

THE 4 LEVELS OF PRAYER

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INTRODUCTION

Prayer is a journey of learning to depend on God in every part of life. It begins with our personal needs and concerns, but it doesn't stay there, it grows and lifts our hearts into an awareness and participation in His greater purposes and will.

Prayer isn't just a checklist to rush through, it's an invitation into a life-altering relationship with our Heavenly Father. In prayer, we don't just speak... we listen, we are changed, and our hearts begin to align with His. As we grow in Him, our purpose becomes clearer, shaped by *His* will and *His* eternal perspective.

As we grow, prayer begins to mature. We start to care about what God cares about, not only our family, our church, our city, but even the nations. What begins as "LORD, help me" becomes "LORD, use me," and eventually leads to a full surrender to Him.

THE DISCIPLE'S PRAYER PATTERN IN MATTHEW 6:9-13

1. **In Matthew 6:5-15 Jesus gives both the reason for prayer and the pattern for prayer.** This is not just a prayer to repeat, but a framework, a set of "doorways" into every area of human need.

- Matthew 6:9 *"This, then, is how you should pray:..."*
- The QR code takes you to our main teaching on prayer...



2. **Biblical prayer begins with His presence, not our petitions.** The first step in the pattern is honoring God... *Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.* Before we pray for our needs, relationship is established. And as we meditate on His Names, we deepen our awareness of who God is and being in His presence is life (

- Psalm 16:11 *You make known to me the path of life; You will fill me with joy in Your presence, with eternal pleasures at Your right hand.*
- Exodus 33:11 *....Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent.*

3. **In Luke 11:5-8,** Jesus teaches that prayer requires boldness and persistence. The man asking for bread at midnight kept knocking until the answer came. This is not about

convincing God to act, but about tenacity in prayer, not in asking God for what He hasn't given but believing Him for things in His will.

- 1 John 5:14-15 *This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.*

4. **To live a victorious, spiritual life** begins by developing the habit of regularly going into God's Presence.

The teaching on the four levels of prayer is based on the Disciple's Prayer Pattern. It is, therefore, important that we familiarize ourselves with the pattern. Use the QR code above to read about the 5 basic areas: Praise, priority, petition, pardon, praise

The four layers are not independent and isolated but are built on each other.

PRAYER *Level One*

1. **Learning to depend on God through personal prayer.** *This is the beginning point... prayer for everyday personal needs and the needs of our family and friends.*
 - Matthew 6:11 *Give us today our daily bread.* (Philippians 4:6; 1 John 5:14–15)
 - Matthew 6:25-34 *...But **seek first** His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well...*
2. **Prayer at this level is personal and practical.** It's where we bring our needs, concerns, and desires before the Lord and begin to trust Him as our Source.
3. **Jesus taught us to pray**, "Give us today our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11), reminding us that God cares about every detail of our lives. Nothing is too small or insignificant to bring to Him! Whether it's provision, direction, health, or strength for the day, we are to come boldly and consistently.
 - Philippians 4:6 *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*
 - Hebrews 4:16 *Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*
4. At this level, prayer begins to include our family, friends, and other people. We begin to care not just about our own needs, but about what others are going through. God starts to grow a sense of responsibility in us for the people He's placed in our lives.

5. **The first level of prayer is not about impressive or long prayers but relationship.** It's about showing up daily, talking to God, listening, and learning to trust Him step by step. As we seek Him first, we start to see that He is willing **and** able to provide for our needs.
 - Matthew 6:25-34 ...*So do not worry, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*
6. **This is the foundation.** As we learn to depend on God in this area, we begin to grow deeper in our prayer life. And when this becomes part of our daily rhythm, it opens the door to a richer, more mature prayer life.

Internal Preparation

1. Create a time and a place to daily meet with God. That becomes a holy place! Write down the place and time ASAP.
2. Express your deepest needs... be honest before God.
3. When you pray for "daily bread," are you depending on Him as your Source, or still holding on to yourself and your abilities?
4. Are you seeking His Kingdom first (Matthew 6:33), or only turning to Him when things fall apart?
5. If He answers differently than you expected, will you still trust Him for more?
6. Does your prayer life show that you carry others before the LORD?

LORD, I lay down every burden and fear for the future. Break my self-reliance and teach me to depend fully on You. I receive Your peace, and I choose to trust You... even when I don't understand. Holy Spirit, stir my heart, draw me deeper and give me a burden for others. In the mighty Name of Jesus!

Next week: Prayer Level 2 *God's burden for our church, our city, and nation,*