

# WORD BASICS

## PRAYER

### 1. HOW TO PRAY:

Lk.11:1-4 Lord, teach us to pray...when ye pray, say, Our Father which art in Heaven... (See also Mat.6:9-13)

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### A. PRAISE & THANK THE LORD BEFORE PETITIONING HIM:

Psa.95:2 Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving  
Psa.100:4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, & into His courts with praise: be thankful...& bless His name  
Phi.4:6 With thanksgiving let your requests be made known

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### B. IF YOU HAVE THE GIFT OF TONGUES, PRAY & PRAISE IN IT:

1Cor.14:2,4 He that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh...unto God (&) edifieth himself  
Rom.8:26,27 The Spirit...maketh intercession for us with groanings  
Eph.6:18 Praying always with...supplication in the Spirit  
Jude 20 Building up your...faith, praying in the Holy Ghost  
1Cor.14:39 Forbid not to speak with tongues

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### C. BE SPECIFIC & ASK FOR WHAT YOU NEED:

1Ki.3:5,9,10 [God told Solomon,] Ask what I shall give thee  
Mat.7:7,8 Ask, & it shall be given you; seek, & ye shall find  
Mat.21:22 Whatsoever ye ask in prayer...ye shall receive  
Jn.16:24 Ask, & ye shall receive, that your joy may be full  
Phi.4:6 Let your requests be made known unto God  
Jam.4:2b Ye have not, because ye ask not

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### D. PRAY TO THE FATHER IN JESUS' NAME:

Jn.14:13,14 Whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do  
Jn.16:23 Whatsoever ye...ask Father in My name, He will give  
(See also Jn.15:16b; 16:26; Eph.2:18.)

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### E. PRAYER ALSO INCLUDES YOU LISTENING TO GOD:

1Sam.3:9,10 If He call thee...say, "Speak, Lord; for Thy servant heareth"  
Gen.24:63 Isaac went out to meditate in the field at eventide  
Num.9:8 Stand still, & I will hear what the Lord will command

Psa.4:3,4 Lord will hear...commune with your heart...& be still  
Psa.46:10 Be still, & know that I am God  
(See also Eccl.5:1; Zeph.1:7; Zech.2:13.)

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#### F. LISTEN BY MEDITATING ON GOD'S WORD:

Josh.1:8 Thou shalt meditate therein (the law) day & night  
Psa.1:2 In His law doth he meditate day & night  
Psa.119:148 [Before] the night watches...I meditate in Thy Word  
1Tim.4:15 Meditate on these things; give thyself wholly to them

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#### G. BE DILIGENT TO PRAY, DON'T BE LAZY:

Isa.64:7 There is none that calleth upon Thy name, that stirreth himself to take hold of Thee  
Dan.9:13 All this evil is come upon us: yet made we not our prayer  
Jon.1:6 What meanest thou, O sleeper? Arise, call upon God  
Lk.22:46 Why sleep ye? Rise and pray  
Lk.18:1 Men ought always to pray, & not to faint

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## 2. CONDITIONS TO GETTING PRAYER ANSWERED:

#### A. PRAY IN FAITH:

Mat.21:21,22 Have faith...doubt not...whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive  
Mk.11:24 When ye pray, believe that ye receive & ye shall have  
Rom.4:21 Being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform  
Heb.11:6 He that cometh to God must believe that He is  
Jam.1:5-7 Let him ask in faith, nothing wavering  
(See also Mat.17:18-20; Lk.7:1-10.)

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#### B. OBEY GOD & DO HIS WILL:

Jn.9:31 If any man...doeth God's will, him He heareth  
Jn.15:7 If ye abide in Me, & My Words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, & it shall be done unto you  
1Jn.3:22 We ask, we receive, because we keep His (commands)  
(See also Isa.58:6-9a)

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#### C. SUBMIT YOURSELF TO GOD & PRAY ACCORDING TO HIS WILL:

Psa.143:10 Teach me to do Thy will; for Thou art my God  
Mat.6:10 Thy will be done in earth, as it is in Heaven  
Lk.22:42 Nevertheless not My will, but Thine (God's), be done

Jn.5:30 [Jesus:] I seek not Mine Own will, but will of (God)  
1Jn.5:14 If we ask anything according to His will, He heareth

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#### D. PRAY HUMBLY:

Dan.9:18b We do not present our supplications...(because of) our righteousnesses, but for Thy great mercies  
Lk.18:10-14 The publican (said), God be merciful to me a sinner  
Jam.4:6 God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble

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### 3. PRAYER PROMISES:

2Pet.1:4 Are given unto us exceeding great & precious promises

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#### A. REMIND GOD OF HIS PROMISES WHEN PRAYING:

