



Walking in the Steps of the Master:

A Twelve Step Guide to Discipleship

COME TO ZION MINISTRIES

Isaiah 49:6...I will give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be my salvation to the ends of the earth.

Located in the Western Galilee, Israel

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Step Eight: Learning to Pray

Yeshua was a man of prayer and He would spend many hours in prayer, for His prayers were like a constant communion with the Father. This attitude of worship brought an additional aspect, was not always associated with the traditional view of prayer. When we read about Yeshua leaving to spent time alone with GOD, it was for the purpose of spending personal worship with the Father.

The traditional view of prayer had been one of supplication or entreaty of the LORD. When a person needed something from GOD, they would ask of Him to fill that need. Some examples of this type of biblical prayer are as follows:

- ✧ Isaac prayed for a son from his barren wife, Rebecca.
- ✧ Hannah prayed for a son and Samson was born.
- ✧ Elijah prays for a dead boy to recover and he does.
- ✧ Hezekiah prayed for deliverance from the Assyrians and GOD destroyed the Assyrians so they left Israel.
- ✧ GOD answered Nehemiah's prayer to rebuild Jerusalem.
- ✧ GOD honored the prayers of Daniel and saved him in the lion's den.

GOD is always sensitive to answering these prayers from His people. To assist with these prayers, Yeshua offered a pattern for prayer in the form referred to as the LORD's Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13 NLT:

Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may Your name be kept holy. May Your Kingdom come soon. May Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us today the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]

We need to remember the key elements of prayer that Yeshua emphasized in the LORD's Prayer. We must first keep GOD as the primary focus in our life. All of the blessings that we enjoy in life come from Him so we need to acknowledge Him in thanksgiving for His provision. Then we need to be concerned that our life will not bring shame to the name of GOD. One of the great concerns that GOD expressed to the people was that their disobedient behavior would cause His name to be profaned, Leviticus 18:1, 19:12, 21:6, 22:32.

Yeshua next focused on the coming Kingdom, which is the ruling of GOD's authority in our hearts. A king has to have submission subjects or the kingdom will be a chaos. The Kingdom of GOD is no exception. We shall first see the Kingdom expressed as the ruling of GOD's authority in our hearts, and then as a physical Kingdom that will be ruled by Yeshua on the Earth. It is important therefore, to perform the will of GOD in our life. Our willingness to perform our Father's will, is our evidence of being in GOD's family, Matthew 12:50. We also need to be cognizant of the true source of our sustenance. We can often think that our jobs or careers are the source of our sustenance but in reality it is our heavenly Father. Many people have come to realize this fact in our age of corporate uncertainty and the related loss of jobs.

Equally important for our prayer life is the success of our spiritual battles. Forgiveness is a key element of having our prayers heard by GOD. Peter warns us against harboring unforgiveness in our relationships and how that will affect our prayers, 1 Peter 3:7. Even our giving in to temptation will negatively affect our prayer life and cause our prayers to not be answered, 1 Peter 3:12.

The apostle Paul did a great deal of teaching regarding prayer in his writings to the assemblies. One of the key points that Paul makes that reflects Yeshua's attitude is that of prayer being unceasing, 1 Thessalonians 5:17. Prayer, as intimate communion with our Father, should be as natural to us as breathing. In other words, our thoughts of our Father should constantly be on our mind, prompting opportunities for prayer.

Some final points regarding prayer need to be made for the disciple. Firstly, all prayer should be done in cooperation with the Holy Spirit, Ephesians 6:18. The Holy Spirit knows the will of the Father and can greatly aid our prayers. Secondly, we should pray in faith (trusting GOD to answer) and fervently, James 5:15, 16. Lastly, we should always pray with an attitude of thanksgiving, showing respect for our Father's wonderful provisions for our lives, Philippians 4:6 NLT.