

What is prayer?

The most basic definition of prayer is “talking to God.” Prayer is not meditation or passive reflection; it is direct address to God. It is the communication of the human soul with the Lord who created the soul. Prayer is the primary way for the believer in Jesus Christ to communicate with God and to fellowship with God.

Prayer can be audible or silent, private or public, formal or informal. All prayer must be offered in faith ([James 1:6](#)), in the name of the Lord Jesus ([John 16:23](#)), and in the power of the Holy Spirit ([Romans 8:26](#)).

Prayer is described in the Bible as seeking God’s favor ([Exodus 32:11](#)), pouring out one’s soul to the Lord ([1 Samuel 1:15](#)), crying out to heaven ([2 Chronicles 32:20](#)), drawing near to God ([Psalm 73:28, KJV](#)), and kneeling before the Father ([Ephesians 3:14](#)).

Paul wrote, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” ([Philippians 4:6-7](#)). Worry about nothing; pray about everything.

Everything? Yes, God wants us to talk with Him about everything. How often should we pray? The biblical answer is “pray without ceasing” ([1 Thessalonians 5:17](#)). We should keep a running conversation going with God all day long. Some find the [ACTS formula of prayer](#) helpful, but there is really no special formula for [how to pray](#) in the Bible. We should just do it. We can pray under any and all circumstances. Prayer develops our relationship with God and demonstrates our trust and utter dependence upon Him.

Prayer is the Christian’s way of communicating with God. We pray to

praise God and thank Him and tell Him how much we love Him. We pray to enjoy His presence and tell Him what is going on in our lives. We pray to [make requests](#) and seek guidance and ask for wisdom. God loves this exchange with His children, just as we love the exchange we have with our children. Fellowship with God is the heart of prayer. Too often we lose sight of how simple prayer is really supposed to be.

When we make petitions to God, we let God know exactly where we stand and what we would like to see happen. In our prayers, we must admit that God is greater than we are and ultimately knows what is best in any given situation ([Romans 11:33-36](#)). God is good and asks us to trust Him. In prayer, we say, essentially, “Not my will, but your will be done.” The key to answered prayer is praying according to the will of God and in accordance with His Word. Prayer is not seeking our own will but seeking to align ourselves with the will of God more fully ([1 John 5:14-15](#); [James 4:3](#)).

The Bible contains many examples of prayer and plenty of exhortations to pray (see [Luke 18:1](#); [Romans 12:12](#); and [Ephesians 6:18](#)). God’s house is to be a house of prayer ([Mark 11:17](#)), and God’s people are to be people of prayer: “Dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God’s love” ([Jude 1:20-21](#)).

TYPES OF PRAYERS

THE PRAYER OF AGREEMENT

THE PRAYER OF FAITH (PETITION)

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION AND DEDICATION

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP

PRAYER IN INTERCESSION

PRAYER OF BINDING AND LOOSING

THE PRAYER OF AGREEMENT By Kenneth Copeland

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The prayer of agreement when prayed according to Matthew 18:18-20 will cover every circumstance in life:

Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Let me use finances to illustrate. The first thing to do is agree with the Word. Read the scriptures and pray. Gloria and I sometimes write down our agreements like this:

“We hereby agree, according to Philippians 4:19 and Matthew 18:19 as follows: ‘Father, we see in Your Word that You will supply all our needs according to Your riches in glory. We are setting ourselves in agreement that our financial need is met according to Your Word. We believe we receive (be specific) _____. We establish this agreement, in Jesus’ Name. Amen.’”

Amen means “So be it.” As far as we are concerned, the matter is closed. We just thank God from that point forward. We know if we want results we must not waver. To waver is to doubt.

If Satan brings doubt, we simply speak to him in the authority of Jesus’ Name and say, “Don’t bring us your lies. Not only is it written in God’s Word, but we have agreed. We have written it down.” As far as we are concerned, the need is met. There is no doubt about it because we have agreed according to the Word of God. Consequently, our confession and actions will be in line with what we have established as truth.

