A Christian
and
Prayer Life

Fredrick G. Omondi

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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Fredrick G. Omondi

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INTRODUCTION

Prayer is an important thing in the life of a Christian of which he or she cannot do without as it is equated to spiritual breathing and it helps one to overcome the many temptations in life (Matthew 26:41).

Jesus Christ being the Son of God, yet he lived a life of prayer (Luke 6:12, 22:39-44) and therefore it should be so for those that have made a decision to follow him.

The early church used to pray (Acts 1:12-14; 2:41-42) and the Church of Christ today need to emulate them by doing the same as they too face spiritual battles (Ephesians 6:10-18).

Another important factor to take note of and to practice is fasting, though it is not part of the book but God willing will come in another volume. In this book on prayer you will get invaluable information on the subject which is necessary in your Christian Walk with the Lord.

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Chapter 1

What is Prayer?

Prayer is the communication between man and God and can be likened to a Christian's spiritual breathing. It is therefore incomprehensible how a Christian can surely continue to live the Christian Walk without prayers, which is one's spiritual life line! It is only by prayers our requests and our feelings are made known to God officially for his action as necessary. (Matthew 7:7-11, Philippians 4:6-7, John 14:12-14, Psalms 141:1-2; 142:1-2; 143:1-2, Philippians 1:3-6, Colossians 1:3-13, 2 Timothy 1:3-5, Philemon 1:4-6, Romans 1:8-10). Prayer can be done individually (Matthew 6:5-7), by two or three (Matthew 18:18-20) or as a corporate body like a church (Acts 2:42, 4:24).

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:
For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?
Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?
If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

Matthew 7:7-11

Yes, we have to officially ask in prayer for God to supply / provide (Although he knows, we have to ask him - pray to him).

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.
And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

Our requests need to be known unto God. God is our Father and children normally talk to their father when in need and so on and don't keep mum.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he also do; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go to my Father.

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it.

John 14:12-14

We are to ask as Christians; for God to do something for us.

LORD, I cry unto thee: make haste unto me; give ear unto my voice, when I cry unto thee.

Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Psalm 141:1-2

Prayer can include crying and talking at the same time to God and even lifting up one's hands as a sign of surrender to him.

I CRIED unto the LORD with my voice; with my voice unto the LORD did I make my supplication.

I poured out my complaint before him; I showed before him my trouble.

Psalm 142:1-2

Very clear indeed: You tell God what your trouble is and not just crying alone, otherwise you are a foolish child before your Father.

HEAR my prayer, O LORD, give ear to my supplications: in thy faithfulness answer me, and in thy righteousness.

And enter not into judgement with thy servant; for in thy sight shall no man living be justified.

Psalm 143:1-2

Pray as God surely hears prayers and more so of the saints.

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,

Always in prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,

For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Philippians 1:3-6

We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you.

Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints,

For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world, and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:

As ye also learned of Ep'-a-phras our dear fellow servant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ;

Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.

For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;
Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness;
Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:
Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Colossians 1:3-13

I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;
Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy;
When I recall to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lo'-is, and thy mother Eu'-ni-ce; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

2 Timothy 1:3-5

I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers,

Hearing of that love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints;

That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

Philemon 4-6

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;

Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.

Romans 1:8-10

You can see that God's servants from David to Paul all are busy praying for themselves as well as for

others. Jesus Christ also told his followers to ask God for their needs to be met. The children of God live in prayer.

Prayer is paramount in a Christian's life as you will see in other chapters.

As I end and in summary, prayer is the direct communication with God. We relate with God in prayer and fellowship. Prayer is a two-way communication: you speak to the Lord and the Lord speaks to you. (Psalm 99:6).

Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among them that call upon his name; they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.

Psalm 99:6

Get to know also that prayer without thanksgiving is no prayer and is unacceptable as you are going to see in the following scriptures as thanksgiving should be ideally part and parcel of any prayer.

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Philippians 4:6

Please note that prayer and supplication alone is not enough as must be accompanied with thanksgiving to add more weight.

Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

Colossians 4:2

In the above scripture too in mentioning prayer do note also that Christians are reminded again to give thanksgiving too.

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:
Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Colossians 2:6-7

A Christian need not only be rooted in Christ and established in the faith but must be full of thanksgiving as well.

Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.
And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;
Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;
Giving thanks always for all things unto God and Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Ephesians 5:17-20

Giving thanks to God is not doing him a favour as thanksgiving is a commandment of God and therefore Christians need to continue in it as God is everything to them.

O GIVE thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people.

Psalm 105:1

O GIVE thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.
O give thanks unto the God of gods: for his mercy endureth for ever.

O give thanks to the Lord of lords: for his mercy endureth for ever

Psalm 136:1-3

For the psalmist to repeat the act of giving thanks to God severally as recorded above shows the importance of thanksgiving before the Holy One of Israel.

IT is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High:

Psalm 92:1

In the above verse we are told that giving thanks to the Lord is a good thing. No wonder the scriptures keep on reminding us of the same. God definitely is pleased with us when we approach him with thanksgiving (a heart of gratitude). Consequences of ingratitude towards God can easily lead to self pride. But thanksgiving leads to a focus on the Lord and not on the self.

I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.

This also shall please the LORD better than an ox or bullock that have horns and hoofs.

Psalm 69:30-31

God is magnified with thanksgiving and in that as I said earlier, God is pleased with us that way. We are told as above that it is better than an ox or a bullock.

O COME, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.
For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

Psalm 95:1-3

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.
For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

Psalm 100:4-5

In singing and praising God, we come before the presence of God. Similarly, when we pray to God we are before him and need to be thankful to him in the act. But some may say ‘We thank him for what?’ We just have too many things to thank the Lord for. Truly we need to thank him for every thing (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)

On the issue of the Lord speaking to us in answer to our prayer, it may vary and is not only limited to hearing his audible voice but in other ways like intuition of his Spirit in us, in a dream or in a vision. Prayer can be made by an individual, individuals or as a group.

And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward.

But thou when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly;

But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

Matthew 6:5-7

Pray briefly but to the point and pray not to be seen. Also get to know that God is not interested in our much vain speaking.

Verily I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.
Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.
For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Matthew 18:18-20

Here God commends group prayer to be done in the family, Christian fellowship and in church service.

These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

Acts 1:14

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Acts 2:42

And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said unto them.

And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

Acts 4:23-24

In all the three accounts in Acts 1, 2 & 4, there is one very important fact and that is, they were in one accord. Now that is very important when praying together. Even in Matthew 18 it talks of two agreeing on a thing before praying and that brings us to some scripture touching on the same.

