



The Examiners

Examining the Scripture daily to see whether these things were so...Acts 17:11

THE CHRISTIAN'S MISUSE AND ABUSE OF

PRAYER

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More than 90% of those who called themselves Christians today are wandering around aimlessly without true spiritual growth and the best thing they can use to hide their lack of Bible doctrine are their pretentious prayer.

Majority of Christians started it all wrong by learning to pray from listening to someone. They copied the prayer they thought was right, borrowing terms, phrases, styles, mannerism, and pronunciation. Both genuine and fake Christians are using fake prayers. Satan will always discourage the believers from unlearning the false beliefs, principles and practices of fake praying.

Genuine Prayer is not:

- To get God's blessing
- The ultimate power source
- Preparation for great task
- To gain spiritual experience
- Listening from God in silence
- The guide to find the will of God
- Merely communicating with God
- The good feelings of being with God
- Remedy and cures for many ailments
- To change history or human destiny
- To change the mind and will of God
- The tool to move the hand of the Lord
- The ultimate weapon against the devil
- The defense against self-made miseries

Genuine Prayer is:

- Exclusive for regenerated believers
- Expression of the believer's virtue love
- Designed to know God's essence
- Designed to know the will of God
- To make us one with Him
- The exercise of drawing on the grace of God
- For the purpose of spiritual discernment
- For the purpose of praise and adoration
- To receive the best from God
- For the purpose of submission
- The spiritual activity of the soul as priest
- The spiritual expression of worship
- A great spiritual privilege of every believer
- The realization of confidence on God

Two General categories of Prayer:

- Private prayer
- Public prayer

The Approach to Prayer:

- Addressed to the Father (Eph. 3:14, 5:20)
- In the Name of the Son (John 14:13-14)
- In the power of the Spirit (Eph. 6:18)

Three Categories of Prayer Directed to God the Father

- From the source of the Son (Heb. 7:25)
- From the source of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:26-27)
- From the source of the believer-priest (Heb 4:16)

General Requirements for Genuine Prayer:

- Salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone
- Spirituality filling of the Holy Spirit access by rebound
- Scripture - Bible doctrine resident in the soul

Reasons Why Prayer is Not Answered:

- Unconfessed personal sins (Eph. 4:19)
- Without the filling of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 6:18)
- Controlled by the old sinful nature (Eph. 4:27)
- Committing habitual sins (Ps. 51:4)
- Praying without faith-rest function (Mat. 21:22)
- Lack domestic tranquility (1 Pet. 3:7)
- Without grace orientation (Prov. 21:13)
- Disobeying the will of God (1 John 3:22)
- Living with lust type selfishness (James 4:2-4)

The Basis of God for Answering Our Prayer:

- The resident imputed righteousness of God in every Church Age believer.
- The imputed eternal life of God in the believer.
- The grace provision of God to believers for continuous fellowship through the filling of the Holy Spirit access by rebound. Our non-meritorious faith is not the basis of God for answering our prayer.

Rebound is the grace provision and function for believers to be restored to fellowship with God after sinning. This is accomplish by simply naming, citing or acknowledging one's known sins to God the Father. The filling of the Holy Spirit is the absolute status of being in fellowship with God providing the believer the opportunity to use the divine power to execute the Christian life.

Public prayer has obviously become the showroom of ignorance of the Word of God, self-righteous arrogance and foolishness. Most prayer aired on TV is from souls without Bible doctrine overflowing with pride making the impression that they have special connection to God and that their pleading cannot be ignored. Miserable people considered the prayer of those *"men and women of God"* as panacea or magical potion to cure all problems of life.

