

Big Purpose of Prayer

To know God better.

5 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, 16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people, 19 and His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 He exerted when He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. Ephesians 1:15-21

What essentially is prayer?

"It is continuing the conversation that God has started."
Timothy Keller, *Prayer*

It is about ongoing relationship with God.

Prayer Format: Acts Model

A - adoration

Names of God

ELOHIM [el-oh-heem]: God "Creator, Mighty and Strong" (Genesis 17:7; Jeremiah 31:33)

EL SHADDAI [el-shah-dahy]: "God Almighty," "The Mighty One of Jacob" (Genesis 49:24; Psalm 132:2,5)

ADONAI [ædɒ'nai; ah-daw-nahy]: "Lord" (Genesis 15:2; Judges 6:15)

YHWH / YAHWEH / JEHOVAH [yah-way / ji-hoh-veh]: "LORD" (Deuteronomy 6:4; Daniel 9:14) "I Am who I Am" (Exodus 3:14), near to those who call on Him for deliverance (Psalm 107:13), forgiveness (Psalm 25:11) and guidance (Psalm 31:3)

YAHWEH-JIREH [yah-way-ji-reh]: "The Lord Will Provide" (Genesis 22:14)

YAHWEH-RAPHA [yah-way-raw-faw]: "The Lord Who Heals" (Exodus 15:26)

YAHWEH-NISSI [yah-way-nee-see]: "The Lord Our Banner" (Exodus 17:15), where banner is understood to be a rallying place.

YAHWEH-M'KADDESH [yah-way-meh-kad-esh]: "The Lord Who Sanctifies, Makes Holy" (Leviticus 20:8; Ezekiel 37:28)

YAHWEH-SHALOM [yah-way-shah-lohm]: "The Lord Our Peace" (Judges 6:24)

YAHWEH-ELOHIM [yah-way-el-oh-him]: "LORD God" (Genesis 2:4; Psalm 59:5)

YAHWEH-TSIDKENU [yah-way-tzid-kay-noo]: "The Lord Our Righteousness" (Jeremiah 33:16)

YAHWEH-ROHI [yah-way-roh-hee]: "The Lord Our Shepherd" (Psalm 23:1)

YAHWEH-SHAMMAH [yah-way-sham-mahw]: "The Lord Is There" (Ezekiel 48:35; Ezekiel 8—11; Ezekiel 44:1-4).

YAHWEH-SABAOTH [yah-way-sah-bah-ohth]: "The Lord of Hosts" (Isaiah 1:24; Psalm 46:7)

EL ELYON [el-el-yohn]: "Most High" (Deuteronomy 26:19)

EL ROI [el-roh-ee]: "God of Seeing" (Genesis 16:13)

C - confession

T - thanksgiving

S - supplication

Luther's Meditation/Prayer Method

Using a biblical passage or command

1. Instruction

What is it saying? Praise God for this.

2. Thanksgiving

Thank God for the instruction and how it will grow you in the grace of Jesus.

3. Confession

Admit if you are not doing what the passage or commands instructs.

4. Specific Prayer

Pray that the passage or command would become part of your thinking and living.

When to Pray

Consistency is the goal.

Self-awareness is important.