Gen.32:6-12 Jacob was greatly afraid & distressed [& prayed, reminding God of His promises of protection]  
Neh.1:4-11 [Nehemiah prayed:] Remember...the word that Thou commandest Thy servant Moses

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#### B. SOME PROMISES TO CLAIM IN PRAYER:

Psa.37:4,5 Delight thyself in Lord: & He shall give thee desires  
Isa.65:24 Before they call, I will answer; & while they are yet speaking, I will hear  
Jer.33:3 Call unto Me, & I will answer thee & shew thee great & mighty things  
Jn.15:7 Ask what ye will, & it shall be done unto you  
Jn.15:16b Whatsoever ye ask in My name...[God will] give it  
Psa.81:10b Open thy mouth wide, & I will fill it

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#### C. THE LORD PROMISES TO HEAR PRAYER:

2Sam.22:7 In my distress I called...He did hear my voice  
Psa.34:15,17 The righteous cry, & the Lord heareth  
Psa.72:12 He shall deliver the needy when he crieth  
Psa.91:15 He shall call upon Me, & I will answer him

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#### D. GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR THOSE WHO SEEK HIM:

2Chr.26:5 As long as he sought the Lord, God made him prosper  
2Chr.31:21 He (sought God) with all his heart, & prospered

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### 4. HOW NOT TO PRAY:

#### A. DON'T BE DISOBEDIENT:

Deut.1:43,45      Ye would not hear, but rebelled against (Word) of the Lord...the Lord would not hearken to your voice

Deut.3:23-27      [Moses' request to enter Canaan denied.--Num.20:12]

1Sam.28:5,6      When Saul enquired of the Lord, the Lord answered him not [See the reason in 1Sam.28:15-19]

Isa.1:15            When ye make many prayers, I will not hear

Mic.3:4            Then shall they cry unto the Lord, but He will not hear... they have behaved themselves ill (See also 1Sam.13:8-14 & 14:37; Hos.5;6.)

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#### B. DON'T BE DISBELIEVING:

Job 9:16            If I called, & He answered me; yet would I not believe He had hearkened unto my voice

Mat.17:19,20a      Why could not we cast him out? Because of your unbelief

Heb.11:6            Without faith is it impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is

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#### C. DON'T HARBOUR UNREPENTED SIN IN YOUR HEART:

Psa.66:18,19      If I regard iniquity in my heart, Lord will not hear

Isa.59:1,2          Your sins have hid His face...that He will not hear

Jam.5:16            Confess your faults...& pray one for another

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#### D. DON'T DOUBT & DISOBEY THE WORD:

Pro.1:24-28        Then shall they call upon Me, but I will not answer

Pro.28:9            He that turneth ear...his prayer shall be abomination

Zech.7:12,13        Therefore...they cried, & I would not hear

Jam.1:5-7            Let not that man [who doubts] think he shall receive anything of the Lord

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#### E. DON'T HOLD RESENTMENT OR "OUGHTS" IN YOUR HEART:

Mk.11:25            When ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought

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#### F. DON'T HAVE SELFISH MOTIVES:

Jam.4:3            Ye ask, & receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts

Deut.23:4,5        They hired against thee Balaam...to curse thee. [But] the Lord would not hearken unto Balaam

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#### G. DON'T PRAY IN PRIDE, BUT SINCERELY & HUMBLY:

Mat.6:5,6          Not be as hypocrites (who) love to pray [publicly]

Lk.18:10-14        God, I thank Thee, that I am not as other men are

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#### H. DON'T PRAY LONG, REPETITIVE PRAYERS:

Eccl.5:2            God is in Heaven...let thy words be few  
Mat.6:7,8         When ye pray, use not vain repetitions  
Mat.23:14         Woe unto you (who) for a pretence make long prayer  
Josh.7:6,10       [God told Joshua to stop praying & get up]

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#### I. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DON'T PRAY:

Jam.4:2            Ye have not, because ye ask not  
                          (See also Isa.64:7)

#### 5. PRIVATE PRAYER & UNITED PRAYER WITH OTHERS:

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##### A. PRIVATE PRAYER:

Mat.6:6            When thou prayest, enter into thy closet...in secret  
Mk.1:35            He...departed into a solitary place, & there prayed  
Mk.6:46            He sent them away, He departed to a mountain to pray  
Lk.5:16            He withdrew Himself into the wilderness, & prayed

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##### B. UNITED PRAYER:

Mat.18:19,20      Where two or three are gathered together in My name  
Acts 1:13-15       These all [120 people] continued with one accord in prayer...in an upper room  
Acts 4:23-31       [After a beating, Peter & John held a prayer meeting]  
Acts 12:12         House of Mary...many were gathered together praying

