

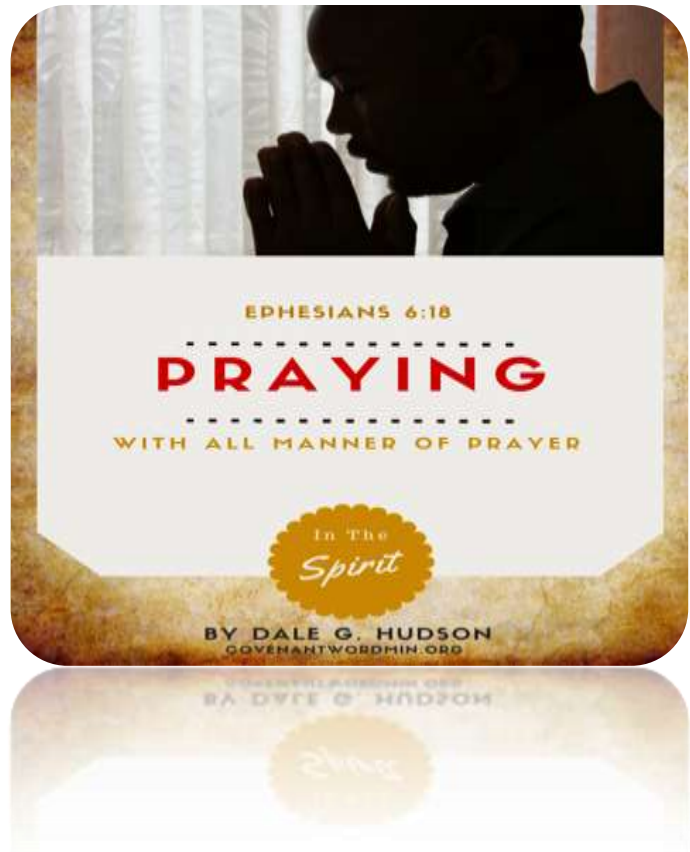
# PRAYER

*"Praying always with all prayer and  
supplication in the Spirit...."*

*Ephesians 6:18*

Many people do not realize that there are different types of prayer and that each type carries with it certain rules by which you must abide. It's somewhat like sports. There are different rules for different kinds of sports. Basketball, football, soccer, golf, and baseball are all popular sports, but neither can be played by using the same set of rules or the games would be a disaster!

Likewise, when we pray, we have to abide by the laws that govern those prayers or we will not receive the desired results. When Paul writes "all prayer", a better rendering would be "all manner of prayer" or "all kinds of prayer." The occasion depicts what kind of prayer should be used. Most people just lump all prayer together and hope for the best. This is most unfortunate because, when the desired result does not manifest, they become hurt and discouraged and settle in their minds that God didn't want it to happen.



## 1. Prayer of Petition

First of all, let us establish that because we are believers we have been granted the power of attorney to use the name of Jesus. John 16:23, 24 states, "And in that day you shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, whatsoever you shall ask the Father in my name, He will give it you. Hitherto have you asked nothing in my name: ask and you shall receive, THAT YOUR JOY MAY BE FULL." Jesus is our Mediator, Intercessor, Advocate, and Lord. His position at this time in eternity is standing for us before the Father.

No place in the Bible is it ever recorded that Jesus told His disciples to pray to Him. They were told to pray to the Father in Jesus' name. One of the main things Jesus came for was to reveal to us the heart of the Father. He said it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom." The phrase "good pleasure" is the Greek word "Eudokeo," which means "to be well pleased, to think it good, not merely an understanding of what is right and good, but stressing the willingness and freedom of an intention or

resolve regarding what is good." In other words, it excites the Father to be able and to do that which makes our joy full!

Another important point regarding the prayer of petition is that it is by faith. Receiving by faith is receiving what GOD HAS ALREADY PROVIDED BY GRACE. Well you may ask the question, "What has been provided?" II Peter 1:2-4 states, "Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, according as His divine power HAS GIVEN UNTO US ALL THINGS THAT PERTAIN UNTO LIFE AND GODLINESS, through the knowledge of Him that has called us to glory and virtue. Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature...."

The prayer of petition must be a prayer of faith. It primarily concerns an individual's desires, needs, and problems. It is you praying for yourself, not someone else praying for you or agreeing with you in prayer. God is interested in and concerned about everything that touches your life. John writes in III John 2, "Beloved, I wish above all things that you may prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers." Jesus said "If you 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?" (Matt. 7:11). We must realize that it is God's will that our needs - whether spiritual, physical, or material - are met in and by Him.

Some people think they need to conclude each prayer with the words "If it be your will." They think it's being spiritual or humble. Some claim it's the way Jesus prayed. However, Jesus prayed this way on only ONE occasion, when He was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. By contrast, when He stood at the tomb of Lazarus, He didn't say, "if it be your will." Instead, He said, "I thank you that you have heard me." Then He COMMANDED Lazarus to come forth. The prayer to raise Lazarus was prayer to change something. Anytime we pray to change something, we do not need to put an "if" in our prayer. If we do, we are using the wrong rule, and that prayer will not work. Instead we need to claim God's promise for our petition and BELIEVE that we receive it. Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane - the prayer in which he put an "If" - was the prayer of consecration.

## **2. Prayer of Consecration**

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed the prayer of submission, consecration, and dedication: "...if thou be willing,... nevertheless not my will...". He wanted to do what the Father wanted Him to do. It was not a prayer of petition. It was not a prayer to get something or to change something. It was a prayer of consecration.

When we consecrate our lives for God's use, to go anywhere and to do anything He wants us to do, we pray this kind of prayer. In a prayer of consecration and dedication we pray, "If it be your will." When it comes to changing things or getting something from God, however, we do not pray if it be your will because we have already searched the Scripture to KNOW His will regarding the matter and we are sure He wants our needs to be met.

### 3. Prayer of Agreement

Matthew 18:19-20 says, "Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them." In the English language, the words "I shall" or "I will" are the strongest assertions that can be used. He also said in John 14:14, "If you ask anything in my name, I will do it." A Greek scholar said the best translation for this would be, "If you ask anything in my name and I don't have it, I will make it for you." Here our Lord says, if there are at least two people who can agree in prayer, then that prayer is magnified to exponential strength! The word translated "agree" is the Greek word "Sunathleo" which means to "wrestle in company with, i.e. (fig.) to seek jointly: labor with, strive together for." In other words, when you find another believer who will not come out of (break) the agreement with you, your power with God and against the enemy is like prayer on steroids! The devil ain't got a chance. (I know I'm wrecking the King's English, but he just ain't!) *Shalom!*

