.
 - Why should we be thankful to God?
1. The first verse of Psalm 136 set the tone for everything that follows. We should be thankful because He is good.
 - How good is God? Superlatively good, wonderfully good.
 2. The second place God goodness is seen in His creation (v. 4-9).
 3. The next section is thanking God for His goodness in salvation (vv. 10-24).
 4. The final section tells how we have benefited by Christ’s work by the application of that work to us by the Holy Spirit consisting of “the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.”
 5. The goodness of God to everyone (v. 25).