

Connecting with God

“And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.” (Luke 11:1)

Introduction:

The disciples were so in awe watching the Son of God talk to God the Father that they desired to have the master teacher Jesus Christ teach them to pray. This isn't really the Lord's prayer – but the model prayer (see *Matthew 6:9*). Jesus Christ taught them to pray. The Bible teaches us to pray **to** the Father, **through** the Son, **by** the Spirit (*Ephesians 2:18*). How can we pray effectively? Let's use the acrostic of P.R.A.Y. for 4 prayer themes:

“Most people have great desire to pray but are not as planned as their desire.”

P.R.A.Y.

Praise – *Matthew 6:9-10* “Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”

1. Praise is a command of God.

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord. Psalm 150:6. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise... Psalm 100:4.

2. Praise is adoration of God.

It is always active, not passive. It is always assertive, not presumptuous. It is always open, not secretive...Whenever it is mentioned in the Bible, there is movement, actions, sounds, and songs. It is vocal, audible, and visible.

3. Praise is where God lives.

But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel. Psalm 22:3.
God settles down and feels at home among the residual praises of His people. While God is everywhere, He is not everywhere manifested.

Repentance – *Matthew 6:12, 14-15* “And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors...For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

Confession is like breathing: regular and normal

1. Repentance is a change of mind with regards to sin and Christ.

Sin is the leading cause of unanswered prayer (*Psalm 66:18*).

Everyone is convicted in some degree when they sin. God wants you to turn from the sin through confession and trust the power of the blood of Jesus to cleanse you (*1 John 1:7-10*).