We can avoid the numerous idiotic and absurd things by observing some of these basic principles of public prayer:

Be yourself:

- Do not try to impress the people
- Do not imitate somebody's prayer and voice
- Do not borrow words, phrases, or anything
- Avoid becoming pretentious and hypocritical

Concentrate on the presence of God

- Do not pray hurriedly or too slow
- Focus on who and what God is
- Focus on the Person of God
- Direct your prayer to God not on men

Speak intelligently:

- Do not use strange or non-sense words
- Do not speak in vague generalities
- Do not use the 1611 English
- Do not imitate somebody's voice
- Speak clearly and loud enough
- Do not use voice modulation or artificial voice
- Do not use too many divine pronoun of God

Speak to God:

- Do not inform God of anything
- Do not pray unto yourself (Luke 18:11)
- Do not make announcement to people
- Do not preach to people through prayer
- Do not instruct or rebuke the people
- Do not try to persuade God

Organize your mind in reflection of with biblical thought

- Do not quote from books except from the Bible
- Avoid flying from one idea to another
- Pray truthfully rational and intelligently

Prayer is not for public confession of sins

- Do not confess your sins publicly
- Avoid emoting depression and feeling unworthy
- Do give information that can be subject of gossip
- Avoid exalting or humiliating people

Proper intercession:

- No need to specify the prayer requests
- Do not command God to do specific actions
- Do not use the newspaper as agenda for prayer
- Do not wait for emergency before you pray

The right requests:

- Do not ask God to do things contrary to His will
- Do not ask God for things He already provided
- Do not Ask God for things He already rejected

Pray objectively:

- Do not pray for yourself but let lead the people
- Do not use the personal pronouns (I me, my)

Dangerous Beliefs Related to Prayer:

Prayer changes things: To declare that prayer can change things is to say that God is not immutable and to deny the veracity of God. This phrase is not consistent with the truth of the Scripture but a myth that has become like the very words of God. God is never moved by prayer, pleading, sincerity or sacrifices of men that He will change the situation or circumstances. Everything that will occur under human history is in the divine decree knowable to God from eternity past. Nothing will come to past that are not in the divine decree (Acts 15: 18, Eph. 1:4, 2 Thess. 2:13, Psalms 33:11; Isaiah 46:9 Eph. 1:11, Mat 10:29-30, Eph. 2:10; Acts 2:23; 4:27, 28, Psalm 17:13, 14).

Prayer can change the will, purpose and policy of God: To pray thinking that God will change His policy, purpose or plan by our numerous and persistent prayer in His providential dealings with us is foolishness. To affirm that God cannot bring to pass His eternal purpose unless we pray is utterly incorrect. God's plan is in no way conditioned on man's efforts. Prayer does not change the purpose of God but it does bring the purpose of God into the subjective experience of the Christian. God will become more real to the believer and His promises more precious. God does not change His secret plan, but it appears to us that He does and as far as we are concerned our prayers move God to do His sovereign will. Through prayer, the Christian enters into the plan of God for him. 2 Kings 20:1-6, Jonah 3:4-10. If God will follow the prayer of men, He will be violating His very own perfect purpose (Eph. 1:11, 3:11) and God will be subordinate to worms of the earth.

Prayer determines the destiny of men: To claim that lack of prayer will result to condemnation of unbelievers in hell and the entire future of the believers depends in prayer is idiocy. To say that human destinies may be changed and molded by the will of man is rank infidelity. Human destiny is settled in God's purposes and man's response to the gospel, not because men have failed to pray. Prayer is essential in the salvation of all who believe in Christ but there are many who have been prayed for who has never trusted in Christ.

Persistent and persuasive prayer makes result: To think that God will answer prayer because of the persistency and persuasion is really out of the line to biblical truth. God's sovereign choice is what will take place in time and nothing can exist apart from His decision to make it exist, not the prayer of men. The effectiveness of prayer does not depend in the man but in God (James 5:16). It is effectual prayer because the one praying has the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16). The prayer of men is not effectual if they are not according to the will, plan and purpose of God. Fallible men can be sincerely wrong and honestly convinced by something they assumed as truth. Truth demands verification, authentication and confirmation.

