

Momentum Tour

Praying Your Friends to Christ

King James Version





Why do we pray?

One of God's great plans for the church is to be a place of prayer. In Mark 11:17, Christ described the temple as a house of prayer for all nations. In the same way, believers are the temple of God both individually and corporately (1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19). God created both the church and His followers to be characterized as a place and people of prayer.

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity" (1 Timothy 2:1-7).

Only God can save man — that's the divine side of salvation. "Come unto the knowledge of the truth" represents the human side. God doesn't save apart from the will of man. God works through man's will by providing faith to respond to the gospel (Ephesians 2:8-9; Philippians 3:12-13).

Why do we need to pray if God is sovereign? He knows everything and is over everything. Maybe because God originally made man to have dominion over all the earth. Man was meant to be God's agent to rule and build His kingdom. Although man fell, that remained God's method on the earth. God will not finish His work without man's prayer.

Ezekiel 22:30-31 says, "And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none. Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord God."

God destroys nations, governments and individuals because of a lack of prayer. God is always looking for people who believe in Him to pray.

We must prioritize prayer. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says, "pray without ceasing" or "constantly pray." We must learn to pray at all times — when we are worried, angry, hungry, sleepy, resting and working. We develop this discipline by learning to bring every thought and activity to God. Prayer is important to God's Kingdom and to us. We must learn to pray at all times.





How do we pray?

ACTS

- A - Adoration**
- C - Confession**
- T - Thanksgiving**
- S - Supplication**

How do you begin your prayers with God? What do you normally say? Do you talk with God or at God? Are your prayers mostly made up of requests?

Our prayers often center around supplication, which means requesting God's help for something. This acrostic for prayer reminds us to first adore God and give thanks to Him before we immediately hop into all of our requests. This model helps ground us in the character and person of God, which can give us hope, comfort and confidence as we pray to Him for our "daily bread" and needs.

As we work through this acrostic, please note that Scripture references are tied to each of these points because ultimately, what is superior to learning this model of prayer is learning to pray Scripture. Reading God's Word and then speaking God's Word back to Him is one of the best ways to engage with God and learn to trust His promises. When we do not know what to pray for, His Word can jumpstart us and guide us to praying in accordance with His will!



Adoration

Adoration is praising and worshiping God. In adoring God we worship the triune God and His infinite perfections. This is a time to marvel that He is the creator and we are the creation.

Deuteronomy 10:17-18

“For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward: he doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment.”

Exodus 34:6-7

“And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children’s children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.”

2 Samuel 7:22

“Wherefore thou art great, O Lord God: for there is none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears.”

Psalms 8:1

“O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.”

Psalms 18:30-31

“As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the Lord is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him. For who is God save the Lord? or who is a rock save our God?”

2 Chronicles 20:6

“O Lord God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?”

Isaiah 46:9-10

“I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.”

Hebrews 1:3-4

“[Jesus], who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high: being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.”

Colossians 1:15-17

“[Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: for by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: and he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”

When we pray, we want to adore and praise God for who He is ... as Jesus prayed, “Our Father which art in heaven; Hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.” These words of Christ in the Lord’s prayer capture a heart that recognizes and adores the greatness of God!



Confession

Confession naturally follows adoration because when we acknowledge the greatness of God, we see how woefully short we fall in obeying Him. Confession is acknowledging and mourning over our sin against God. We confess our rebellion and wickedness to Him.

Psalm 51:1-4

“Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.”

Romans 3:10-12

“There is none righteous, no, not one: there is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.”

Galatians 5:19-21

“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

Colossians 3:5-10

“Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.”

1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Matthew 11:28

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

These verses remind and show the depth of our sin. We can confess to the many sins we have committed against God as we have failed to love Him and love others. Jesus taught us to pray asking God to “forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.” We have to confess our transgressions knowing that God is not a distant God but rather beckons us to confess our sin and come to Him!



Thanksgiving

After we confess our sins to God, we can rejoice and be thankful that He fully forgives us because of Jesus Christ. We can thank God for the many blessings in our life, from our salvation to how He helps us every moment of every day.

1 Chronicles 16:34

“O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

“Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

Philippians 4:6

“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”

Ephesians 1:3-7

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: according as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.”

Psalms 105:1-3

“O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people. Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works. Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord.”

Ephesians 5:18-20

“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

When we give thanks to God we worship Him for His goodness to us in saving and adopting us as sons and daughters. We also thank Him for giving us our daily bread because, if we take the time to reflect throughout the day, we will realize that everything we have received that day has come from God, who is the giver of every good and perfect gift.



Supplication

Supplication is where we ask God for our spiritual and physical needs. This is our time of making requests for God to provide for needs like a job or college admission. This is where we ask God to heal a loved one.

1. Ask for our physical needs.

- a. "Give us this day our daily bread." (Matthew 6:11)
- b. "Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:31-33).

2. Ask for God to strengthen other believers.

- a. We want to ask God to help our friends at church and school to walk in a closer relationship with Him and love Him more deeply. Paul provides for us a perfect prayer to offer up for our believing friends from Colossians 1:9-14:
 - i. "For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for {insert friend's name} and to desire that {insert friend's name} might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that {insert friend's name} might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: in whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins."