If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any of comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,
Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be like minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

Philippians 2:1-2

Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.

Romans 12:16

BEHOLD, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!
It is like the precious ointment upon the head that ran down the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;
As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing even life for evermore.

Psalm 133

One accord, that is, in unity. But why does the scripture stress the unity or the one accord? It is because God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit all are one. (John 17:20-21; 10:30).

Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;
That they all may be one; as thou Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

John 17:20-21

I and my Father are one.

John 10:30

Chapter 2

Prayer is a Command

Now prayer is a command from the Lord Himself to all those that are His. You are going to read a few scriptures I have included here from the many available in the Bible supporting what I have just said.

Seek the LORD and his strength seek his face continually.

1 Chronicles 16:11

In the above scripture king David says that we need to seek the Lord and that it should be continually. It is through prayer that one can seek the Lord and also get his strength. (Acts 4:23-31).

AND he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not faint;
Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:
And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.

And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, though I fear not God, nor regard man;

Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.

And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him though he bear long with them?

I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

Luke 18:1-8

In the above scripture we find Jesus Christ talking to his disciples and commanding them to be always praying and to continue to have faith in Him. King David was led by the Spirit of God and said the same thing in 1 Chronicles 16:11 - to be praying continually. Read also the book of Matthew (Matthew 26:36-41). Jesus Christ knew well in advance that when the disciples stopped to pray they will be weak in the spirit and fall to

temptations which lead to apostasy and that is why he posed that question to them. Apostle Paul also in his epistle to the church at Thessalonica reminded them of the same thing on prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18).

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:
For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Matthew 7:7-8

In the above scripture Jesus is saying that by asking is when one is given and by seeking is when one finds and by knocking is when it shall be opened to one. It is all to do with going before God in prayer.

O ISRAEL, return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.
Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips.

Hosea 14:1-2

The Israelites were advised to return back to their God in prayer repenting of their sins so as to be forgiven and be accepted back by God.

Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

John 16:24

As a command Jesus was reminding his disciples on prayer; that all along he has not heard them pray to God asking him for something. Therefore, they need pray asking God for something so as to receive so that their joy may be more (full).

Pray without ceasing.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Now that was Apostle Paul in his first epistle to the church at Thessalonica, reminding them of the need to continue in prayer. This is not a mere coincidence- it only confirms one thing, that the word of God is truth, why? All the three were different individuals but talking the same thing- because all were talking in the same Spirit of God.

Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;
Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:

Colossians 4:2-3

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplications for all saints;

Ephesians 6:18

Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Is any merry? Let him sing psalms.

James 5:13

I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

1 Timothy 2:8

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Philippians 4:6

From all these scriptures you can see that it is all talking on the need for prayer. Prayer is not an option in life but a must and more so to born-again Christians (the righteous) (Proverbs 15:29)

And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward.

But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have of need of, before ye ask him.

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Matthew 6:5-15

Here you can see the Lord Jesus Christ addressing his disciples and telling them much on prayer. It means he had told them before and was reminding them of the same and how they need to go about it. You can see him saying now and then “when you

pray", meaning it is a requirement expected from them daily (see verse 11)- daily, Christians (the children of God) need to be praying.

Verily I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.
Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.
For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Matthew 18:18-20

Jesus Christ is still telling his disciples the need to pray even jointly apart from individually.

Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

John 16:24

I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my

transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.

Psalm 32:5-6

David prayed to God confessing of his sins and God forgave him. He goes on to say that those who are godly should pray to God and he will pardon them too.

Chapter 3

The Importance of Prayer

Prayer is powerful and being prayerless is being powerless. Prayer is very important as a tool of waging spiritual warfare against the enemy (Satan) and his servants. Prayers need to be not only specific but also according to the will (word) of God and be in the name of the Lord as well (1 John 5:14-15, John 14:11-13). We need not pray for showing off to men (Matthew 6:5-6), It need not be repetitive or unnecessarily lengthy (Mathew 6:7) ideally prayer need begin with a thanksgiving (Psalm 100:4) and it should be by faith as it is impossible to please God without it (James 1:6-8, Hebrews 11:6).

I am now going to present to you the following scriptures touching also on the importance of prayer.

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Ephesians 6:10-18

Prayer and fasting is an exercise in spiritual discipline in a Christian for his or her own good (own spiritual well-being in the Christian Walk)

AND it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his Disciples.
And he said unto them, when ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.
Give us day by day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

Luke 11:1-4

Prayer is important and that is why that disciple asked Jesus to teach them how to pray (he probably asked on behalf of his colleagues).

These things have I written unto you that believe on the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have

eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.
And this is the confidence that we have in him, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

1 John 5:13-14

It is through prayer that God hears our prayers just as this scripture also says.

Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:
For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Matthew 7:7

Jesus Christ himself also was always praying.

And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

Luke 6: 12

Therefore Jesus went on and advised his disciples the need to pray.

Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Luke 21:36

Praying is not for fun but is part of a Christian's life which is full of challenges.

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.
And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is in the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Romans 8:26-27

Let us keep on praying as the Holy Spirit is in us to help us and more so according to God's will and not our will (Matthew 26:36-39). We have seen from the scriptures that only hears us through prayers and grants us what we need in life.

And I came this day unto the well, and said, O LORD God of my master Abraham, if now thou do prosper my way which I go:

Behold, I stand by the well of water; and it shall come to pass, that when the virgin cometh forth to draw water, and I say to her, Give me, I pray thee, a little water of thy pitcher to drink;

And she say to me, both drink thou, and I will also draw for thy camels: let the same be the woman whom the LORD hath appointed out for my master's son.

And before I had done speaking in mine heart, behold, Rebekah came forth with her pitcher on her shoulder; and she went down unto the well, and drew water: and I said unto her, let me drink, I pray thee.

And she made haste, and let down her pitcher from her shoulder, and said, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: so I drank; and she made the camels drink also.

Genesis 24:42-46

Now the above is an account of the servant of Abraham who went looking for a lady for his master's son Isaac, as was instructed. Because Abraham was a man who feared and obeyed God, he must have prayed a lot in his life and this servant saw his lifestyle and saw the importance of prayer and prayed in his heart for God's guidance on the matter and God answered him perfectly.
This servant must have believed in the God of his master to do that and got that clear answer. If it were not for prayer, how could he specifically get the lady for his master's son among many? Mind you his master did not give him a name but told him to get from his kindred, period.

And while I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God;
Yea, while I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation.

And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding.

At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to show thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.

Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.

Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood,

and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Daniel 9:20-27

The prophet Daniel went into prayer and fasting to get to know from God exactly when the people of Israel would finally come out of exile and Gabriel, an Arch angel of God in charge of delivering of messages from God went to him to reveal to him the time. A lot is revealed to him even the birth of Jesus and his crucifixion (the cut off of the Messiah) and the Tribulation period too. That alone tells you that prayer is key to the many revelations from God.

And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for a house of sacrifice.

If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people;

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:12-14

You can see for yourself that king Solomon had earlier prayed to God and God revealed himself at night and spoke to him, giving him some instructions.

Prayer is important and that is why Jesus Christ used to pray and so was the early Church as we are going to see in the scriptures below.

Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Geth-sem'-a-ne, and saith unto the disciples, Sit here, while I go and pray yonder.

And he took with his Peter and the two sons of Zeb'-e-dee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy.

Then said he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy.

And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

Then cometh he to the disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of the sinners.

Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.

Matthew 26:36-46

A time will be coming for you who is a Christian when things will be very tough and those around you will not be bothered. It could be your pastor or your fellow Christian is not around and probably even his phone is switched off and you are on your own, what will you do? Cry? Scream? I have heard also from some of my fellow Christians who were attacked/confronted by some demon who came in a physical form and they commanded and rebuked as necessary, and it shrunk, gave a back step and vanished. If you are used to be prayed for by others whenever faced with a problem you will be defeated for sure in such a situation.

Jesus Christ took the three disciples to accompany him and to be sort of prayer partners at that crucial time. But it turned out they were no better than the other disciples.

The disciples were to tarry by praying and not merely watching as there was no football match to watch at the garden of Gethsemane.

Now experience tells me that if one loves sleeping as the three disciples of Jesus, one cannot be active in prayer life and if active at all, then very weak in one's prayers and which serve as a mere formality and not as useful to one's life.

AND it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.
And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, So in earth.
Give us day by day our bread.
And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And led us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

Luke 11:1-4

In the above scripture we can see again that Jesus was praying.

THESE words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also my glorify thee:
As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.
And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, who thou hast sent.
I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.
And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.
I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest me: and they have kept thy word
Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee.
For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.

I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.
And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and am glorified in them.
And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we

John 17:1-11

The above scripture too we find that Jesus was praying for his disciples as he knew he was soon going to leave them. Now let us see also that the early Church also did the same always they were praying.

And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.
And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;
Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is

taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.
Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.
And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.
These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.
And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the Disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)
Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.
For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.

Now this man purchased field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out.
And it was known unto all the dwellers of Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood.
For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishopric let another take.
Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,
Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.
And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.
And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen,

That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.
And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Acts 1:9-26

We can see very clearly that by their prayer to God the disciples were directed to the right person to take over from Judas who fell.

AND when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all in one accord in one place.
And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house Where they were sitting.
And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.
And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, s the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:1-4

In the above scripture too, we see that by being assembled together in prayers that the disciples were all filled with the Holy Spirit as the Lord had promised them.

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.
And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.
And all that believed were together, and had things common;
And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.
And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,
Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Acts 2:42-47

In the above scripture too, we see that the disciples were assembled together and had prayers as well among doing other things.

And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said unto them.
And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and the earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:
Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?
The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.
For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, With the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,
For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,
By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.
And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Acts 4:23-31

In the above scripture too, we do see that the disciples prayed for boldness and they were granted by the Lord by being filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke boldly the word of God to people, Halleluiah.

NOW about the time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.
And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.
And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of the unleavened bread.)

And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.

Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.

And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.

And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.

When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the

city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street: and forthwith the angel departed from him.
And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

Acts 12:1-11

In the above scripture too, we do see that the prayers of the disciples saved Peter when God sent an angel to deliver him out of the prison where king Herod had him placed waiting to be killed just as it was done to James. Our God is great and of course answers prayers of the saints

.

And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gin by soothsaying:

The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.
And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.
And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the market place unto the rulers,
And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city,
And tech customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans.
And the multitude rose up together against them: And the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to bet them.
And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely:
Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.

And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang prises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

Acts 16:16-26

In the above scripture both Paul and Silas were put in prison and they were busy praying and praising God and he brought great deliverance to them. All the above do underscore the importance of prayers and which we too need to emulate being always prayerful.

Chapter 4

Types of prayer

We have some different types (forms) of prayer which are as follows hereunder:

1. Confession

This form of prayer involves admitting one's sins to God without any hypocrisy. (Psalms 51:1-4, 1 John 1:8-9, Ezra 10:10-12, Daniel 9:20-21, Acts 19:18).

HAVE mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving-kindness: according to the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

Psalm 51:1-4

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8-9

And Ezra the priest stood up, and said unto them, Ye have transgressed and have taken strange wives, to increase the trespass of Israel.
Now therefore make confession unto the Lord God of your fathers, and do his pleasure: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives.
Then all the congregation answered and said with a loud voice, as thou hast said, so much we do.

Ezra 10:10-12

And while I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God;

Yea, while I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation.

Daniel 9:20-21

And many that believed came, and confessed, and showed their deeds.

Acts 19:18

2. Petition and Supplication

This form involves sharing one's hopes and aspirations and presenting one's requests to God. In so asking, one need have faith with a clean heart with a pure motive, be specific and ask according to God's will. (Hebrews 11:6, Psalm 66:18, James 4: 3, Philippians 4:6, 1 John 5:14).

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Hebrews 11:6

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

Psalm 66:18

Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

James 4: 3

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Philippians 4:6

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us:

1 John 5:14

3. Intercession

This form involves pleading to God and asking on behalf of others for God's intervention on a certain issue. Just as petition is asking for ourselves,

intercession is asking for others. The following are examples of the same.

I EXHORT therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;
For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.
For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;
Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2: 1-4

And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiff - necked people:
Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation.
And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the

land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand?

Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, for mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people.

Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it for ever.

And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.

Exodus 32:9-14

And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.

Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

Luke 23:33-34

And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.
And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Acts 7:59-60

By so much was Jesus made a surety of better Testament.
And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death:
But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.
Wherefore he is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 7:22-25

Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus' sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me;
That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judea; and that my service which I have for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints;

Romans 15:30-31

Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:
And that new may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.

2 Thessalonians 3:1-2

I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;

2 Timothy 1:3

I thank my God, making mention of thee always in prayers,

Philemon 4

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,
Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,

Philippians 1:3-4

We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

Colossians 1:3

Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.
But I beseech you the rather to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner.

