**What is prayer?**

Prayer is a solemn request for help or expression of thanks addressed to God or an object of worship:"I'll say a prayer for him"

* Prayer, according to the Bible, is a heartfelt and earnest communication with God. It’s not just reciting words but a genuine conversation with the Creator of the universe.

In Philippians 4:6 (NIV), we are encouraged, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” This verse underscores the idea that prayer is a way to cast our cares and concerns upon God, trusting that He hears and responds.

* Prayer is the means through which we express our love, gratitude, and dependence on God.

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Here are the main types of prayers in the Bible:

**The prayer of faith:** [James 5:15](https://www.bibleref.com/James/5/James-5-15.html) says, “And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up.” In this context, prayer is offered in faith for someone who is sick, asking God to heal. When we pray, we are to believe in the power and goodness of God ([Mark 9:23](https://www.bibleref.com/Mark/9/Mark-9-23.html)).

**The prayer of agreement (also known as**[**corporate prayer**](https://www.gotquestions.org/corporate-prayer.html)**):** After Jesus’ ascension, the disciples “all joined together constantly in prayer” ([Acts 1:14](https://www.bibleref.com/Acts/1/Acts-1-14.html)). Later, after Pentecost, the early church “devoted themselves” to prayer ([Acts 2:42](https://www.bibleref.com/Acts/2/Acts-2-42.html)). Their example encourages us to pray with others.

**The prayer of request (or**[**supplication**](https://www.gotquestions.org/prayer-of-supplication.html)**):** We are to take our requests to God. [Philippians 4:6](https://www.bibleref.com/Philippians/4/Philippians-4-6.html) teaches, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Part of winning the spiritual battle is to be “praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication” ([Ephesians 6:18](https://www.bibleref.com/Ephesians/6/Ephesians-6-18.html)).

**The prayer of thanksgiving:** We see another type of prayer in [Philippians 4:6](https://www.bibleref.com/Philippians/4/Philippians-4-6.html): thanksgiving or thanks to God. “With thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Many examples of thanksgiving prayers can be found in the Psalms.

**The prayer of worship:** The prayer of worship is similar to the prayer of thanksgiving. The difference is that worship focuses on who God is; thanksgiving focuses on what God has done. Church leaders in Antioch prayed in this manner with fasting: “While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off” ([Acts 13:2-3](https://www.bibleref.com/Acts/13/Acts-13-2.html)).

**The prayer of consecration:** Sometimes, prayer is a time of setting ourselves apart to follow God’s will. Jesus made such a prayer the night before His crucifixion: “And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, ‘My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will’” ([Matthew 26:39](https://www.bibleref.com/Matthew/26/Matthew-26-39.html)).

**The prayer of intercession:** Many times, our prayers include requests for others as we intercede for them. We are told to make intercession “for everyone” in [1 Timothy 2:1](https://www.bibleref.com/1-Timothy/2/1-Timothy-2-1.html). Jesus serves as our example in this area. The whole of [John 17](https://www.bibleref.com/John/17/John-chapter-17.html) is a prayer of Jesus on behalf of His disciples and all believers.

**The prayer of imprecation:** [Imprecatory prayers](https://www.gotquestions.org/imprecatory-prayer.html) are found in the Psalms (e.g., 7, 55, 69). They are used to invoke God’s judgment on the wicked and thereby avenge the righteous. The psalmists use this type of appeal to emphasize the holiness of God and the surety of His judgment. Jesus teaches us to pray for blessing on our enemies, not cursing ([Matthew 5:44-48](https://www.bibleref.com/Matthew/5/Matthew-5-44.html)).

Prayer we pray during worship service…

**What is an Invocation Prayer?**

Simply stated, an invocation [prayer](https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/prayer/) is an opening prayer for a church service or meeting. Invocation prayers focus on worshipping God and seeking His presence in the gathering.

**What Is an Altar Call?**

An altar call is a time of prayer and response after a sermon. They are sometimes called invitations, since it is a time when people in the congregation are invited to respond to the sermon at the altar of God.

Generally, it is an opportunity to respond to the Gospel and be saved, though it can also be to repent of sin, to ask for help or healing, or to seek wisdom in a difficult situation. Some churches only do them at revivals, while others do them every week. They became popular in the United States during the First Great Awakening, when preachers encouraged an immediate response to the Gospel at their revival sermons.

**What is the benediction prayer?**

The Benediction Prayer is a short and beautiful prayer set in poetic form. It begins with the words, "May the Lord bless you and keep you." This benediction is found in Numbers 6:24-26, and is likely one of the oldest poems in the Bible. The prayer is also commonly referred to as Aaron's Blessing, the Aaronic Blessing, or the Priestly Blessing.