

163. Types Of Prayer

By Arland Steen

Ephesians 6:18: *Praying always with all prayer.*

James Moffatt: *Praying with all manner of prayer.*

NIV: *And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.*

God's Word Translation: *Use every kind of prayer and request there is.*

The word "sports" is a general classification that includes anything from baseball to golf or bowling to tennis. Each sport has its own rules, which governs its play.

The word "prayer" is a general classification that includes anything from any of the 7 kinds of prayer. Each kind of prayer has its own rules, which governs its effectiveness.

You will become very confused if you misapply the rules of one kind of prayer with another kind just as you would if you misapplied the rules of one sport for another.

#1 – The Prayer of Agreement

When you join someone else in prayer to agree on a specific need

Matthew 18:19: ¹⁸ *Assuredly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.* ¹⁹ *Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.* ²⁰ *For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.*

Of all the prayers, perhaps none is more significant than this one.

In order to get the full impact of what Jesus is saying, examine the verse immediately before and after verse 19.

Verse 18 is pointing out we have authority to bind and loose on earth. The phrase "it will be done for them" contains the strongest assertion one can make in the English language. Verse 20 is highlighting the fact that wherever these two or three believers are on earth while praying this prayer, Jesus is there to make sure it comes to pass.

#2 – The Prayer of Commitment

When you cast something that is worrisome over on God

Do you sometimes pray about a problem with seemingly no results? Unanswered prayers are usually due to our not praying according to the rules of prayer and in line with God's Word.

Peter talked about the prayer of commitment.

1 Peter 5:7 Amplified Bible: *Casting the whole of your care – all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all – on Him; for He cares for you affectionately, and cares about you watchfully.*

How wonderful it is that we can cast our cares upon the Lord in prayer.

If people would pray this prayer, it would eliminate some of the things they are praying about but only if they then do what He said to do. We must do what He said to do with our cares and anxieties.

The prayer of commitment is the prayer of rolling all your cares, worries and anxieties onto Him.

Psalm 37:5: Commit your way to the Lord, [roll and repose each care of your load on Him; trust [lean on, rely on, and be confident] also in Him, and He will bring it to pass.

This is a once-and-for-all prayer. It isn't something you do every day about the same thing. When we really cast our cares upon Him, we don't have them anymore. Worry nullifies prayer.

Philippians 4:6: Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

Amplified Bible: *Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything.*

If I gave you my last \$5 and someone came and asked me for \$1, I couldn't give it to them, could I?

#3 – The Prayer of Consecration

When you are consecrating yourself to do God's will

Luke 22:42: Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not My will, but Yours be done.

Notice it is okay to place the words "if it is Your will" in this prayer. When you are truly seeking God's will for your life, this is appropriate.

#4 – The Prayer of Intercession

When you pray in your prayer language but with a special unction from the Holy Spirit on behalf of someone else.

Romans 8:26: Likewise, the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groaning's which cannot be uttered.

The Greek translation of that last phrase reads, "with groaning's that cannot be uttered in articulate speech." So, this verse includes groaning's and praying in your prayer language. 1 Corinthians 14:14 in the Amplified reads, "My spirit, by the Holy Spirit within me, prayeth."

Notice we don't know how to pray AS WE OUGHT. There are so many things we don't fully know that we need His help. This does not mean it is something the Holy Spirit does apart from you. He is in a supportive role helping you do it. He's not responsible for your prayer life. You are.

#5 – The Prayer of Petition

When you pray for your own personal needs

Matthew 21:22: And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.

Mark 11:24: *Therefore, I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them and you will have them.*

The prayer of petition is by far the most frequent kind of prayer prayed by most Christians.

The prayer of petition must be a prayer prayed in faith and it has to do with the things in your heart that you desire. It has to do with things in the natural like the fig tree that was dried up.

God is interested in everything that touches our lives. He has made provision for us.

The prayer of petition is primarily a prayer you pray for yourself. It is not someone else praying with you or for you or agreeing with you in prayer.

When you pray, you believe that you receive, and if you will do that, you will have it.

Some people think you need to end every prayer with the words, "If it be your will." Those words are toxic to the prayer of petition and will kill it every time because the word "if" is the badge of doubt. "If" means you are not sure about anything. But the prayer of petition requires FAITH, so you pray this prayer only once and no more.

#6 – Prayer in the Spirit

When you pray in your prayer language for the purpose of strengthening your spirit

There are different purposes for praying in your prayer language.

1 Corinthians 14:2: *For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.*

1 Corinthians 14:4: *He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself.*

1 Corinthians 14:16-17: ¹⁶*If you bless with the spirit ...* ¹⁷*you indeed give thanks well.*

Jude 20: *But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.*

1 Timothy 2:1: *Therefore, I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men.*

#7 – The Prayer of Supplication

When you make request on behalf of another person

1 Timothy 2:1: *Therefore, I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men.*

This is when you make a request on behalf of someone else.

#8 – The Prayer of Thanksgiving

When you are worshipping God for who He is

Acts 16:22-25: ²²*Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods.* ²³*And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely.* ²⁴*Having received such a*

charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. ²⁵ But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

Notice the phrase “but at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.”

I think a case could be made that more people are praying the prayer of petition than are praying the prayer of thanksgiving when it should be reversed. Some people think all prayer is petition. I had a boyhood friend names Jimmy. He became a preacher and I heard him preach once. He opened up by saying, “My name is Jimmy and I’ll take all you will give me.” He said it in fun but not many are saying it in fun when they say it.

This is the prayer you keep praying over and over again, which is very different than the prayer of petition.

#9 – United Prayer

When people come together in one accord and pray for a specific need

Acts 4:23-24: ²³ And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. ²⁴ So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said,

(Read Acts 4:13-31 for the full context)

The key phrase is “they raised their voice to God with one accord.” They knew the value of united prayer.

This means they all prayed at once and they all prayed out loud.

What did they pray? Hint: They didn’t pray for the Lord to remove the persecution or to strike down their enemies.

What was the result of united prayer? Hint: There are 2 things.

The place where they were assembled shook and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Notice too that their prayer was for something specific. They were not just praying a general prayer. So, we see there is supernatural power in united prayer!

And those, my friends, are the types of prayers we have at our disposal.