Hebrews 13:18-19

A closer look at Intercessions

Although intercession is quite important unfortunately not many Christians do involve in it,

but the truth of the matter is that all born again Christians are intercessors in the house of the Lord as they are priests unto the Lord having direct access to his throne (1 Peter 2:9-10, Romans 5:1-2, 8:1, Matthew 6:5-6).

As God's children he does hear and accept our prayers (John 9:31) therefore we need to stand in the gap in intercession for the unbelievers for the Lord to intervene and to bring change in their lives. We also need to pray for our fellow believers both those who are in leadership (who seriously need back up prayers as the enemy targets them most) and others as well not in leadership.

That way, we show God's love in us as we care about other's welfare and not our own only. God expects his people to intercede on behalf of others for him to act and change unfavourable conditions on people's lives. Let us see the scripture below.

The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy: yea, they have oppressed the stranger wrongfully.

And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them;

I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord God.

Ezekiel 22:29-31

What God saw in the land of Israel was not good and God expected at least one man to intercede for the land by repenting of the sins committed and asking the Lord God for mercy but God found not such a man and went ahead and judged the land accordingly.

Jesus Christ the Son of God too saw the need to intercede for his disciples and he prayed for them before God the Father to protect them (John 17). He is still doing the same at the right hand of God in heaven as scripture records.

By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better Testament.

And they were truly many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death:

But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the peoples: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.

Hebrews 7:22-28

Apostle Paul saw the need for intercession by Christians and which is confirmed by some of his epistles as follows: Romans 15:30, 1 Thessalonians 5:25, 1 Timothy 2:1-4. Apostle James in his epistle to the church had the same in mind (James 5:16). The early church practiced intercessory prayer (Acts 12:1-5). Esther interceded for the Jews in word and actions (Esther 3-7) Prophet Samuel interceded for the children of Israel (1 Samuel 7:2-11; 12:12-25). Prophet Moses interceded for the Israelites (Exodus 32:1-14, 30-32). The prophet Abraham interceded for Lot his brother's son (Genesis 18:16-33).

4. Adoration

This is a form involving true worship, quietly waiting in God's presence, enjoying Him, being occupied with Himself and telling him how worthy He is to receive one's love and homage. It is reverence to the Lord God and is the highest form of prayer. (Psalm 86:12-13, 1 Chronicles 16:23-31, Ezra 3:10-11, Exodus 15:1-7).

I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name evermore.
For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.

Psalm 86:12-13

Sing unto the LORD, all the earth; show forth from day to day his salvation.
Declare his glory among the heathen; his marvellous works among all nations.
For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised: he also is to be feared above all gods.
For all the gods of people are idols: but the LORD made the heavens.
Glory and honour are in his presence; strength and gladness are in his place.
Give unto the LORD, ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD glory and strength.
Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
Fear before him, all the earth: the world also shall be stable, that it be not moved.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice: and let men say among the nations, The LORD reigneth.

1 Chronicles 16:23-31

And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of A'-saph, with cymbals, to praise the LORD, after the ordinance of David King of Israel.

And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks, unto the LORD; because he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

Ezra 3:10-11

THEN sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him a habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him. The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name.

Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea: his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea.

The depths have covered them: they sank into the bottom as a stone.

Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.

And in the greatness of thine Excellency thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee: thou sentest forth thy wrath, which consumed them as stubble.

Exodus 15:1-7

5. Thanksgiving

This form is an integral part of prayer and an important aspect. (Luke 17:11-19, Hebrews 13:15,

Romans 1:21, 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18, Ephesians 1:15-17, 1 Thessalonians 1:2-4).

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did afore time.

Daniel 6:10

Please note that it was customary for Daniel to pray and give thanks at the same time.

And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Sa-mar'-i-a and Galilee.

And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:

And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.

And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go show yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back and with a loud voice glorified God,
And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Sa-mar'-i-tan.
And Jesus answering said, were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?
There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.
And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

Luke 17:11-19

By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

Hebrews 13:15

Because that, when they knew God they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but become vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Romans 1:21

From the above three scriptures you can see that all that God does to us should not be taken for granted but we need to continually thank the Lord. If we don't do that, we have become foolish in our hearts and our hearts become darkened instead of being lightened. We surely need to be careful and not be always asking, asking, asking and not thanking, thanking and thanking the Lord- there have to be a reasonable balance when we go before the Lord.

Pray without ceasing.
In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

May the Lord help us in this as most of us have totally failed. We are ever busy praying and no giving of thanks in many, many occasions.

Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,

Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;
That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

Ephesians 1:15-17

We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;
Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;
Knowing brethren beloved, your election of God.

1 Thessalonians 1:2-4

Chapter 5

The reasons for Unanswered Prayer

Some prayers seem not to be answered and there could be reasons for that and which you are going to see as is recorded in the scriptures that follow hereunder:

And if any soul sin through ignorance, then he shall bring a she goat of the first year for a sin offering.
And the priest shall make an atonement for the soul that sinneth ignorantly, when he sinneth by ignorance before the Lord, to make an atonement for him, and it shall be forgiven him.
Ye shall have one law for him that sinneth through ignorance, both for him that is born among the children of Israel, and for the stranger that sojourneth among them.
But the soul that doeth aught presumptuously, whether he be born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproacheth the Lord, and that soul shall utterly, be cut off; his iniquity shall be upon him.

Numbers 15:27-30

From the above scripture it is clear that one that has sinned presumptuously and not out of ignorance has reproached God and his or her soul need to be cut off completely. Now such a one I believe God cannot answer his or her prayer.

Similar scenarios can be seen also elsewhere in the Scripture as follows hereunder.

He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.

Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.

And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.

Matthew 12:30-32

From the above scripture it is equally clear that one who has blasphemed the Holy Spirit is against God and cannot be forgiven sin and hence one's prayers cannot be answered as he is not with God at all.

For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

But a certain fearful looking for of judgement and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden underfoot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

For we know him that hath said, vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, the Lord shall judge his people.

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Hebrews 10:26-31

It is that serious as one has literally fallen into the hands of the living God and is due for judgement. Such a one has no chance of one's prayers being answered. Let us look at another angle on unanswered prayers.

And now, because ye have done all these works, saith the Lord, and I spake unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not:
Therefore will I do unto this house, which is called by my name, wherein ye trust, and unto the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh.
And I will cast you out of my sight, as I have cast out all your brethren, even the whole seed of Ephraim.
Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercessions to me: for I will not hear thee.

