



Why Pray Out Loud?

What is prayer?

In the Christian context, prayer is dialog with God, our Father. It is a family chat, a strategizing session, a petition for help, a time of teaching, correction and/or learning. It is the relational venue you have with your Heavenly Father for all manner of issues.

The model for prayer provided in the Bible is the Lord's Prayer (*Matt 6: 8-13). It covers all aspects of your relationship with the Father: It covers His Holiness, His desire to bring His Kingdom to Earth thru His Church, His nature as Provider, your nature as a person impacted by sin and in need of forgiveness and restoration, and your need for His protection from evil. In this prayer, you find elements of your needs being presented to the Father in prayers of petition from your position as His governmental representative here on Earth.

Another model for prayer in *Eph 6: 1-8 tells you how to spiritually dress for prayer by putting on the "full armor of God" as you partner with God in prayer against the works of the devil.

Please know that there is no right or wrong way to pray out loud and it should never be done to impress others. However, 1Thessalonians 5:17 tells us that you should "pray without ceasing". You can pray at home, in the car, while on a walk, or while doing dishes. It is not a religious activity it is a relationship building tool between you and God.

Why Pray?

Prayer is Powerful: The spoken Word is powerful as evidenced in Genesis where God spoke all of creation into being. *Gen 1:3,6,8,9,11,14-15

God and Jesus Prayed: By God's design, Man is the imitator of God. (*Gen 1:26)

God Values Prayer: In *Is 56:7 and Mark 11:17, God calls His people to be a house of prayer for all nations.

Jesus Values Prayer: The only time where Jesus is shown to be angry in scripture, is in Matt 21:13 in regards to prayer. In this chapter, Jesus angrily drove out those who bought and sold in the Temple, saying that the Lord had declared that "His house would be a house of prayer."

Jesus Taught on Prayer: In Matt 6, Jesus taught the disciples how to pray. In Mark 11, he taught the people in the Temple that they should be a House of Prayer for all nations.

Why Pray Out Loud?

You can pray to God silently or through the spoken word. In silent meditation, you train your mind to focus on, and contemplate, the things of God; including scripture. When you pray out loud, you engage your mind, will and emotions (heart) in two-way communication with God.

Praying out loud is a powerful way to connect with the godhead (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). Consider the following:

The Power of Words. Man was made by the spoken Word of God, in His likeness, as representatives, and caretakers of this Earth. As His representative, your most powerful gift is to use your voice to communicate, pray, declare and decree.

Why Out Loud? Prov 18:21 tells us that both “death and life are in the power of the tongue and those who love it will eat its fruit.” One of the greatest weapons you have for growing in maturity and for completing your assignment (the Great Commission) is prayer, which is wielded through the use of the tongue. Hearing oneself pray out loud lets our soul know that our spirit man is in charge; a crucial posture for victorious Christian living.

Some Thought Provoking Questions: Is a thought a force if it remains just in your head or do thoughts have greater impact when expressed? Can thoughts engage/inspire agreement with others if held in your mind? Is agreement important? How about agreement with a God inspired idea expressed out loud in community with others?

Build Your Faith: Praying out loud builds faith and results in an increased sense of community and oneness with God. The oneness with God that is born out of open, spoken prayer allows you to experience His glorious Presence which also serves to build your faith. It becomes a wonderful exchange, pray to build your faith and experience God in prayer to increase your faith.

Grow in Spiritual Maturity. Praying out loud is a way to increase your spiritual maturity: especially if you pray the scriptures. Repetition of praying the scriptures serves to help you absorb scripture into your mind, will and emotions which causes you to mature in your Christian walk.

How To Pray Out Loud

Praying out loud can include giving thanks, praising God, submitting petitions, or all of the above. Start by praying out loud at home in your prayer closet.

1. Take a deep breath and invite Holy Spirit to join you and guide you in your prayer time.
2. Spend time praising God, worshipping Him, or singing a song to Him.
3. Simply talk to God as you would to a friend. Tell Him your situation. Pour out your heart to Him. Recognize that, as you speak to God, you are also speaking to yourself. Feel free to ask God questions and then...
4. Pause. Listen for God's to answer you. It may come as a knowing, it may come as a scripture reference, or you might hear words come to you.
5. Consider praying through scripture by praying them out loud as declarations. Use your bible or an online resource to explore scriptures that correspond to the issues at hand and pray those scriptures out loud over yourself or the situation.
6. Consider keeping a journal of your prayer time recording the things you ask in petition and the responses you receive along with the manifestation of actual answers to your prayers.
7. Refer back to your journal when you start a time of prayer to find reasons to praise God because of His answer to one or more of your prayers.

*Scripture References

Matt 6: 8-13 "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. ⁹In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.¹⁰ Your kingdom come, Your will be done On earth as *it is* in heaven.¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹²And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.¹³ And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. [d]For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Gen 1:3 Then God said, "Let there be light", **6** Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." **9** Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear" **11** Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth" **14** Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; **15** and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"

Gen 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Isa 56:7 Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of

prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices Will be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations."

Mat 21:13 / Mar 11:17 / Luk 19:45 Then He went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in it, 46 saying to them, "It is written, 'MY HOUSE IS A HOUSE OF PRAYER,' but you have made it a 'DEN OF THIEVES.' "