

CHAPTER

4

# prayer

*Citipointe*  
CHURCH

Christian Foundation Series  
[citipointechurch.com](http://citipointechurch.com)

# prayer

Albert Einstein, the man whose brilliant brain was so great that his surname is now used as a synonym for 'genius', when asked towards the end of his life what scientific area was left to research, Einstein answered . . .

**“Prayer. Somebody must find out about prayer.”**

Good advice . . .

A Christian without prayer is like lungs without breath, like a sail without wind, like a phone without reception. Prayer is essential, because it is our line of communication with God.

Prayer is meant to be more than a desperate plea for help when things go horribly wrong. Instead prayer should be a part of a Christian's everyday life because it's designed to be continual dialogue with God.

- Prayer builds rich relationship with God.
- Prayer exalts God above circumstances in your life.
- Prayer can make impossible things possible.

*Believe in your heart and you shall receive whatever you are believing for in prayer.*

*Matthew 21:22*

So, what do you talk with the Creator of the universe about?

How do you strike up a conversation with God?

Jesus said:

*This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'*

*Matthew 6:9-13*

Each line of this prayer reveals the kind of conversation that we can have with God.

The first lesson of Jesus' teaching on prayer is to understand who you are addressing and the way in which you are to approach him . . .

## **'Our Father'**

Our conversation with God should begin in such a way that we would approach a Loving Father.

Regardless of what your earthly father was like, your heavenly father is perfect. He can be trusted, He will look after you. He will never leave you.

He is revealed in scripture as loving, kind, strong, dependable, and is described as:

*. . . Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*Isaiah 9:6*

*. . . A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows . . .*

*Psalms 68:4*

# prayer

*See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!*

*1 John 3:1*

This Father, to whom you are praying is completely committed, entirely devoted and whole-heartedly in love with you . . . His precious and chosen child. THAT's the confidence we should have when approaching God.

## Hallowed be your name

An unusual turn of phrase, but basically it means: Your name is Holy / Your name is great / Your name is worthy of praise and honour. Praising God, like prayer, helps us to shift our attention away from our problems and on to our God. When you praise God, He doesn't get any bigger, He gets bigger in you. Praising God doesn't make Him any bigger, but it does make Him bigger in you.

God doesn't need our praise, but we need His **presence**.

Here are some other lessons we can learn from Jesus' teaching on prayer?

*10 your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

1. God wants us to pray for His Kingdom (rulership) and will (desires) to come to pass on the Earth.

*11 Give us today our daily bread.*

2. God wants us to talk to him about our needs and desires and to depend on Him to meet them.

*12 Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

3. God wants us to talk to Him about his forgiveness of us, and our forgiveness of others. He wants health and wholeness in our relationships.

*13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.*

4. God wants us to talk to Him about our temptations and the influence of the devil.

Your Heavenly Father is always ready to hear from you. He longs for relationship with you; that's why He sent His Son. Reach for him in prayer, begin to talk with Him about your life, your situation, your hopes and dreams, your fears and disappointments, and the desires of your heart.

He will hear you . . .

*This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.*

*1 John 5:14-15 (NIV)*

Speak up, be real, be a person of prayer and watch as your Father moves powerfully and miraculously on your behalf.

Step out and discover for yourself, because after all . . .

**“Somebody must find out about prayer . . .”**

prayer

---



TO UNMISTAKABLY  
**INFLUENCE** OUR  
**WORLD FOR GOOD**  
AND FOR **GOD**



Christian Foundation Series  
citipointechurch.com



# what's next