The Bible is the truth and its authority can be proven but Christians are lazy to study it systematically, exegetically, historically, categorically and isagogically. We have to test every teachings our church is proclaiming (1 John 4:1) and we have to test every practice, ritual, activity or program our church is promoting. False ministers of God with their false zeal for the Word of God and false zeal for prayer are dragging the Christians into cooperation with the world.

God has provided divine solutions to all human problems and Satan is always the first to offer pseudo solutions that looks like a divine solution. The Nominal Christianity being without the spiritual capacity to handle life according to God's plan, purpose and design will always succumb to false solution. Prayer has become a universal solution for all problems and difficulties instead of Bible doctrine that is intentionally rejected and ignored on purpose.

The false ministers and false preachers are manipulating the answer to their prayer, since they prayed unto themselves and not to God. Ignorant believers will always try to manipulate God using their magical principles of prayer but will never have success. Through magical and mystical misapplication of Bible doctrine will receive their people with mystical experiences. Magic is defined as the exploitation of spiritual powers to carry out one's human will and desire. They capitalize in the promises of God without exegesis background resulting to disinformation of doctrinal truth.

Misapplication of Prayer: Areas Where Prayer is not the Solution

- Renewal of the mind: requires the dual power system of the divine dynasphere
- Recovery from abuses and injustices: demands a new mind pattern based on the resident Bible doctrine and guidance of the Holy Spirit
- Recovery from any form of addiction (substance, alcohol, cigarette, sex, pornography and the like)
- Transformation of mental attitude from self-centeredness to God centered lifestyle.
- Change of mental attitude and approach from human viewpoint to divine viewpoint
- The sovereign will of God for the exact time, manner and place for man to die. Man cannot add a minute or subtract a minute to man's life. Medical science and technology cannot prolong or shorten man's life.
- Change of values, virtues and priorities from earthly to heavenly things.

Things Prayer Cannot Change:

- The infallible Word of God
- The divine systems of operation
- The destiny of man under divine decree
- The perfect plan and will of God for man
- The absolute norms and standard of truth
- The perfect purpose of God for each event

One of the infinite lies of the devil today: "Prayer works by changing things. It changes God. It changes us." Most deception that Christians believe to be correct has some elements of truth and facts to support the lie. Christians are receiving the lie in four frameworks:

- Arrogance: presuming he cannot be wrong
- Attraction: presuming he will gain from it
- Ignorance: presuming that it is the truth
- Affection: presuming it will please God and man

Presumption (without basic facts) in the local churches:

- The pastor presume he knows the doctrine of the Bible and pretending he is feeding the sheep (and persists in his ignorance and arrogance).
- The pastor presumes he knows how to pray (and never try to evaluate his spiritual life in general and his prayer life in particular).
- Members presume their pastor is teaching them the whole counsel of God (and never bother to study Bible doctrine to confirm the truth or just simply to check it out for themselves).
- Members presume that they are growing in their spiritual life and contended to involve in too many church activities (and never ask what is wrong with their church's beliefs and practices).
- The members presume that they are worshiping and praying correctly (and never bother to run diagnostics tests to see their errors).

Most pastors are lazy and exhausted with non-essential activities to dig deep enough to give the congregation the whole counsel of God. Well, for your protection, it is for you to do the digging using the isagogical, categorical and exegetical approach of doctrinal study.

Some Reminders Related to Prayer:

- Prayer is personal between you and God. You will not have benefit from reading prayer books written by unregenerate authors.
- You are a believer-priest that has access to God anytime to bring your prayer before Him. You do not need the prayer of people without salvation, spirit-filled life and scripture in their souls. You do not need prayer partners, 24/7 prayer chains, and those prayer ministries to pray for you.
- You will not grow by reading books on prayer written by Elizabeth Alves, Ole Hallesby, Philip Yancey, Joyce Meyers, Bruce Wilkinson, Richard J. Fostery and anyone who does not have Bible doctrine in the soul.
- Contemplative prayer A belief system that uses ancient mystical practices to induce altered states of consciousness (the silence) and is rooted in mysticism and the occult but is often wrapped in Christian terminology. The premise of contemplative spirituality is pantheistic (God is all) and panentheistic (God is in all).