3. Prayer for unbelievers

- a. Effective evangelism includes heartfelt prayer for the unsaved.
 - i. Jesus prayed for the lost in John 17:20, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word."
- b. In Matthew 6:9-10, Jesus commands believers to pray for Christ's rule and reign ("Thy Kingdom come") to come in people's lives. The Apostle Paul models and encourages believers to pray for the lost (Romans 10:1-2; 1 Tim. 2:1-4).
 - i. Romans 10:1-2 shows Paul's heartfelt passion to see his fellow Israelites come to Christ when he says, "My heart's desire and my prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved." His passionate praying came before his intentional sharing of the gospel (see verse 2).
 - ii. In 1 Timothy 2:1-4, Paul's words to young Timothy sets the priority of prayer on behalf of the lost when he says "First of all." His words also show the importance of such prayer in fulfilling the Great Commission in any nation (see verses 2-4).
- c. Psalm 126:4-6 teaches passionate prayer for the lost. It is not enough to share the good news: we must also pray that people might open their hearts to the gospel.



Prayer for Evangelism Efforts

In Acts 13:1-4, the early church prayed for and sent Barnabas and Paul on their mission to the Gentiles. The church recognized their dependence upon the power of God to fulfill their mission. In boldness, Paul and Barnabas went. This was largely due to the church's desire to trust God in prayer.

In 2 Thessalonians 3:1, Paul requests prayer for his evangelistic team: "Finally brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you." One reason Paul's ministry was so fruitful was because of the prayer support he often asked for and received from believers (see Eph. 6:18-20; 1 Thess. 5:25; Col. 4:12-13).

Prayer for Open Eyes

In 2 Corinthians 4:4, Paul stated, "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

Only through God opening their eyes and minds to the gospel will the unsaved see and hear the good news of Jesus Christ. We need to pray for them and appeal to God for this to happen.

Intercessory prayer that is intentional and continuous can see God remove the scales of blindness over their eyes and help them to see themselves as God sees them: lost and in need of a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Our God is sovereign and desires for all persons to come to Jesus Christ. He can engineer circumstances to help convince them that their number one need is spiritual, and the answer is found in Jesus Christ alone.

God wants all people to turn from living their own way, doing their own thing, and come to Him. 2 Peter 3:9 says, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

Therefore, we need to pray that God will engineer circumstances in their life that will show them their deep and desperate need for Jesus Christ.



Pray for God to send someone to tell them about Jesus Christ.

As you pray for them to hear about Jesus Christ, be willing to tell them yourself. In fact, ask God for the open door to share the good news of Jesus Christ with them and others. You might be the "someone" that others are praying for to tell their friend or family member about Christ. Be faithful to ask God to use you to share Jesus with others.

GOD'S HEART

This pattern of prayer may help you pray evangelistically for others:

- G** = Pray believers, beginning with yourself, will appreciate **God's grace**. When we really appreciate what God has done for us, we naturally want to tell others about Him. That's why new believers are often most willing to do evangelism — their salvation is so fresh, they almost can't avoid telling the story. We stop evangelizing when we take grace for granted.
- O** = Pray for believers to live in **obedience** to God. We can't change another person's heart. Only God can do that. If we're not walking in obedience to God, our disobedience hinders our prayers (Isa. 59:1-2). Abiding in Christ really does matter when we pray (John 15:7).
- D** = Pray believers will **decide** to tell others. Evangelism doesn't just happen. Telling the story of Jesus is a choice, an action, a decision. Many believers know they should do evangelism but decide not to do it. Pray that won't happen.
- S** = Pray that believers will **speak** the gospel fearlessly and clearly. In fact, that's the way Paul taught us to pray in Ephesians 6:19-20 and Colossians 4:2-4. If Paul needed others praying for him to do evangelism, how much more do we need that kind of support?
- H** = Pray for nonbelievers to have a receptive **heart** to the gospel. Apart from Christ, all people are dead in their sin (Eph. 2:1), held under the devil's trap (Acts 26:18). Only God can make our hearts open to the good news.
- E** = Pray their spiritual **eyes** will be opened. Non-believers are blinded to the truth of the gospel (2 Cor. 4:3-4), and the "god of this age" does all he can to keep them in darkness. Nothing we do apart from the power of God can open their blinded minds.
- A** = Pray they will have God's **attitude** toward sin. We're all sinners (Rom. 3:23), and we must see our sin as God sees it — as wrong against a holy God.
- R** = Pray non-believers will **repent** and believe. The message of Christ is clear: we must turn from our sin and trust Christ for salvation (Mark 1:15). God gets the glory as He frees nonbelievers from their sin (Col. 1:13).
- T** = Pray their lives will be **transformed**. Only God can change a man. When God does that, the non-believing world takes note.

Find someone to pray for you to speak the gospel boldly and clearly. Are you praying for other believers to be evangelistic? Are you praying for non-believers? Are you asking God to save and transform a specific person?

Even if you've been praying for someone for many years, don't give up. God still responds to the prayers of His people. That's His heart.





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