

BRAAM FAMILY

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER



Prayer is essential for everyone's faith, but it is so often ignored or misunderstood. It's also a common thing for many Christians to spend many hours in prayer and still walk out not knowing the thought of God. Prayer is meant to be an intentional thing, where you pray and expect to see. There is no randomness of things because God is the one that has called us to pray. Prayer is our means of communicating with God, and it also gives us access to the spiritual realm. Since prayer is defined as communication between us and God, then we should talk to Him and He should talk too. Reading through Habakkuk chapters 1 and 2 we see that the prophet speaks to God, and He replies. So when we pray we should expect God to talk back.

Deep cries unto deep, if you live in the shallow, you'll experience things of the shallow. And if you live in the depth you'll experience things of the depth. You can't expect the depth of God if you are shallow in prayer. Prayer and spending time with God should be the biggest desire of every believer. Prayer is a necessity for a Christian to stay spiritually strong. You will always face different situations, and these different situations will require different approaches in prayer. That's why Jesus speaking about deliverance said: This kind of demons can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting (Mark 9:29 NKJV).



With that said, it's important to note that there are different kinds of prayers. Paul writing to Timothy said, "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness" 1 Timothy 2:1-2 NIV. In the above scripture, Paul mentions different kinds of prayers that can be offered.

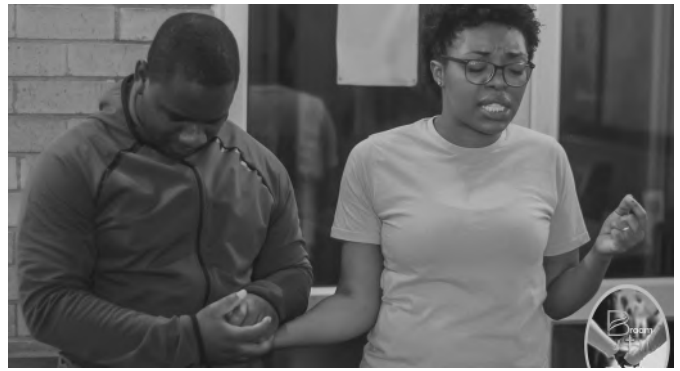
First, we'll look at the prayer of supplication. It is a prayer where one makes a humble petition. You make your request known to God from a place of humility and desperation.

We see an example of that when Hannah was praying for a child in 1 Samuel 1:11. Supplication from its Latin origin means to kneel or plead humbly. Our supplication goes beyond making personal petitions to making prayers on the behalf of others and that is called intercession. Another kind of prayer that can be made to God is prayers of thanksgiving and praise.

In the prayer of thanksgiving, you show gratitude to God for all that He has done for you. So in your prayers of thanksgiving, you praise God, showing an appreciation for His favor and benefits. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits," the psalmist writes in Psalms 103:2. An attitude of praise is beneficial for every believer, so let His 'praises ever' be on your lips.

On the other hand, worship isn't the simple acknowledgement of what He has done, but rather an acknowledgement of who He is. Worship is an expression of adoration and reverence, it conveys the idea of paying homage and respect to God the creator.

Then we find a type of prayer that highlighted in Psalms 51 when King David has sinned by sleeping with Bathsheba and then killing her husband. In this scripture, we see the prayer of repentance. A prayer of repentance is a prayer made by someone that has gone against God and regrets it. Repenting is acknowledging your sin, asking for God's forgiveness and then turning away from it. Though the focus of making things right is directed to God, we should also be humble enough to apologize to those that we have wronged. A prayer of repentance brings relief and freedom to the soul.



There is a battle going on and it is not physical, it's highlighted throughout Paul's letters to the different churches. One is found when reading 2 Corinthians 10:3-6, and it says: For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.

Paul explains that there's a war going on, and we have weapons for that war, but that war and its weapons are not physical. And it is through prayer that we engage in this battle. Ignoring the schemes of the enemy and the battle going on would be very costly. The devil is always at work trying to find ways to destroy you, hence why not take the stand in spiritual warfare so that you don't fall victim of his plans. With prayers, we can overthrow the decrees and systems of the enemy, and stand in the victory that Christ has given us (also see Ephesians 6:10-18 and James 4:7).

To follow up spiritual warfare, there's a type that we call the prayer of declaration and decree. Matthew 18:18-20 says "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them". We make declarations as prayers so that spiritual things that are in accordance with God's will can manifest in the physical realm. If we are ignorant of the spiritual realities we will always fall victims as preys of the devil's schemes.



Stay awake in prayer so that you enjoy the benefits that are attached to being prayerful. There's a will of God that can only be done on earth through the prayers of Saints. There's so much that prayers can do for you that your strength can't do. For example, Jabez prayed and as a result, limitations were broken off his life (see 1 Chronicle 4:9-10). Anna prayed to God and she received her Samuel (see 1 Samuel 1:11).

Something amazing about prayer is that it can outlive you and affect many generations after you (see Joshua 6:26, 1 King 16:34).

James 5:17 says "Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years". It's important to pray, and it's even more important to pray earnestly and continually.

The bottom line is that prayer is essential for every believer because when you stop praying, you start dying spiritually. After all, prayer is like a Christian's oxygen.

Pray always and pray all kinds of prayers!

