TOPIC PRINTABLE

Prayer & worship

How Scripture teaches people to pray — honestly, persistently, with thanksgiving — and what it says about worship.

MATTHEW 6:9–13

Pray like this: "'Our Father in heaven, may Your name be kept holy. Let Your Kingdom come. Let Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors. Bring us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.'

The prayer Jesus taught: praise, God's kingdom, daily needs, forgiveness, protection.

LUKE 11:1

When He finished praying in a certain place, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John also taught his disciples."

"Lord, teach us to pray" — the disciples ask, and prayer is presented as something learned.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6

In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

Everything can be brought to God, with thanksgiving.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16–18

Always rejoice. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus toward you.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in everything — prayer as a constant posture.

ROMANS 8:26

In the same way, the Spirit also helps our weaknesses, for we don't know how to pray as we ought. But the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which can't be uttered.

When we do not know how to pray, the Spirit helps "with groanings which can't be uttered."

LUKE 18:1

He also spoke a parable to them that they must always pray and not give up,

Jesus tells a parable so that people would pray and not lose heart — persistence encouraged.

MATTHEW 26:39

He went forward a little, fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass away from Me; nevertheless, not what I desire, but what You desire."

In Gethsemane Jesus asks for the cup to pass — and then yields: "not what I desire, but what You desire."

JAMES 5:16

Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The insistent prayer of a righteous person is powerfully effective.

Confess to one another and pray for one another.

PSALM 141:2

Let my prayer be set before You like incense; the lifting up of my hands like the evening sacrifice.

Prayer pictured as incense rising — the psalms as Israel's prayer book.