Jeremiah 7:13-16

When God speaks to you now and then and you refuse to respond to him don't dare to pray to him

as he will equally not respond to you and even an intercession to him on your behalf will be of no use as he will not hear anything of it.

For according to the number of thy cities were thy gods, O Judah; and according to the number of the streets of Jerusalem have ye set up altars to that shameful thing, even altars to burn incense unto Baal.

Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up a cry or prayer for them: for I will not hear them in the time that they cry unto me for their trouble.

Jeremiah 11:13-14

When one has idols in one's life one should not expect to get one's prayers answered by God as he is a jealous God (Deuteronomy 5:1-10) and even any intercession on one's behalf will be but a futile exercise. No wonder when God told Jacob to go up to Bethel and stay there and to make an altar for him, Jacob told his household that were with him to put away the strange gods that they had in order to be clean before God (Genesis 35:1-2).

THEN said the Lord unto me,

Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my mind could not be toward this people: cast them out of my sight, and let them go forth.

And it shall come to pass, if they say unto thee, Whither shall we go forth? Then thou shalt tell them, thus saith the Lord; Such as are for death, to death; such as are for the sword, to the sword; and such as are for the famine, to the famine; and such as are for the captivity, to the captivity.

And I will appoint over them four kinds, saith the Lord: the sword to slay, and the dogs to tear, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the earth, to devour and destroy.

And I will cause them to be removed into all kingdoms of the earth, because of Manasseh the son of Hezekiah king of Judah, for that which he did in Jerusalem.

For who shall have pity upon thee, O Jerusalem? Or who shall bemoan thee? Or who shall go aside to ask how thou doest?

Thou hast forsaken me, saith the Lord, thou art gone backward: therefore will I stretch out my hand

against thee, and destroy thee; I am weary with repenting.

And I will fan them with a fan in the gates of the land; I will bereave them of children, I will destroy my people, since they return not from their ways.

Jeremiah 15:1-7

The above is another reason why God cannot answer one's prayer and accept even the prayer for intercession. It has all to do with forsaking God and not being ready to genuinely return to him in true repentance turning away from one's sinful way in life (Matthew 3:1-10).

The word of the LORD came again to me, saying,

Son of man, when the land sinneth against me by trespassing grievously, then will I stretch out mine hand upon it, and will break the staff of the bread thereof, and will send famine upon it, and will cut off man and beast from it:

Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord God.

Ezekiel 14:12-14

Grievous sin against God is another thing that will move God into action and no prayer can stop him from leashing out his judgement and only the innocent (the righteous) can escape (be spared from the judgement). It should be clear to all of us that we can reach a point where we have no remedy from God but only judgement and so we need to be very careful in life. God will not just smile and do nothing when things have gone awry wrong and we have messed so much!

If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

1 John 5:16

There you are. One cannot pray for sin unto death that has been committed by a brother and expect to get anything from it, as it is useless and a waste of time as God cannot hear such a prayer.

BEHOLD, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:
But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

Isaiah 59:1-2

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the LORD will not hear me.

Psalm 66:18

And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.
Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from mine eyes; cease to do evil;
Learn to do well; seek judgement, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

Isaiah 1:15-17

He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.

Proverbs 28:9

He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

Proverbs 28:13

Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.

Proverbs 21:13

The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.

Proverbs 15:29

Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

John 9:31

All the above scriptures touch on sin as a hindrance to God on hearing or answering to our prayers.

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Hebrews 11:6

And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.
And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away.
And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.
For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.
Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Mark 11:20-24

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord.

A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.

James 1:5-8

The missing link is faith which need be there in those two cases.

Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

James 4:3

Wisdom is lacking but the big issue is sin – the sin of lust.

Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:
And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

James 5:14-15

Looks like the elders of a local church can play a big role in a Christian's life touching on receiving of one's healing especially when not living right.

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us:

1 John 5:14

Praying for something outside God's will can result in not getting an answer to one's prayer.

Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

1 Peter 3:7

The lack of cordial marital relationships affects prayer negatively.

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.
Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

Hebrews 12:14-15

Living ungodly lifestyle and not relating well with others is a stumbling block to prayer life.

Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off.

Psalm 138:6

God detests pride and will not answer such prayer.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Matthew 5:7

Being uncaring and merciless on others can make God to withhold blessings on us.

Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee;

Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

Matthew 5:23-24

For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Matthew 6:14-15

Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say unto thee, until seven times: but, until seventy times seven.

Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owned him ten thousand talents.

But forasmuch as he had to pay, his Lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.

The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellow servants, which owed him a hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.

And his fellow servant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

So when his fellow servants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told their lord all that was done.

Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:

Shouldest not thou also have compassion on thy fellow servant, even as I had pity on thee?

And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

Matthew 18:21-35

It all touches on unforgiveness - the texts mentioned in Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 18. If you don't forgive, you have cast your brother (offender into prison and you too unknowingly are also in prison, and you both suffer.) So, forgive your brother so that both of you are free because you

have reconciled with each other. Remember the golden rule in the book of Matthew chapter 7 and verse 12.

Chapter 6

The need for holy living

From what you have just read in the previous chapter, it is of utmost importance that one need to live a holy and righteous life. One cannot continue to live in sin and at the same time expect to get anything from the Lord who one prays to. God is holy and righteous as well as corrupt free. You cannot therefore mock God.

The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

Proverbs 15:8

And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.
For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knowledge all things.
Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.

And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

1 John 3:19-22

And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.

John 8:29

Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

And when he thus had spoken he cried with a loud voice, Laz'-a-rus, come forth.

And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave clothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them Loose him, and let him go.

Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him.

John 11:41-45

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

John 15:7

One must abide in Christ and in his word (obeying by doing it) to be heard by God and to receive one's request from God. That, calls for holy and righteous living and nothing short of that. We must sober up and very quickly.

And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul.

So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits

the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, we adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth.

And there were seven sons of one Sce'-va, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so.

And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?

And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcome them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Eph'-e-sus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.

Acts 19:11-17

Evil spirits were and are still subject to Jesus Christ as he is sinless and acknowledge his authority. Apostle Paul also the evil spirits acknowledged the authority of Christ in him as he pursued to live a holy life.

If one ignores holy living, the evil spirits can equally ignore such a person as they are intelligent beings and know the word of God that authority and power of God go hand in hand with holy living

and by one living in sin one has no authority and power of God legally speaking as God is holy.

And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that E-li'-jah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.

Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.

Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is the God.

And E-li'-jah said unto them,

Take the prophets of Ba'-al; let not one of them escape. And they took them down to the brook at Ki'-shon, and slew them there.

