



Learning to Pray
The Lord's Prayer
Part 2 - The Nature of Prayer

Why Study Prayer?

- (1) Understand the Importance of Prayer
- (2) Learn What Prayer Is, and What Prayer Is Not
- (3) Improve our Prayer Life
- (4) Broaden the Impact of our Prayers
- (5) Explore Why it is that We Even Have to Ask the Question
- (6) To Speak Freely to God, and to Recognize His Voice

Why Study Prayer?

As humans, we tend to do whatever it is that we want, and avoid doing those things that we do not want to do.

What is it about us that makes it so likely that we will avoid spending time in prayer?

We have been invited to speak directly to the God of the entire universe, the One who holds all things together, the One who has the power to bring about any outcome.

What is it about us that makes us take this privilege for granted, or to think of prayer as something we should do only because God wants us to do it?

What We Need In Order to Study Prayer?

1. A Genuine Desire to Learn:

“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, *and learn from Me*, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you shall find rest for your souls.”

- Matthew 11-28-29

2. Purity of Heart:

“Therefore, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.”

- 1 Peter 2:1-2

What We Need In Order to Study Prayer?

3. A Realignment of Our Perspective:

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.”

- John 1:12

Is Prayer Natural or Supernatural?

The Spirit of Prayer Dwells Within Us:

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?”

- 1 Corinthians 6:19

“For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, ‘Abba! Father!’”

- Romans 8:15

Is Prayer Natural or Supernatural?

We Are Followers of Jesus Christ:

“The one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.”

- 1 John 2:6

“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, ... but when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

- Matthew 6:5-6

Is Prayer Natural or Supernatural?

Prayer is Connected to God's Blessings For Us:

“Ask, and it shall be given to you.”

- Matthew 7:7

“You do not have, because you do not ask.”

- James 5:6

Prayerlessness Is a Sin:

“Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin.”

- 1 James 4:17

Is Prayer Natural or Supernatural?

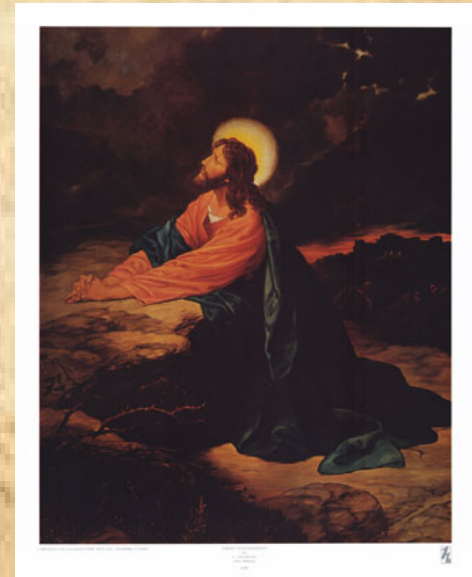
But What About the Difficulty of Prayer?

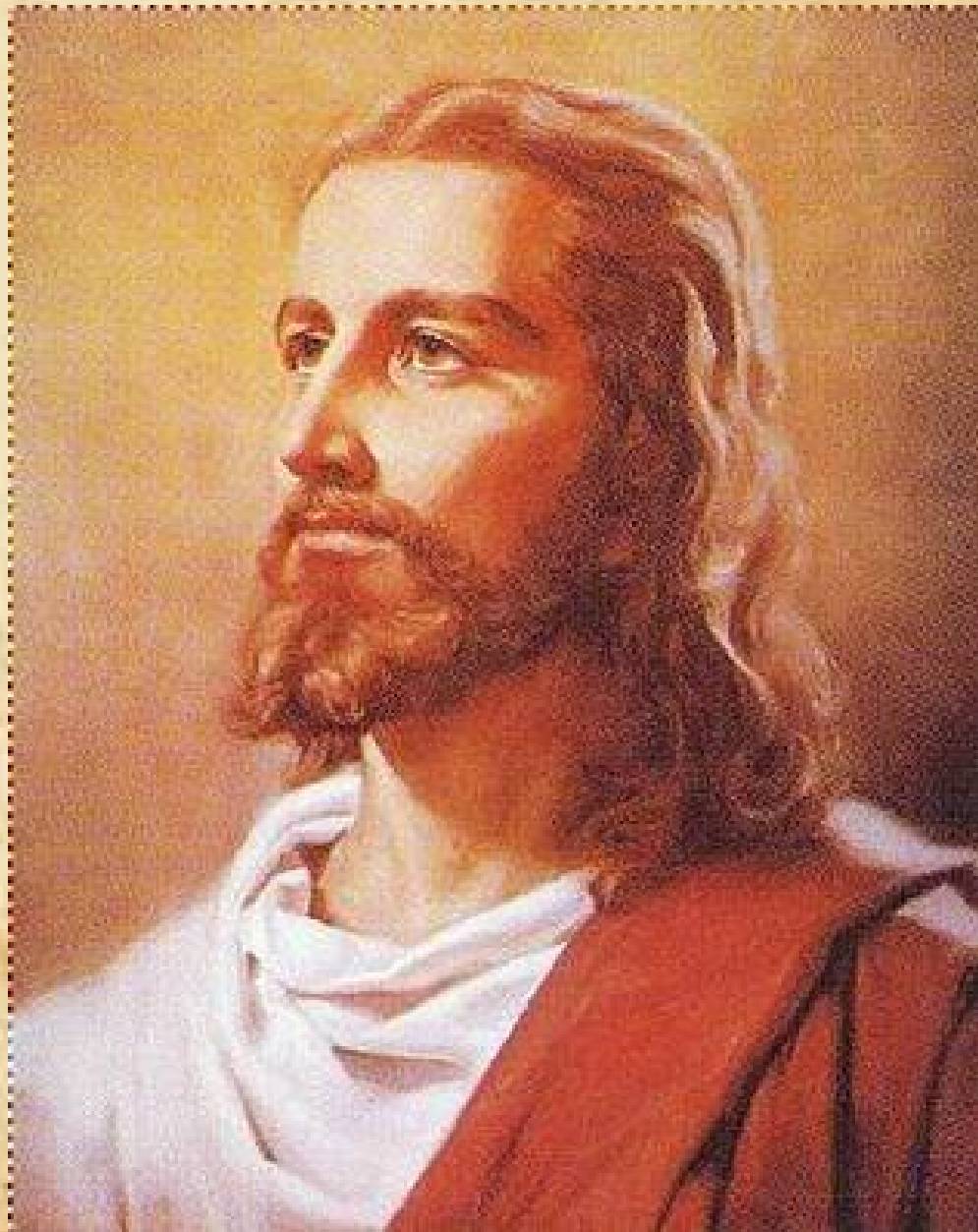
Prayer is work. Unbelievers do not understand the difficulty of prayer, but those of us who are Christians know it well. Everything else in the Christian life is easier than prayer. It is far easier to read our Bibles than to pray. It is far easier to witness, to go to church, and to give to the poor than it is to pray. Why? The reason for this is that the closer we get to what is most important – what brings us most spiritual power – the more opposition we are going to get from the devil, the world and our own flesh.”

- Wayne Mack,
Reaching the Ear Of God

Personal Reflections on Prayer

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.”







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