

Prayer – a petition to God asking for redress of grievances, address of man's desires or praise and admonition of God.

As men lead in prayer, we must realize that we all speak a different number of words each day.

Do not be amazed if the things you think of to say in prayer are different than those of your spouse or if the number of words you use to say them differs.

To whom is prayer to be offered?

Col 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Act 7:59 And they went on stoning Stephen as he called upon the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!"

1Ti 2:1 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, (2) for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. (3) This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, (4) who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Psa 17:1 A Prayer of David. Hear a
just cause, O LORD, give heed to
my cry; Give ear to my prayer,
which is not from deceitful lips. (2)
Let my judgment come forth from
Thy presence; Let Thine eyes look
with equity.

Jas 4:1 What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? (2) You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. And you are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. (3) You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. (4) You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

How do we know if (or when) God
will answer our prayer?

1Sa 1:10 And she, greatly distressed, prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly. (11) And she made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if Thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of Thy maidservant and remember me, and not forget Thy maidservant, but wilt give Thy maidservant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and a razor shall never come on his head."

The very first thing that we must ask is
how long had Hannah been praying
about that subject.

*Peninnah his wife and to all her sons
and her daughters*

A woman gave birth every two years
on average with 20% dying in infancy.
So this is probably 10 or more years.

1Sa 2:19 And his mother would make him a little robe and bring it to him from year to year when she would come up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. (20) Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife and say, "May the LORD give you children from this woman in place of the one she dedicated to the LORD." And they went to their own home. (21) And the LORD visited Hannah; and she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel grew before the LORD.

Does God micromanage our lives?

If we receive a parking place just in time does
that mean that God did it?

God's providence Mat 5:45 so that you may be
sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He
causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good,
and sends rain on the righteous and the
unrighteous.

The age of miracles has passed.

Zec 13:2 "It will come about in that day," declares the LORD of hosts, "that I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, and they will no longer be remembered; and I will also remove the prophets and the unclean spirit from the land.

1Co 13:10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.

Act 14:3 So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to perform signs and wonders.

God raised Lazarus from the dead

Jn 11.13-14

In Jn 9.3 the blind man was born
for a purpose.

All things work together for good

Rom 8.28

God can do what He wishes and often
does –

the birth of John the Baptist

the birth of Jesus

the calling of Paul to be a chosen vessel

Why do I have to deal with cancer, diabetes, birth defects, earthquakes, tsunamis, or the untimely death of a loved one?

Rev 9:20-21 The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk. (21) Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.

War, slavery, murder, poverty, religions are not the point as these are works of men who are free moral agents. Men inflict pain on others as they will, whether in stealing, selfishness or ill will.

When Jesus gave food to the 5000
(Jn 6), there was a miracle but
Jesus did not use miracles to
continue feeding them (Jn 6.26).

God uses the laws of nature
(physics) which He set up to define
the processes we use to provide for
ourselves and others.

The rain, sunshine and wind must be coupled with man's tending the earth to provide sufficient food to prevent starvation.

As you consider the change from wood to coal to oil to nuclear power, there are choices to made by men.

If we pray that God will warm us, has He not given the means to accomplish this? But to what extent does God provide the fuel, the building to keep the heat localized, and the size of group warmed?

1Ti 4:4 For everything created by God is good,
and nothing is to be rejected, if it is received
with gratitude; (5) for it is sanctified by means
of the word of God and prayer.

God will answer in His own good time, but Satan still prowls (1Pet 5.8), and God disciplines (Heb 12.7)

And through it all, we must remain steadfast.

1Co 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

Rev 2:10 'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.