There have been times when we have wavered, so we take it to God and receive forgiveness for unbelief, reinforce our original decree and go at it again. We all make mistakes in the walk of faith. The important thing is to keep walking. If you miss it, go at it again. The biggest mistake of all is to become discouraged and quit before you receive your answer.

I challenge you to write down your agreements. Seeing it in black and white on paper will make a difference! You will be more likely to line up your confession and your actions with your agreement.

Jesus said that if any two on earth agree, He would be in the midst of that agreement to see that it comes to pass. You are on earth so you qualify. If you agree with another believer as touching anything that lines up with the Word of God, He is there in your midst to carry it out.

Jesus wants you to agree and will see to it that it comes to pass. The word agree is translated in The Amplified Bible as “agree and harmonize together or make a symphony together.” The word symphony caught my attention one time, so I looked it up and found that it means “all available instruments in harmony.” You must have your spirit, mind and actions in agreement with the Word.

Agreeing spiritually is to agree with the Word of God. Make up your mind God’s Word is true and that it will come to pass.

Secondly, be strong in your mind. That is Satan’s battleground. You must control your thoughts. Writing down your agreement will be beneficial for this reason. It will keep it before your eyes so when your mind tries to change directions, control it with your agreement on God’s Word. Do not tie God’s hands. Allow Him to work.

You have agreed, spirit and soul (mind). Then your actions must come in line. If finances are what you agreed on, expect the money to come in. This is part of being in agreement. You cannot agree in prayer about something, then act the opposite and expect it to come to pass. If you do, your actions will eventually take over your thinking.

Agreement with the Word and another believer are not the only things involved in this kind of prayer. Agreement is also harmony.

Harmony is extremely important. When speaking of prayer in Mark 11:25-26, Jesus said, “And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.” This is vital in your prayer life. You must forgive everyone who has offended you. Jesus did not say, “Think about it for six weeks and then forgive if or when you feel better.” He said, forgive when you pray.

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. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors” (Matthew 6:9-12). He put a condition on forgiveness. The condition is “I don’t expect to be forgiven until I forgive.” He displayed the kind of discipline the believer should exercise when he is praying.

How important is this? In Galatians 5:6, the Bible says faith works by love. If you are operating with an unforgiving heart, your prayer life will be paralyzed.

The Word says we know we have the petitions we have desired of Him, if we do the things that are pleasing in His sight (1 John 3:22). Put these scriptures together and you quickly see unforgiveness would actually ruin the whole prayer system.

Agreement makes prayer work. You can experience a place of agreement with God’s Word, and harmony that will produce power, as you forgive and agree with another believer. You can affect governments, families and the lives of others. You can change your financial situation, affect your church and your pastor with the power of prayer. Find someone who can agree with you according to the Word of God.

The same principle works the other way. If you are in disagreement, the door is open for Satan to come in. “For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work” (James 3:16).

In Matthew 18:21, Peter asked Jesus, “Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus replied, “I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

How many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus replied, “I tell you, not seven times, but Until seventy times seven” (verse 22). Forgive because God said to, and not because you feel like it.

Build your home, your church and every other area of your life on the unselfish love of God. Selfishness has never built anything it did not destroy. But love never fails. The love of God is the very center of the family of God because God is love. You are His very own child, born again with His love nature inside you.

Don’t let that love lie dormant. Cast down selfishness and let loose the love of God in you. You cannot fail when love is in dominion.

When you forgive and reach for harmony, you come to a place where you have the spiritual awareness to perceive the closeness of God. Jesus said if you get into harmony and agree together, He would be in the midst of you. God wants to be involved with you.

When you are in harmony and agreement with those around you, you will step into a deeper, more personal fellowship with God. He becomes real and vital to you. Fellowship with your heavenly Father is one of the greatest things you will ever have in your Christian walk! It causes a confidence and an assurance deep down in your heart. You know your prayers are answered because you have conformed yourself to His will. As you forgive, the joy that comes through answered prayer will become your own personal experience. Jesus said, "Ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full" (John 16:24).