1 Kings 18:36-40

God heard the prophet's prayer and answered him as he was living a holy life.

Chapter 7

The length and frequency of prayer

Some may ask, “How long should prayer take, or how frequent does one need to pray? The Holy Scripture has the answer to such questions as follows hereunder:

A. The length

Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Geth-sem’-a-ne, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.

And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zeb’-e-dee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy.

Then said he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?

Matthew 26:36-40

And it came to pass in those days, that he went out in to a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

Luke 6:12

And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.

And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

Matthew 14:22-23

In all the above scripture it seems that an hour is a minimal length of time in prayer.

B. The frequency

And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

AND he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not faint;

Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:

And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.

And he would not for a whole: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man;

Yet because of this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.

And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

Luke 18:1-8

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:
Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Ephesians 6:17-18

Pray without ceasing.
In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;
Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:
That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

Colossians 4:2-4

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking bread, and in prayers.

Acts 2:41-42

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before him God, as he did afore time.

Daniel 6:10

As for frequency of prayer it is all the time as need arises in the morning, in the afternoon, in the evening and at night.

Chapter 8

Places of prayer

One may ask “Where do I pray?” Now what does the Holy Scripture say on that?

But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

Matthew 6:6

To me, the closet can be any enclosed place or area and not necessarily say a room in a house. A place or areas you are alone and don’t at all expect anybody to find you and get to hear your prayer to God. For instance, in the precious chapter you read that Jesus Christ would go to a solitary place or into a mountain to pray there. I remember in my formal employment and before I was promoted and given my own office, I used to go to the ‘gents’ and lock myself in one of the rooms and very quietly in my heart pray to God.

But when I finally was the Boss and was allocated a big office I used to lock myself for a few minutes to

pray at any time when I have no one in the office and more so I would come early as a routine to work and lock myself and pray to God. I also do remember a fellow Christian who used to go say at tea break but more so at lunch break would go to some forest to pray and come back before the time is over.

NOW Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

Acts 3:1

That is another place for prayer- in the temple. Where I worship the Lord the altar door normally is not locked with a padlock and Christians are encouraged to go there and pray to God 24/7 be it during the day or at night.

Usually such a place is an ideal environment for prayers and can/is better than even the home environment, where there are other members of the family, who may not be praying with you at that time, moreover it may be prayer and fasting and you have to share the room with the others- it turns out not to be as conducive as it should be as one

need a quite time with the Lord alone or if with another, then is in it too (both of you are for one cause / purpose), an example which I give here:

Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem and a Sabbath day's journey.
And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Al'-pheus, and Simon Zelo'tes, and Judas the brother of James.
These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

Acts 1:12-14

AND when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.
And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing night wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each one of them.
And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:1-4

The above is the same group of people (followers of Christ Jesus) you just read in chapter 1. It reminds me of the book of Psalms (Psalms 133). There is blessing when you are together in unity (one accord) in your endeavour - God will reward you.

And straightway, Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.
And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

Matthew 14:22-23

And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

Mark 1:35

Chapter 9

Postures in prayer

Now there are more than one posture that one can use when praying and I believe all are right before the Lord. The most common one of these is by praying while one is on his or her knees.

a) Kneeling

And it was so, that when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven.

1 Kings 8:54

And at the evening sacrifice I arose up from my heaviness; and having rent my garment and my mantle, I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto the LORD my God,

And said, O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens.

Ezra 9:5-6

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did afore time.

Daniel 6:10

O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

Psalm 95:6

And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.
And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin in their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Acts 7:59-60

Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber:

and all the widows stood by him weeping, and showing the coasts and garments which Dorcus made, while she was with them.
But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tab'-itha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

Acts 9:39-40

I have showed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.
And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down, and prayed with them all.

Acts 20:35-36

Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory,
For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

Ephesians 3:13-15

b) On the face

And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they fell upon their faces: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto them.

Numbers 20:6

And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?
And he said, nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, what saith my Lord unto his servant?

Joshua 5:13-14

And E-li'-jah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance rain.

So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And E-li'-jah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees,

And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked and said, there is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times.

1 Kings 18:41-43

And Je-hosh'-a-phat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the LORD, worshiping the LORD.

2 Chronicles 20:18

Then said he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying,

O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

Matthew 26:38-39

c) Bowing

And she said unto him, I am the daughter of Be-thu'-el son of Mil'-cah, which she bare unto Nahor.
She said moreover unto him,
We have both straw and provender enough, and room to lodge in.
And the man bowed down his head, and worshiped the LORD.

Genesis 24:24-26

And Aaron spake all the words which the LORD had spoken unto Moses, and did the signs in the sight of the people.
And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshiped.

Exodus 4:30-31

And it shall come to pass, when your children shall say unto you,
What means ye by this service?

That ye shall say, it is the sacrifice of the LORD'S pass over, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses. And the people bowed the head and worshiped.

Exodus 12:26-27

And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped.

And he said, if now I have found grace in thy sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray thee, go among us; for it is a stiff - necked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for thine inheritance.

Exodus 34:8-9

d) Standing

And Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven:

And he said, LORD God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servant that walk before thee with all their heart:

1 Kings 8:22-23

And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

Mark 11:25

The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as thing publican.

I fast twice in a week, I give tithes of all that I posses.

Luke 18:11-12

Chapter 10

Examples of prayer

Now in this segment I come with various examples of prayers from different individuals. Read on.

1. Jesus Christ

Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

Luke 23:34

And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,
Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

Luke 22:41-42

I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.
And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.

John 17:9-10

2. Elijah

And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that E-li'-jah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.

Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.

1 Kings 18:36-37

3. Hezekiah

For a multitude of the people, even many of E'-phra-im, and Ma-nas'-eh, Is'-sa-char, and Zeb'-u-lun, had not cleased themselves, yet did they eat the pass over otherwise than it was written. But Hez-e-ki'-ah prayed for them, saying, The good LORD pardon every one,

That prepareth his heart to seek God, the LORD God of his fathers, though he be not cleased according to the purification of the sanctuary.

And the LORD hearkened to Hez-e-ki'-ah, and healed the people.

2 Chronicles 30:18-20

4. Ezra

And at the evening sacrifice I arose up from my heaviness; and having rent my garment and my mantle, I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto the LORD my God,

And said, O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens.

Ezra 9:5-6

4. Daniel

IN the first year of Da-ri'-us the son of A-has-u-e'-rus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chal-de'-ans.

In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he

would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth and ashes:

And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments;

We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgements:

Daniel 9:1-5

5. Jonah

THEN Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly,

And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice.