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##### C. "WATCHING" IN PRAYER:

1Sam.15:11        It grieved Samuel; & he cried unto the Lord all night  
Mat.26:40,41      Could ye not watch with Me one hour? Watch & pray  
Lk.6:12            He (Jesus) continued all night in prayer to God  
Acts 12:5          Peter was kept in prison...prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for  
                          him  
Eph.6:18           Praying always...& watching thereunto

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#### 6. WHEN TO PRAY:

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##### A. BE IN A CONSTANT ATTITUDE OF PRAYER:

1Chr.16:11        Seek the Lord...seek His face continually  
Pro.3:6            In all thy ways acknowledge Him, & He shall direct  
Lk.18:1            Men ought always to pray

Lk.21:36a Watch ye therefore, & pray always  
1Thes.5:17 Pray without ceasing (See also Eph.6:18)

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#### B. PRAY IN TIME OF SPECIAL NEED:

Psa.50:15 Call upon Me in the day of trouble  
Psa.27:8 When Thou saidst, "Seek ye My face"  
Psa.107:19 They cry unto the Lord in their trouble, & He saveth  
Heb.4:16 Let us come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may...find...help in time of need  
Jam.5:13 Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray  
(See also 2Chr.14:11,12; Psa.34:4,6.)

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#### C. MORNING PRAYER:

Psa.5:3 In the morning will I direct my prayer unto Thee  
Psa.63:1 O God, Thou art my God; early will I seek Thee  
Psa.119:147 I [rose before] the dawning of the morning, & cried  
Pro.8:17 Those that seek Me early shall find Me  
Mk.1:35 In the morning, rising up before day, He...prayed

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#### D. EVENING PRAYER:

Mk.6:46,47 (Jesus) departed to mountain to pray...even was come  
Gen.24:63 Isaac went out to meditate in the field at eventide  
Psa.55:17 Evening, & morning, & at noon, will I pray  
Dan.6:10 Daniel...kneeled three times a day, & prayed

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#### E. PRAYER IN THE NIGHT:

Lam.2:19 Arise, cry out in the night...pour out thine heart like water before the face of the Lord  
Psa.42:8 In the night His song shall be with me, & my prayer  
Psa.63:5b,6 When I...meditate on Thee in the night watches  
Isa.26:9a With my soul have I desired Thee in the night  
Lk.6:12 (Jesus) continued all night in prayer to God  
Acts 16:25 At midnight Paul & Silas prayed, & sang praises  
(See also Psa.4:4; 119:55,62.)

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### 7. WHOLEHEARTED DESPERATE PRAYER:

#### A. STIR YOURSELF UP; CALL ON GOD WHOLEHEARTEDLY:

1Sam.15:11,16 It grieved Samuel; & he cried unto the Lord all night  
Isa.64:7a None...stirreth up himself to take hold of Thee

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| Jer.29:13 | Ye shall seek Me, & find Me, when ye search for Me with <u>all</u> your heart (See also Deut.4:29) |
| Lam.2:19  | Arise, cry out...pour out thine heart like <u>water</u>  |
| Lk.22:44  | Being in an agony, He (Jesus) prayed more earnestly  |
| Heb.4:16  | Let us therefore come <u>boldly</u> ...in time of need   |
| Heb.5:7   | (Jesus) offered up prayers...with strong crying & tears  |
| Jam.5:16b | Effectual fervent prayer...availeth much<br>(See Psa.61:1,2; 119:10.)                              |

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#### B. PRAYING FERVENTLY & DESPERATELY FOR OTHERS:

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| Rom.15:30,31 | Strive (agonise) together with me in our prayers to God  |
| Col.4:12     | Epaphrus...always labouring fervently for you in prayers |

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#### C. DON'T GIVE UP; BE PERSISTENT:

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| Gen.18:23-32 | [Abraham repeatedly asks God to spare Sodom for the sake of the righteous. God agrees, if there are 10] |
| Gen.32:24-28 | [Jacob refuses to let angel go until he blesses him]  |
| Lk.11:5-10   | Because of his importunity (insistence) he will give  |
| Lk.18:1-8a   | [Widow & unjust judge] Lest by her continual coming   |
| Rom.12:12    | Continuing instant (steadfast, persevering) in prayer   |
| Eph.6:18     | Praying always...watching thereunto with <u>perseverance</u>  |
| Jam.5:16b-18 | The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man (See 1Ki.18:2,41-45 )                                  |

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#### D. CHALLENGE GOD TO KEEP HIS WORD & ANSWER PRAYER:

