

# *Teaching the Believing Child about a Personal Prayer Time*

*"A person's prayers are the measure of his Christianity,  
understanding of spiritual things,  
and experience of God."  
--E.M. Bounds*



## **I. The Definition of Personal Prayer Time**

A personal prayer time is where the believing child talks to God, whether out loud or silently. At times this prayer time also includes listening to what God speaks quietly to his heart. Prayer is a privilege that every true Believer has. It is an ever open opportunity for him to publicly or privately worship and thank God for who He is and what He has done. It's also a time for him to confess any sin in his life, as well as to take any request (for himself or anyone else) before our great and powerful God. Often as he waits before the Lord in prayer, God will speak back to him in gentle promptings of the heart concerning some sin to confess, some request to take before Him, or some verse or worshipful thought. He may even change the desires of his heart on some matter.

## **II. Key Verses on Prayer**



### **A. Jeremiah 33:3**

*"Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know."*



### **B. James 4:3-4**

*"You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures."*



### **C. James 5:16**

*"Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."*



### **D. John 14:13-14**

*"And whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it."*



E. *Psalm 66:18*

*"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear."*



F. *Proverbs 15:29*

*"The Lord is far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous."*



G. *1 Thessalonians 5:17*

*"Pray without ceasing."*



H. *Romans 8:26*

*"Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."*

### III. Important Teaching for Establishing a Personal Prayer Time

The Bible is full of teaching on prayer. The following truths only serve as the beginning of what the believing child needs to understand and practice regarding prayer.



#### A. Who Can Pray?

Anyone can pray, but God only promises to answer the prayers of those who have accepted Christ as their personal Savior; those who can call God their Father

*Matthew 6:9 "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven . . ."*

The only other prayer God promises to hear is the prayer of a sinner who, in faith, cries out for God to save him (Romans 10:9-10).

#### B. Why Should the Child Pray?

→ God commands his children to pray (Jeremiah 33:3).

→ God promises to hear and answer the prayer of the believing boy or girl (John 15:16).

→ Prayer demonstrates our faith in Him (James 1:6-8).

C. **When** Should the Child Pray?

- Pray at any time throughout the day (1 Thess. 5:17).
- It is helpful to set at least one specific time in which to pray (Psalm 5:3; 55:17). This helps develop a daily habit of prayer. Help the child choose the best time in his day to devote to prayer.



D. **Where** Can the Child Pray?

- The believing child can pray anywhere, either publicly or privately. You can illustrate this through biblical examples of Hannah in the tabernacle, Elijah at Zarephath, Jonah in the fish, Jesus on the cross, Paul in prison, etc.
- It is also good to encourage the believing child to pick a quiet place where he can be alone with the Lord each day. This will help keep out unwanted distractions and allow him to concentrate on talking and listening to the Lord.

E. **What** Should the Child Pray About?

His quiet time with the Lord each day could include:

1. **A time of praise**--worshipping God for His different attributes (Psalm 145:1-3)
2. **A time of thanksgiving**--thanking God for His mighty deeds as seen in the Bible and in the child's life (answers to prayer; 1 Thessalonians 5:18)
3. **A time of confession**--asking God to forgive any sin (Psalm 139:23-24)
4. **A time of requests**--asking God to help with specific needs in his life or the lives of others (Philippians 4:6). This should also include praying for their spiritual needs and for God to bring sinners to salvation through their witnessing and the work of missionaries (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

Help the child to make a small notebook for recording his requests and the way God answers them.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>Date of Answer</i>	<i>Told God "Thanks"</i>

## F. **How** God Will Answer His Prayers

God promises to hear and answer prayers, but He does not always answer in the way we'd like Him to.



1. Sometimes God answers **yes** (Acts 12:5, 12-17).
2. Sometimes God answers **wait** (Romans 1:10-13; cf Acts 28:16-30).
3. Sometimes God answers **no** (Matthew 26:36-46).

## G. **What** Will Hinder His Prayers

1. Unconfessed sin (Psalm 66:18)
2. Lack of faith in God to answer prayer (James 1:5-7)
3. Praying selfishly (James 4:3)
4. An unforgiving spirit towards someone who has offended or hurt him (Matthew 6:14-15)
5. Praying in an effort to show off (Matthew 6:5-6)
6. Tiredness (Matthew 26:40-41)
7. Lack of persistence in praying for something (Luke 18:1)

## IV. **Ways to Teach About Prayer**

*"The great people of the earth today are the people who pray. I do not mean those who talk about prayer; not those who say they believe in prayer; nor yet those who can explain about prayer. I mean those people who take time and pray. They have no time. It must be taken from something else. The something else is important . . . but still less important and less pressing than prayer."*

*--S.D. Gordon*



*The greatest thing anyone can do for God and men is to pray.  
It is not the only thing but the chief thing."*

*--S.D. Gordon*

A. Through Specific Bible Lessons

1. Several Lessons in the CEF series on the life of Daniel
2. The CEF series, Big Questions on Prayer
3. Hannah
- 4.

B. Through Special Lessons

1. God's Good Answers (on prayer)
2. The Lord's Prayer
3. Doctrinal lessons on prayer
4. Object lessons on prayer
- 5.

C. Through Songs

♪ Read Your Bible, Pray Every Day



D. Through Making and Using a Counseling Tool about Prayer

1. This tool can be made small enough to use with believing children in one-on-one discipleship situations.
2. This tool can be made large enough to use in front of the entire class.



**Teaching a child to have  
a daily personal prayer time  
is one of the most important ways to guide him into spiritual maturity.**