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WORSHIPPING THROUGH PRAYER

Every Christian has the right to pray. Prayer is both a great privilege and a great blessing. A Christian should pray privately (*Philippians 4:6*) and should pray with the church (*Acts 12:5; 20:36; 21:5*). One act of Christian worship is prayer.

In *Matthew 6:9-13* Jesus gave his disciples an example of how to pray. In that prayer there was praise to God, a promise of loyalty and submission to God's will, a request for help with physical needs, a request for forgiveness, and a request for strength to face temptation.

There are different kinds of prayers (*1 Timothy 2:1*). Supplication is a prayer prayed many times asking for help with a problem or a trouble. Intercession is a prayer asking God to help someone else. Thanksgiving is a prayer thanking God for His blessings and goodness. There are also prayers of praise honoring God. It is proper to pray a prayer for only one of these reasons. It is also proper to pray one prayer for all of these reasons. A prayer can have one purpose or can have many purposes.

For what can the church pray? God can be praised for His greatness and be thanked for His blessings. God can be asked to help with common problems. We can ask for God's guidance and for God's forgiveness. Help for the sick and those with trouble can be asked. We can ask for help with spiritual needs. God's help in spreading the gospel and helping the church to grow can be asked. All these things and other similar concerns can be voiced in public prayer.

There is power in prayer. Christians should talk to God respectfully, but they also should talk to Him freely and without fear (*1 John 5:14*).

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. For what did Jesus teach his disciples to pray?
2. What is a prayer of supplication?
3. What is a prayer of intercession?
4. What is a prayer of thanksgiving?
5. With what attitudes should prayer be made?

6. What kind of words should the leader use?
7. How should prayers close and end?
8. Tell some of the things it is proper for a church to pray for.