

1. Definition: pray (v)

4336 προσεύχομαι *proseuchomai*

- = to offer prayers, to pray to God
- = to speak to God, to ask God for

Webster Dictionary

- = to address supplication to a divinity, especially to the true God
- = the offering of adoration, confession, supplication and thanksgiving to the Supreme Being

2. What is the purpose of prayer?

a) ADORATION and praise

- our God is worthy of praise
- He is greatly to be praised

(Ps 18:3; Ps 145:3; 1 Chr 29:10-13)

b) CONFESSION

- mercy and forgiveness are ours when we confess our sins to God
- confession is with the mouth (spoken)

(Ps 32:5; 1 Jn 1:9; Lk 18:10-14; Ps 51:1-9)

c) THANKSGIVING

- many encouragements to pray also call for the expressing of thanks to God
- praying in everything with thanksgiving is the antidote to anxiety

(Eph 5:20; Col 4:2; 1 Thess 5:17-18; Heb 13:15; Phil 4:6)

d) SUPPLICATION

- we are commanded to let our requests be made known to God
- we are encouraged to make supplications for all men

(Phil 4:6; 1 Tim 2:1-2; 1 Ki 8:28-29)

- one way to remember the purpose of prayer is with the simple acronym **ACTS**

3. Why should we pray?

- we are commanded to pray
- always without losing heart
- unceasingly
- in everything, in all circumstances
- for all people, for all the saints

(Lk 18:1; 1 Thes 5:17; Phil 4:6; 1 Ti 2:1; Eph 6:18-19)

4. To whom are we to pray?

- pray to God, the Sovereign Lord
 - the Father
 - the Lord Jesus
 - there is no prayer recorded in Scripture that is directed to the Holy Spirit

(Acts 4:24; Mt 6:9; Ac 7:59; 2 Co 12:8-9; 1 Co 1:2)

- we have access to the Father through Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit (Eph 2:18)
- in Christ, our great high priest forever, we have boldness and confidence to draw near to the throne of grace (Heb 2:17; 4:14-16; 6:20)

- the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness
- we don't know how to pray as we ought
- He intercedes for us according to the will of God
- He makes our weak prayers effective

(Ro 8:26-27)

5. The duty of prayer is also a magnificent and precious privilege for

- the righteous – God's ears are open to them
- only the saved are the righteous

(Pro 15:8; 1 Pe 3:12; 2 Co 5:21; 1 Co 1:30)

6. Please note: God does not listen to or answer every prayer. He will not answer those who:

- do not pay attention to His Word (Pro 28:9; Zech 7:11-13)
- remain in their sin, and regard iniquity in their hearts (Isa 59:1-2; Jn 9:31; Ps 66:18; Pro 1:24-25, 28)
- forsake God and worship other gods/idols (Jer 11:11-14; 14:10-12; Eze 8:15-18)
- do not treat others justly (Pro 21:13; Isa 1:15; Micah 3:2-4)
- pray without faith (James 1:6-7)