

Pray First (Teach Us To Pray)

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 The Voice (VOICE) ¹⁶ Celebrate always, ¹⁷ pray constantly, and ¹⁸ give thanks to God no matter what circumstances you find yourself in. (This is God's will for all of you in Jesus the Anointed.)

Prayer should be our first response, not our last resort.

2 Chronicles 7:13-22 The Voice (VOICE) ¹³ If I close up the heavens and their rain and send any of the disasters you described—drought, locusts, pestilence—to ravish the land and people; ¹⁴ and My people (who are known by My name) humbly pray, follow My commandments, and abandon any actions or thoughts that might lead to further sinning, then I shall hear their prayers from My house in heaven, I shall forgive their sins, and I shall save their land from the disasters.

Teach us to pray.

Luke 11:1-13 The Voice (VOICE) ¹¹ Another time Jesus was praying, and when He finished, one of His disciples approached Him. Disciple: Teacher, would You teach us Your way of prayer?

Matthew 6:9-13 The Voice (VOICE) ⁹ Your prayers, rather, should be simple, like this: Our Father in heaven, let Your name remain holy. Bring about Your kingdom. Manifest Your will here on earth, as it is manifest in heaven. ¹¹ Give us each day that day's bread—no more, no less—¹² And forgive us our debts as we forgive those who owe us something. ¹³ Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [But let Your kingdom be, and let it be powerful and glorious forever. Amen.]^[a]

1. Connect with God relationally.

Our Father in Heaven

Romans 8:15 The Voice (VOICE) ¹⁵ You see, you have not received a spirit that returns you to slavery, so you have nothing to fear. The Spirit you have received adopts you and welcomes you into God's own family. That's why we call out to Him, "Abba! Father!" as we would address a loving daddy.

2. Worship His Name.

Hallowed be Your Name

Proverbs 18:10 The Voice (VOICE) ¹⁰ The Eternal is known to be like a sturdy watchtower; those who do right flee to Him for protection.

3. Pray His agenda first.

Your Kingdom come; Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Matthew 6:33 The Voice (VOICE) ³³ Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and then all these things will be given to you too.

4. Depend on Him for Everything!

Give us this day our daily bread

Psalms 121:1-2 The Voice (VOICE) **A song for those journeying to worship.** ¹ I look up at the vast size of the mountains—from where will my help come in times of trouble? ² The Eternal Creator of heaven and earth and these mountains will send the help I need.

5. Get your heart right with God & people.

Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors

1 John 1:9 The Voice (VOICE) ⁹ But if we own up to our sins, God shows that He is faithful and just by forgiving us of our sins and purifying us from the pollution of all the bad things we have done.

6. Engage in spiritual warfare.

Do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from the evil one

Ephesians 6:12 The Voice (VOICE) ¹² *We're not waging war against enemies of flesh and blood alone. No, this fight is against tyrants, against authorities, against supernatural powers and demon princes that slither in the darkness of this world, and against wicked spiritual armies that lurk about in heavenly places.*

7. Express faith in God's ability.

For yours is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever.

Jeremiah 32:17 The Voice (VOICE) ¹⁷ *"Eternal Lord, with Your outstretched arm and Your enormous power You created the heavens and the earth. Nothing is too difficult for You.*

Revelation 5:13 The Voice (VOICE) ¹³ *Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and beneath the earth and in the sea and all things in them echoing the messengers. **Every Creature:** To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb. Be blessing and honor and glory and power Throughout the ages.*