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| 2Ki.2:14   | [Elisha challenges:] "Where is the God of Elijah?"                              |
| Isa.45:11b | Concerning the work of My hands <u>command</u> ye Me<br>(See also Exo.32:11-14) |

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#### E. SOMETIMES YOU CAN CHANGE GOD'S MIND THROUGH PRAYER:

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| Gen.19:17-21 | I will not overthrow this city (Zoar), for the which thou hast spoken                        |
| Exo.32:9-14  | Moses besought the Lord...& the Lord repented of the evil which He [had] thought to do       |
| 2Ki.20:1-6   | [King Hezekiah was told he would die, but when he prayed, God changed His mind & healed him] |
| Amos 7:1-6   | The Lord repented for this: This also shall not be   |
| Jon.3:4-10   | [Nineveh cried out & repented, so God spared it]   |

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#### F. REPEATING YOUR DESPERATE PRAYER:

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| 1Ki.18:42,43 | Elijah...put his face between his knees...Go 7 times |
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Mat.26:44 (Jesus) prayed the third time, saying the same words

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#### G. FASTING & PRAYER:

Ezra 8:23 So we fasted & besought our God for this: & He was intreated of us  
Joel 2:12 Turn ye to Me with all your heart, & with fasting  
Mat.17:21 This kind goeth not out but by prayer & fasting  
(See also Deut.9:9,18; Acts 13:2,3; 1Cor.7:5.)

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#### 8. OTHER POINTS ON PRAYER:

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##### A. JESUS MEDIATES & PRAYS FOR US:

Rom.8:34 Christ...Who is at the right hand of God...maketh intercession for us  
Heb.7:25 He ever liveth to make intercession for [us]  
(See also Lk.22:32; Jn.17:9.)

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##### B. THE HOLY SPIRIT PRAYS FOR US:

Rom.8:26,27 (The Spirit) maketh intercession for the saints

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##### C. BE THANKFUL TO THE LORD FOR ANSWERING PRAYER:

Psa.116:1,2,7 I love the Lord, because He hath heard my (prayers)  
(See also Psa.30:1-4; 66:16,17,19,20.)

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##### D. PRAYER IS PRECIOUS:

Psa.141:2 Let my prayer be set before Thee as incense  
Pro.15:8b The prayer of the upright is His delight  
Rev.5:8 Golden vials full of odours are the prayers of saints (See also Rev.8:3)

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##### E. GIVING THANKS BEFORE EATING:

1Sam.9:13 People will not eat till he...bless the sacrifice  
Mat.14:19 Looking up to Heaven, He blessed & brake...the loaves  
Mat.26:26 Jesus took bread, & blessed it, & brake it, & gave  
Mk.8:6 He (Jesus) took the seven loaves, & gave thanks  
Acts 27:35 He (Paul) took bread, & gave thanks to God  
1Tim.4:3-5 [Food] sanctified (cleansed) by prayer

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#### 9. WAYS GOD ANSWERS PRAYER:

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##### A. ANSWER TO PRAYER GREATER THAN REQUEST:



1Ki.3:7-14 [Solomon prayed for wisdom & God granted him much more]  
Eph.3:20 Able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask  
Acts 12:1-16 [Church prayed for Peter, but not quite expecting his miraculous release from prison  
(vs.15,16)]

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#### B. ANSWER TO PRAYER DELAYED (IT TRIES OUR FAITH):

Job 30:20 [Job's prayer not answered immediately]  
Psa.40:1 I waited patiently for the Lord, & He...heard my cry  
Jer.42:4,7 [Jeremiah's prayer answered 10 days after he prayed]  
Lam.3:25,26 The Lord is good unto them that wait for Him, to the soul that seeketh Him (See also  
Psa.62:1)  
Dan.10:2,12,13 [The answer to Daniel's prayer was delayed for 21 days]  
Lk.18:7,8 [Answer] His elect...though He bear long with them  
Heb.10:36 Patience...after ye have done will of God, receive  
Rev.6:10,11 How long, O Lord? [Answer:] Rest yet a little season

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#### C. ANSWER TO PRAYER DIFFERENT FROM REQUEST:

Deut.3:23-27 [Moses allowed to view the promised land, not enter]  
Jn.11:1-3,6 [Jesus is asked to heal Lazarus, but lets him die, then resurrects him] (See  
Jn.11:14,15,32,37,43-45)  
2Cor.12:7-9 [Paul prays for healing; instead is given grace to bear his affliction]  
(See also 2Ki.5:9-13)

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#### D. BEWARE ABOUT INSISTING THAT GOD GRANT YOUR REQUEST:

Psa.106:15 He gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul  
(See 1Sam.8:4-22; 12:1,13,16-19 re: asking for a king)