

# Prayer—Its Principles, Purpose and Prerequisites

*Stanley Toussaint*

## I. Introduction.

A. Prayer is far more than thanksgiving or adoration.

B. What is prayer?

## II. Words for prayer.

A. *Prosuchomai* (ask). (Mark 11:24)

B. *Deomai* (wishing or asking). (I Thessalonians 3:10)

C. *Aiteo* (ask). (James 1:5)

D. *Erotao* (ask) (John 14:16)

E. *Entugchao* (makes intercession—asks on behalf of someone else). (Romans 8:27)

F. *Parakaleo* (seeking, asking). (II Corinthians 12:8)

G. *Hikatera* (supplication). (Hebrews 5:7)

H. Prayer is “asking” God for something. The Lord’s Prayer consists of requests. (Matthew 6)

I. Thanksgiving can come alongside prayer, but it is not prayer. (Philippians 4)

J. Prayer is asking.

## III. The purpose of prayer.

A. Prayer is not to get something.

B. Prayer is to magnify God and show off what He is like. (John 14:13)

## IV. Prerequisites to prayer.

A. The God-ward side.

1. It is to be addressed to God the Father not the Spirit or Jesus. (Matthew 6, Ephesians 3:16)

2. Prayer is to be in the name of the Son. This means to pray in the authority of Jesus. (John 14:13, 15:16, 16:23, Philippians 2)

3. Prayer is to be empowered by the Spirit. (Jude 20, Ephesians 6:18)

B. The man-ward side.

1. Confession of sin. (Psalm 66:18)
2. Submit to the Word of God. (John 15:7)
3. Belief that God can do something in some instances and that God will do something in other instances. (Mark 11:24, Matthew 8, Daniel 9:2)

**Application questions:**

1. How would you respond to someone who says that prayer is an act of praise? Explain.

---

---

2. Why does the speaker say one should always pray to the Father?

---

---

3. In which man-ward condition would you like to grow? What is something practical that you can do this week to grow in this area? Explain.

---

---