

208. God's Desires In Prayer

By Arland Steen

Ephesians 6:18: *Praying always with all prayer.*
(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 9 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.

A few weeks back I asked one of the individuals who came for prayer, "Do you know why we primarily pray in tongues during pre-service prayer." He responded that he could give an answer but didn't want to give the wrong answer. Contained in today's message is what I told him.

#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.*

#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.

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.*

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.

#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.

#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.*

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.

#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: *¹⁶If you bless with the spirit ... ¹⁷you indeed give thanks well.*

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

#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.*

#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.*

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.

#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,*

Why Pray In Our Prayer Language During Pre-Service Prayer?

Seven of the nine types of prayer we mentioned have more to do with us and our desires or needs than they do God's desires.

#1 - The Prayer of Agreement

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

#2 - The Prayer of Commitment

When you cast something that is worrisome over on God

#3 - The Prayer of Consecration

When you are consecrating yourself to do God's will

#5 - The Prayer of Petition

When you pray for your own personal needs

#6 - Prayer in the Spirit

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

#7 - The Prayer of Supplication

When you make request on behalf of another person

#9 - United Prayer

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

Only two of the nine types of prayer we mentioned have more to do with God's desires than our needs or desires.

#8 - The Prayer of Thanksgiving

When you are worshipping God for who He is

We know this is one of the more overlooked prayers in the Church today. How many times have you forgotten or overlooked thanking someone for a kind deed or gesture on your behalf?

Even in the NT it's recorded that of the nine lepers Jesus healed, only one returned to thank Him. It was so important to Him that He even asked the one that returned about the others.

I'll repeat what I said earlier: 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.

#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.

Whereas, many in the Church simply forget to thank God for things He has done for them, many in the Church purposefully and intentionally reject using a supernatural prayer language that is the only guaranteed way to satisfy God's desires in prayer.

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.

God's desires in prayer comes when a friend comes to mind or when someone is heavy on your heart or when you don't even know about a situation but God does and needs you to pray about it. How can you do that even when you don't know about it? Your supernatural prayer language!

1 Corinthians 14:2 (New King James): *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.*

(Richard Weymouth 5th Edition): *But in the Spirit he speaks divine secrets.*

If praying in tongues isn't for us today, then there is no way we can pray "in the Spirit." Yet, we are spirit beings. Prayer in the Spirit is as natural to a spirit being as cooking is to a cook and playing a piano is to a pianist

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.

Paul concludes his teaching on prayer in the Spirit by saying:

1 Corinthians 14:15 (New King James): *What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.*