For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me.

Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple.

Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple.

The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head.

I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet have thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God.

When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.

They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.

But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.

And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

Jonah 2

6. Daniel

And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth and ashes:

And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments;

We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgements:

Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.

Daniel 9:3-6

7. Moses

And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth and ashes:

And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments;

We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgements:

Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.

Daniel 9:3-6

8. Hannah

So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shi'-loh, and after they had drunk. Now E'-li the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD.

And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore.

And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thy handmaid, and remember me, and forget not thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

1 Samuel 1:9-11

9. Solomon

Therefore now, LORD God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him, saying, There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit on the throne of Israel; so that thy children take heed to their way, that they walk before me as thou hast walked before me.

And now, O God of Israel let thy word, I pray thee, be verified, which thou spaketh unto thy servant David my father.

1 Kings 8:25-26

10. Jabez

And Ja'-bez was more honorable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Ja'-bez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow.

And Ja'-bez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested

1 Chronicles 4:9-10

To me I call that wisdom. Jabez could not be honourable with that kind of name coming from sorrow! He did the needful and God blessed him. You cannot be blessed with such a name unless it is annulled in Jesus' name.

11. Stephen.

And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin in their charge.

And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Acts 7:59-60

Now I have come to notice something concerning prayer and which is important and precious before the Lord and that is tears that come out of it as can be seen from the following scriptures:- 1Samuel 1: 1-19, 2 Kings 20: 1-6, Psalms 6: 6-9; 56: 8-13; 126: 5-6.

Now there is something which is special before God and which is tearful prayers as we are going to see from the following scriptures.

NOW there was a man of Ramathaim- Zophim, of mount Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, and Ephrathite:

And he had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninah: and Peninah had children, but Hannah had no children, but Hannah had no children.

And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the Lord of hosts in

Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the Lord, were there.

And when the time was that Elkanah offered, he gave to Peninnah his wife, and to all her sons and her daughters, portions:

But unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: but the LORD had shut up her womb.

And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the LORD had shut up her womb.

And as he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat.

Then said Elkanah her husband to her, Hannah, why weepest thou? and why eatest thou not? and why is thy heart grieved? am not I better to thee than ten sons?

So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD.

And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore.

And she vowed a vow, and said,

O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the Lord, that Eli marked her mouth.

Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken.

And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? Put away thine wine from thee.

And Hannah answered and said, No my Lord, **I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have** drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but **have poured out my soul before the Lord.**

Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial: for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto.

Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him.

And she said, Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight.

So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more sad.

And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped the Lord, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah: and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the Lord remembered her. Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I was asked him of the Lord.

1 Samuel 1:1-20

The words in bold tell it all.

IN those days was **Hezekiah** sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live.

Then he turned his face to the wall, and **prayed unto the LORD, saying,**

I beseech thee, O LORD, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.

And it came to pass, afore Isaiah was gone out into the middle court, that the word of the LORD came to him, saying,

Turn again, and **tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee**: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the LORD.

And **I will add unto thy days fifteen years**; and **I will deliver thee and this city** out of the hand of the king of Assyria; and **I will defend this city for mine own sake,** and for my servant David's sake.

2 Kings 20:1-6

I am weary with my groaning; all night make I my bed to swim; I water my coach with my tears.

Mine eye is consumed because of grief; it waxeth old because of all mine enemies.

Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity; for the Lord hath heard the voice of my weeping.
The Lord hath heard my supplication: the Lord will receive my prayer.

Psalms 6:6-9

The words in bold tell it all.

Thou tallest my wanderings: **put thou my tears into thy bottle:** are they not in thy book?
When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for **God is for me.**

Psalms 56:8-9

The words in bold tell it all.

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy,
He **that goeth forth and weepeth,** bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

Psalms 126:5-6

The words in bold tell it all.

So also **Christ** glorified not himself to be made a high priest; but he that said unto him, thou art my Son, today have I begotten thee.

As he said also in another place, thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

Who **in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard** in that he feared;

Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

Hebrews 5:5-8

The words in bold tell it all.

Chapter 11

Worthy prayers

There is something like worthy (useful, reasonable, fair) prayers. You are going to read several of them from the Holy Scripture. Some of them is prayers done concerning the welfare of others and more so done with understanding and also when living a holy life (Nehemiah 1, Daniel 9, John 11:38-44, 1John 3:22).

And Samuel spake unto all the house of the Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ash'-ta-roth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Phil'-is-tines.
Then the children of Israel did put away Ba'-a-lim and Ash'-ta-roth, and served the LORD only.
And Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Miz'-peh, and I will pray for you unto the LORD.
And they gathered together to Miz'-peh, and drew water, and poured it out before the LORD, and fasted on that day, and said there, we have sinned

against the LORD. And Samuel judged the children of Israel in Miz'-peh.

And when the Phil-is'-tines heard that the children of Israel were gathered together to Miz'-peh, the lords of the Phil'-is'-tines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard it, they were afraid of the Phil-is'-tines.

And the children of Israel said to Samuel, Cease not to cry unto the LORD our God for us, that he will save us out of the hand of the Phil-is'-tines.

And Samuel took a sucking lamb, and offered it for a burnt offering wholly unto the LORD: and Samuel cried unto the LORD for Israel; and the LORD heard him.

1 Samuel 7:3-9

Samuel as a priest and a prophet of the Lord was wise. He knew the Israelites had sinned before the Lord and in that state could not defeat their enemy-the Philistines. Samuel went ahead to prepare them by advising them to repent, to do away with idols and to serve only the Lord, which they did returning to the Lord with all their hearts. He then went ahead to pray for them and the result was in

their favour before the Lord. We learn here that we need not just run to God in prayer before examining our lives. It is good to run to get for help but it is better to do so with understanding of the heart.

In Gib'-eon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.

And Solomon said, Thou hast showed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.

And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.

And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.

Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?

1 Kings 3:5-9

God did answer king Solomon's prayer as he asked according to God's will by asking for wisdom to perform his duties in the right way.

And Hez-e-ki'ah received the letter of the hand of the messengers, and read it: and Hez-e-ki'-ah went up into the house of the LORD and spread it before the LORD.

AND Hez-e-ki'-ah prayed before the LORD, and said, O LORD God of Israel, which dwelleth between the cher'-u-bim, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth.

LORD, bow down thine ear, and hear: open, LORD, thine eyes, and see: and hear the words of Sen-nach'-er-ib, which hath sent him to reproach the living God.

