



INSTRUCTIONS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

Dr. Peter D. Wyns

Entry 7 - 9

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Prayer that Hits the Target

Prayer enables us to partner with God so that miracles can happen. It is God's design for releasing His purpose. We are commanded to pray, and without it, God will not initiate His plans. Paul says, "**Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers.**" *Eph. 6:18* Over the years, I have searched the scriptures to find the kinds of prayer that Paul is referring to. I have discovered 7 main types of prayer in the Bible. Each brings a vital application for the life of a seasoned disciple. The more we understand God's ways, the more prepared we are to walk in power and partnership with Him. Different types of prayer are needed on different occasions and the Holy Spirit will teach us and inspire us to pray the right prayer at the right time. This knowledge lights the pathway of worship, intercession and spiritual warfare. It is my task to help equip the saints for the work of the ministry. This teaching is essential for those who aim to be all that God has called them to be.

Prayers do not need to be fancy. God hears all people who cry to Him with humility. Disciples, however, are trained to use prayer in order to move the world.

The 7 kinds of prayer that I find in God's word are:

1. Thanksgiving
2. Dedication
3. Petitions
4. Supplication
5. Intercession
6. Prophetic prayers of praise and proclamation
7. Tongues

Let us look at these one at a time.

Thanksgiving - Ps 100, Php 4:6, 1Thes 5:18

Thanksgiving lifts us into God's presence. We enter His gates with thanksgiving. Scripture teaches us to give thanks every time we ask God for something. In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus, concerning you.

Abundant, extravagant prayers of thanksgiving will change the spiritual atmosphere and position us to receive God's favor.

Dedication - Rom 12:1-2, 2 Tim 1:12

This is the prayer where we present and give our lives to God. We must present our bodies a living sacrifice to the Lord. What we hold back we lose, but what we give to Christ, He holds and increases until the day of His return. At first, this is a general prayer of giving our lives to God, but it must not end there. We must yield every detail of our lives, specifically. It makes such a difference when we make Jesus the Lord of every detail of our lives. People who are confused about their future or their walk with God usually have divided loyalties. Giving everything to God allows the Holy Spirit to work in our lives. Many Christians have crawled down off the altar and are in a spiritual fog. The answer to hearing God, finding direction and knowing His presence, is to dedicate every detail of your life to Him. Put your whole life on the altar in prayer and it will make all the difference.

Petitions - Ps 20, Mt 6:9-14

Petitions are the most common type of prayer. A petition is a formal request to one who is in authority. It is not a protest or a demand; it is a request. The Lord's Prayer is a petition prayer. Petitions ask for daily bread, protection for families and a new job for a friend. Paul wanted continuous prayer and encouraged men everywhere to lift holy hands without doubt or anger.

Supplication - Jnh 2, Heb 5:7

Supplication is a desperate cry to God for a miracle in a time of great distress. We need a Spirit of supplication to come upon us for desperate situations. These are not casual prayers. Jonah supplicated from the belly of the great fish and God brought him out. Hannah supplicated because she could not have a baby and God gave her Samuel. Jesus, with loud crying and tears, supplicated in the garden. He asked the Father if it was possible to avoid going to the cross, but He also yielded to God's will. Supplication comes as one wrestles with God to turn disaster into a blessing.

Intercession - Ge 18:17, Eze 22:30

To be an intercessor, one must be known as God's friend. Then God invites that person to the table of negotiation for the lives of people. The Lord visited Abraham before destroying Sodom, and Abraham

interceded for the city. Amos 3:7 teaches us that God does nothing without revealing His plans to His servants the prophets. So, after the Lord shared his plans for Sodom with Abraham, Abraham negotiated with the Lord for mercy to be extended to the people of Sodom. God agreed that if 10 righteous people were in the city, He would not destroy it. Unfortunately, 10 righteous people could not be found. Everyone of God's great leaders were intercessors, including, (to name only a few) Abraham, Moses, Daniel, David, Elijah, Jesus, Paul and Peter.

In Ezekiel 22:30, God says that He looked for a man to build up the wall and to stand before Him in the gap, for the city, so that He might not destroy it.

Jerusalem was in such a mess. All of the horrible types of sin that bring curses, (as mentioned in Deuteronomy 27:15-26) were rampant in the city. The judgments of God were deserved, but God looks for a way to bring mercy instead of judgment. That is why He looked for a friend to be an intercessor.

God's intercessor will build up the wall (work with the people to fix the broken, sinful and dysfunctional elements of society). Then, stand in the gap before the Lord to pray and negotiate for the release of God's mercy.

Praise & Proclamation -2Chr. 20

Prophetic prayers of praise and proclamation is a powerful coming together of prayer, praise, proclamations and

prophecy. As one is praying, they switch from exuberant praise to proclamation and then to prophecy.

God gave a word to Jehoshaphat when Israel was attacked. He said, "don't fight, the battle is God's." The Israelites went to war, but did not lift a sword. They just praised God and the enemy was defeated by God. Also, Paul and Silas' chains fell off as they praised God while in prison. With this kind of prayer, you speak into existence the release of the Lord, rather than ask for things.

Tongues- 1Cor 12, 14, Mk 16: 14

Praying in tongues is a God-given spiritual language. It is powerful. Paul was thankful because he spoke in tongues more than all of his co-workers. When we pray in tongues, our spirit prays, even though we do not understand the words. The Bible says we speak mysteries to God. We may pray the 6 types of prayers in tongues. We will know the direction and the emotional feeling of these prayers even though we will not understand the specifics. We may worship in tongues, give thanks in tongues, dedicate our lives in tongues and fight a demonic enemy with tongues. (Tongues help us get out of the way while increasing our partnership with God in prayer.)

Employing these 7 types of prayer will make us co-laborers with God. They will help bring us to victory in every place and in every situation. AΩ



*Christians for
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