Unbelievers start from antagonism toward God and find the salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ and advance or regress in the plan of God. The true life of faith is a life of reverence toward God (occupation with Christ) that manifests in every aspect of the believer's life not only in reverential worship or prayer toward God.

Things You Should Beware When Praying:

- Plunging into self-importance
- Floating with the details of life
- Reflecting on emotional stress
- Resolving into self - correction
- Becoming mystical illusionist
- Becoming idiotic philosopher
- Becoming mechanical android
- Trying to draw God's attention
- Becoming pauperized beggar
- Ending in false form of reverence
- Reviving rebellious feeling
- Focusing on pain of miseries
- Seeking inspiration or blessings
- Feeling holy and righteous
- Falling into illusion or imagination
- Having desire for God without reality
- Justifying and excusing self

The centrality of our prayer is the Lord Jesus Christ. All things we pray points to Him, for Him and by Him. He is the merit of our faith and the reason why we can pray to God the Father and not rejected, ignored or denied.

The Life of Faith can be summarized from Acts 9:1-42 under the study of the term Kurios:

- Antagonism to the Lord
- Salvation by the Lord
- Supply through the Lord
- Sanctification in the Lord
- Submission to the Lord
- Service from the Lord
- Sustain by the Lord
- Supremacy in the Lord
- Sending by the Lord
- Appreciation of the Lord
- Affirmation of Jesus Christ as Lord
- A query to the Lord
- Direction from the Lord
- Call of the Lord
- Answer to the Lord
- Command from the Lord
- Hesitation before the Lord
- Choice of the Lord
- Sent from the Lord
- Testimony to the Lord
- Authority in the Lord
- Walking in the fear of the Lord
- Conversion to the Lord
- Believing in the Lord

The basic reasons for endless misuses and abuses of prayers are wrong application of Bible doctrine. Pastors are not only lazy but indifferent to biblical interpretation using the isagogic, categorical and exegetical approaches. They are contended to preach without any exegesis of the text resulting to wrong interpretation and application of the Word of God. The solution to deceitful, disdainful, designing, dreadful, deprecating, and definitely no result prayer is the Word of God. You must know the Bible doctrine and it will teach you how to pray correctly.

He asked for courage but he remains a coward
Because he has no Bible doctrine in the soul
He asked for humility but he remains arrogant
Because he has no Bible doctrine in the soul
He asked for wisdom but he remains imprudent
Because he has no bible doctrine in the soul
He asked for a godly wife but marry a heathen
Because he has no Bible doctrine in the soul
He asked to do God's will but he is disobedient
Because he has no Bible doctrine in the soul

Prayer can Become A Sin (Psalm 109:7):

- Praying for the praise or approval of men
- Praying for personal ambition and honor
- Praying beyond the written Word of God
- Praying for what God has already rejected
- Praying for the destruction of your enemies
- Praying fervently for something you do want
- Praying for something outside the will of God
- Praying intensely for the things of the world
- Praying for what God has already condemned
- Praying without the intention to comply with
- Praying contrary to the will and purpose of God
- Praying opposing the plan and design of prayer
- Praying based on the invented teachings of men
- Praying to "worship" your prayer and not God
- Praying with some Old Testaments or Pre-Canon Church Age obsolete and no longer applicable principles (like Mat. 18:18-18).

Sin of prayerlessness:

- No consistent prayer routine
- Not praying for the brethren
- Not praying for the doctrinal pastor / teacher
- Not praying for the unbelievers and authorities

Meditation on the Word of God and Prayer:

- Expresses our virtue personal love for God
- Instructs our hearts in the will of God
- Motivates us to execute the will of God
- Initiates our minds to think like Christ
- Demonstrates our dependency on God
- Develops norms and standards in the souls

