

A Habit of Prayer

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. [1 Thessalonians 5:16-18]

Prayer should be our first response, not our last resort.

"One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray...'" [Luke 11:1]

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one, for Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever." [Matthew 6:9-13]

"Our Father in heaven"

1. Connect with God relationally

You have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." [Romans 8:15]

"Hallowed be Your Name"

2. Worship His Name

God's name is a place of protection—the righteous can run there and be safe. [Proverbs 18:10 MSG]

"Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

3. Pray His agenda first

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness,
and all these things will be given to you as well.
[Matthew 6:33]

"Give us this day our daily bread"

4. Depend on Him for everything

I look up to the mountains—does my help come from there?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth!
[Psalm 121:1-2]

"Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors."

5. Get your heart right with God and people

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness. [1 John 1:9]

"And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

6. Engage in spiritual warfare

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers,
against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and
against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.
[Ephesians 6:12]

"For yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever."

7. Express faith in God's ability

"Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by
your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for
you." [Jeremiah 32:17]

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor
and glory and power, for ever and ever!" [Revelation 5:13]