Of a truth LORD, the kings of Assyria have destroyed the nations and their lands,
AND have cast their gods into the fire: for they were no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone: therefore they have destroyed them.
Now therefore, O LORD our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD God, even thou only.

2 Kings 19:14-19

The above prayer was answered because king Hezekiah acknowledged God's supremacy with much adoration.

And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.
I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Luke 18:13-14

The Publican humbled himself before God acknowledging his sins before Him.

And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying,
If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.
But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?
And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.
And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.
And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.

Luke 23:39-43

The above scripture shows us a penitent sinner whom the Lord promised him entry into paradise.

Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die:

Remove far from me vanity and lies; give me neither poverty no riches; feed me with food convenient for me:

Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, who is the LORD? Or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.

Proverbs 30:7-9

In the above case we see a prayer done out of wisdom.

I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

John 17:15-21

Jesus Christ asked his Father out of wisdom.

Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his spirit in the inner man;

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth and length, and depth, and height;

And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,
Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. A'-men.

Ephesians 3:13-21

That prayer too was asked out of wisdom as the Spirit led the Apostle.

Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me;
That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judea; and that my service which I have for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints;
That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed.
Now the God of peace be with you all. A'-men.

Romans 15:30-33

FINALLY, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:
And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.

2 Thessalonians 3:1-2

Ep'-a-phras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.
For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them that are in La-od-i-ce'-a, and them in Hi-er-ap'-o-lis.

Colossians 4:12-13

The above prayers were for worthy causes and were worthy as well before the Lord.

So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shi'-loh, and after they had drunk. Now E'-li the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD.
And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore.

And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine hand maid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

1 Samuel 1:9-11

The prayer of Hannah was worthy two – fold, first praying with a contrite heart (Psalm 51:17) and second praying giving a Nazarite vow (which is in God's laws in the book of Numbers (Numbers 6:1-8). Now look at another similar prayer but with some variation a bit.

IN those days was Hez-e-ki'-ah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live.
Then Hez-e-ki'-ah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed unto the LORD,
And said, Remember now, O LORD, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and

with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hez-e-ki'-ah wept sore.

Then came the word of the LORD to Isaiah, saying, Go, and say to Hez-e-ki'-ah, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years.

And I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria: and I will defend this city.

Isaiah 38:1-6

Just as I said earlier, God hears the prayers of the righteous. Hezekiah the king of Judah it is recorded that he wept so much (wept sore) and actually tears came out from his eyes which God also saw and as God remembers and rewards the righteous accordingly, he sent prophet Isaiah to go back to him and give him the good tidings, just as he did to Noah. (Malachi 3:16-18, Genesis 6:5-18).

I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

Psalm 32:5

King David went to pray before the Lord by first confessing his sins to the Lord without hiding anything and the Lord forgave him. We too, have to pray before the Lord with a sincere heart and not a hypocritical heart, in order for our prayer to be presentable.

Chapter 12

Unworthy prayers

There is something like unworthy (uncalled for, evil, selfish) prayers. I have a few examples for you as follows:

Then Moses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent: and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased.

And Moses said unto the LORD, wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? And wherefore have I not found favor in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all t his people upon me?

Have I conceived all this people? Have I begotten them, that thou shouldest say unto me, Carry them in thy bosom, as a nursing father beareth the sucking child, unto the land which thou swarest unto their fathers?

Whence should I have flesh to give unto all this people? for they weep unto me, saying, Give us flesh, that we may eat.

I am not able to bear all this people alone, because it is too heavy for me.

And if thou deal thus with me, kill me, I pray thee, out of hand, if I have found favour in thy sight; and let me not see my wretchedness.

Numbers 11:10-15

And Ahab told Jez'-e-bel all that E-li'-jah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword.

Then Jez'-e-bel sent a messenger unto E-li'-jah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.

And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beer-she'-ba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there.

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.

1 Kings 19:1-4

And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.

BUT it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry.

And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tar'-shish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of evil.

Therefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live.

Then said the LORD, Doest thou well to be angry?

Jonah 3:10-4:1-4

Jonah's prayer was unworthy as God spared the people of Nineveh because they repented of their sins therefore the prayer was uncalled for and selfish on Jonah's part.

And now, because ye have done all these works, saith the Lord, and I spake unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not;
Therefore will I do unto this house, which is called by my name, wherein ye trust, and unto the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh.
And I will cast you out of my sight, as I have cast out all your brethren, even the whole seed of Ephraim.
Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee.

Jeremiah 7:13-16

The word of the Lord came again to me, saying, Son of man, when the land sinneth against me by trespassing grievously, then will I stretch out mine hand upon it, and will break the staff of the bread thereof, and will send famine upon it, and will cut off man and beast from it:

Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver by their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord.

Ezekiel 14:12-14

In the above two scriptures we do find that when people refuse to repent of their sins or their sins are grave before God any prayers become futile as cannot be answered. Let us look at yet another scripture.

And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.
If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.
All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.

1 John 5:15-17

That scripture brings yet another angle altogether in that prayer for sin committed unto death is not acceptable and is therefore unworthy before God.

That might in the category of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit as such cannot be forgiven (Matthew 12:31-32).

Then came to him the mother of Zeb'-e-dee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him.
And he said unto her, what wilt thou? She said unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.
But Jesus answered and said, ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, we are able:
And he saith unto them, ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.
And when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren.

But Jesus called them unto him, and said, ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.

But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;

And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:

Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Matthew 20:20-28

The above too is unworthy prayer as it is selfish in nature from the two disciples.

FROM whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?

Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

James 4:1-3

The above too is an unworthy prayer as comes out of one's lust and is unfounded.

And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:

Two men went up into the temple to pray: the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortionist, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

I fast twice in a week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

Luke 18:9-12

The Pharisee presented an unworthy prayer as he showed self - righteousness and boasting about it and went even further to compare himself with other people before God. God is not some one's uncle that you go to him that way in pride and lacking respect and so on. God is a Mighty and terrible God, he is Jehovah – El Gibbor. One need

go before him in complete reverence in fear and trembling- God is not one that one can try to joke with. It is foolish to compare oneself with the other in the Christian Walk. (Matthew 7:1-5, 1 Corinthians 4:5, 2 Corinthians 10:12

And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward.

Matthew 6:5

When you are praying to be seen by others your prayers are useless before the Lord.

Notes to the reader

My thanks to you for taking your time to read this noble book which I strongly believe have encouraged you a lot in the Walk of faith. For any comments please use the address given

Inspirational Publications
P.O Box 14500 – 00400 Nairobi
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