



## ELEMENTARY BIBLE MEMORY: PRAYER

2028 and 2031

### I. PRAYER IS VERBAL EXPRESSION OF OUR FEELINGS AND NEEDS TO GOD.

#### A. We pray directly to God. Psalm 5:2

Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray.

#### B. We are to pray from the heart, expressing our feelings and thoughts. Psalm 62:8

Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah.

#### C. We are to pray concerning everything. Philippians 4:6

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

### II. THE BIBLE CLEARLY STATES WHO MAY PRAY.

#### A. Only believers may pray with the assurance that they are heard by God. John 9:31

Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

#### B. The prayer for salvation from anyone will be heard by God. Romans 10:9, 10, 13.

9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

#### C. All believers share the privilege of prayer. Matthew 6:6; I Timothy 2:8

6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

8 I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

### III. IT IS WRONG FOR THE CHRISTIAN TO FAIL TO PRAY.

#### A. Prayer is commanded. I Thessalonians 5:17

Pray without ceasing.

#### B. Prayer is pleasing to God. Psalm 141:2

Let my prayer be set forth before thee *as incense*; *and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice*.

#### C. We will not have if we do not ask. James 4:2

Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

### IV. THE BIBLE TEACHES US WHEN TO PRAY.

#### A. The believer's heart is to remain in an attitude of continuing prayer and gratitude to God. Romans 12:12; Ephesians 5:20.

12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

#### B. We are to pray in thankfulness before eating, as exemplified by Christ. Mark 8:6; I Timothy 4:4-5

6 And he commanded the people to sit down on the ground: and he took the seven loaves, and gave thanks, and brake, and gave to his disciples to set before *them*; and they did set *them* before the people.

4 For every creature of God *is* good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:

5 For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

#### C. We are to pray in times of trouble. Psalm 86:6-7

6 Give ear, O LORD, unto my prayer; and attend to the voice of my supplications.

7 In the day of my trouble I will call upon thee: for thou wilt answer me.



## V. ANSWERS TO PRAYER MAY TAKE DIFFERENT FORMS.

### A. God has promised to answer requests made in His will. **I John 5:14-15**

14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:  
15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

### B. God may answer prayer above our expectations. **Ephesians 3:20**

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

### C. God may answer prayer directly and immediately. **Matthew 7:7-11**

7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:  
8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.  
9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?  
10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?  
11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

### D. God may delay an answer to prayer. **Luke 18:7**

And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

### E. God may answer a prayer differently from our request. **II Corinthians 12:7-9**

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.  
8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.  
9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

## VI. THERE ARE HINDRANCES TO ANSWERS TO PRAYER WHICH THE BELIEVER MUST AVOID.

### A. God will not answer if there is unconfessed sin in the heart. **Psalm 66:18**

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear *me*:

### B. God will not answer prayer if the motive is wrong or selfish. **James 4:3**

Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

### C. God will not answer prayer made without regard to His will. **Matthew 6:10**

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven.