

What Is Prayer ?

A Brief Theology Of Prayer



What Is Prayer?

- Prayer is God's verbal channel of communication between believers (in Jesus Christ) and Himself –

through which His heavenly glory, will, blessings, power and provision (His Lordship and Saving Power)

are being brought into active reality on earth.

- Christian prayer is to the Father, in the Name of Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

To The Father...

- Our Father who is in heaven.... (Matthew 6:9)
- I bow my knees before the Father (Ephesians 3:14)
- Giving thanks always for everything to God the Father (Ephesians 5:20, Colossians 1:12, 3:17)
- Abba Father
(Mark 14:36, Romans 8:15, Galatians 4:6)
- The Father ... from Whom are all things
(1 Corinthians 8:6)
- The Father of mercies and God of all Comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3)
- The eternally blessed One..the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 11:31)
- The Father...who has blessed us with every blessing in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 1:3)
- Every generous act and perfect gift is from above coming down from the Father of lights (James 1:17)
- Father of spirits (Hebrews 12:9)

In The Name Of Jesus

- Jesus Christ the Mediator between God and Man (1 Timothy 2:5, Hebrews 8:6, 9:15, 12:24)
- When two or three are gathered in My Name there I am in the midst of them (Matthew 18:20)
- Whatever you ask in My name I will do it ... (John 14:13,14)
- ..whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you (John 15:16, 16:23-26)
- Calling on the name of the Lord for salvation (Acts 2:21, 4:12,10:43 Romans 10:13, 1 Corinthians 1:2, 6:11)
- Signs and wonders (Acts 3:6, 4:30)
- Faith in His name (John 1:12, 20:31, Acts 3:16)
- Exorcism (Acts 16:18,19:13-17)
- Healing (James 5:14)
- Worship & service in His name (Philippians 2:10, Hebrews 6:10, 13:15)

Through The Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit helps us in our praying (Romans 8:26)
- The Spirit gives life to our prayers (John 6:63)
- The Holy Spirit gives us access to the Father (Ephesians 2:18, 3:12)
- We need to be born-again as a new creation by the Holy Spirit to really know spiritual life (John 3:3-8, 2 Corinthians 3:13-18, 5:17,)
- Believers are 'one spirit' with God (1 Corinthians 6:17)
- The Holy Spirit gives some believers a heavenly prayer language (Acts 2:3,4 ; Acts 10:44-48, 19:6, 1 Corinthians 12:10,28,30; 14:1-40)

Posture

- It does not involve any special required place or posture - though kneeling, raising of hands, laying on of hands and lying prostrate before the Lord get a few mentions each.
- **Kneeling:** Luke 22:41, Acts 7:60, 9:40, 20:36, 21:15, Ephesians 3:14
- **Laying On Of Hands:** Matthew 19:15, Mark 6:5, 8:23-25, 10:16, 16:18; Luke 4:40, Acts 6:6, 8:17,18; 13:3, 19:6, 28:8, 1 Timothy 4:14, Hebrews 6:2
- **Lifting Up Holy Hands:** Deuteronomy 32:40, Psalms 28:2, 63:4, 134:2, 141:2, Lamentations 3:41, Luke 24:50, 1 Timothy 2:8

What Prayer Is NOT!!

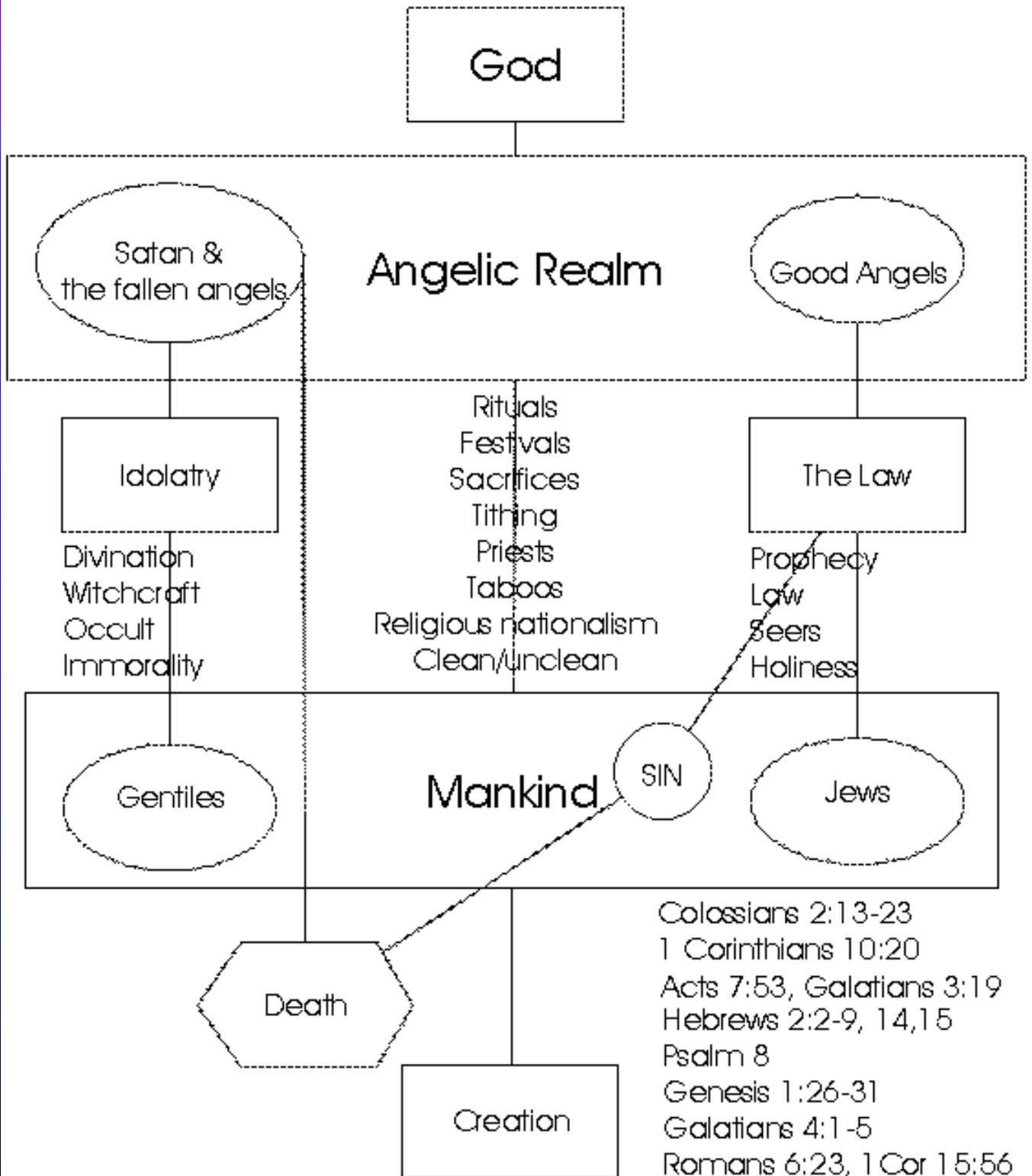
- A Hypocritical Public Performance (Matthew 6:5,6)
- Repetitive / Wordy (Matthew 6:7,8)
- Unforgiving / Hard-Hearted (Matthew 6:12-15, 18:21-35; 1 Peter 3:7)
- Boastful (Luke 18:9-14)
- Full of conflict with others (1 Timothy 2:8)
- Unbelieving / Filled With Doubt (James 1:5-8, Matthew 21:21, Mark 11:23)

The Three Big Categories

- **E**NFORCEMENT -
exorcism, healing, cleansing lepers, raising the dead, acts of faith and power, intercession, imprecation, words of faith and testimony, crying out for justice and for God's will to be done
- **A**DORATION – praise, thanksgiving, worship, sitting in silence before the Lord, seeking God, knowing God's love
- **R**EQUESTING – for forgiveness, escape from temptation, cleansing, spiritual growth, wisdom, power in ministry, daily bread and so on.

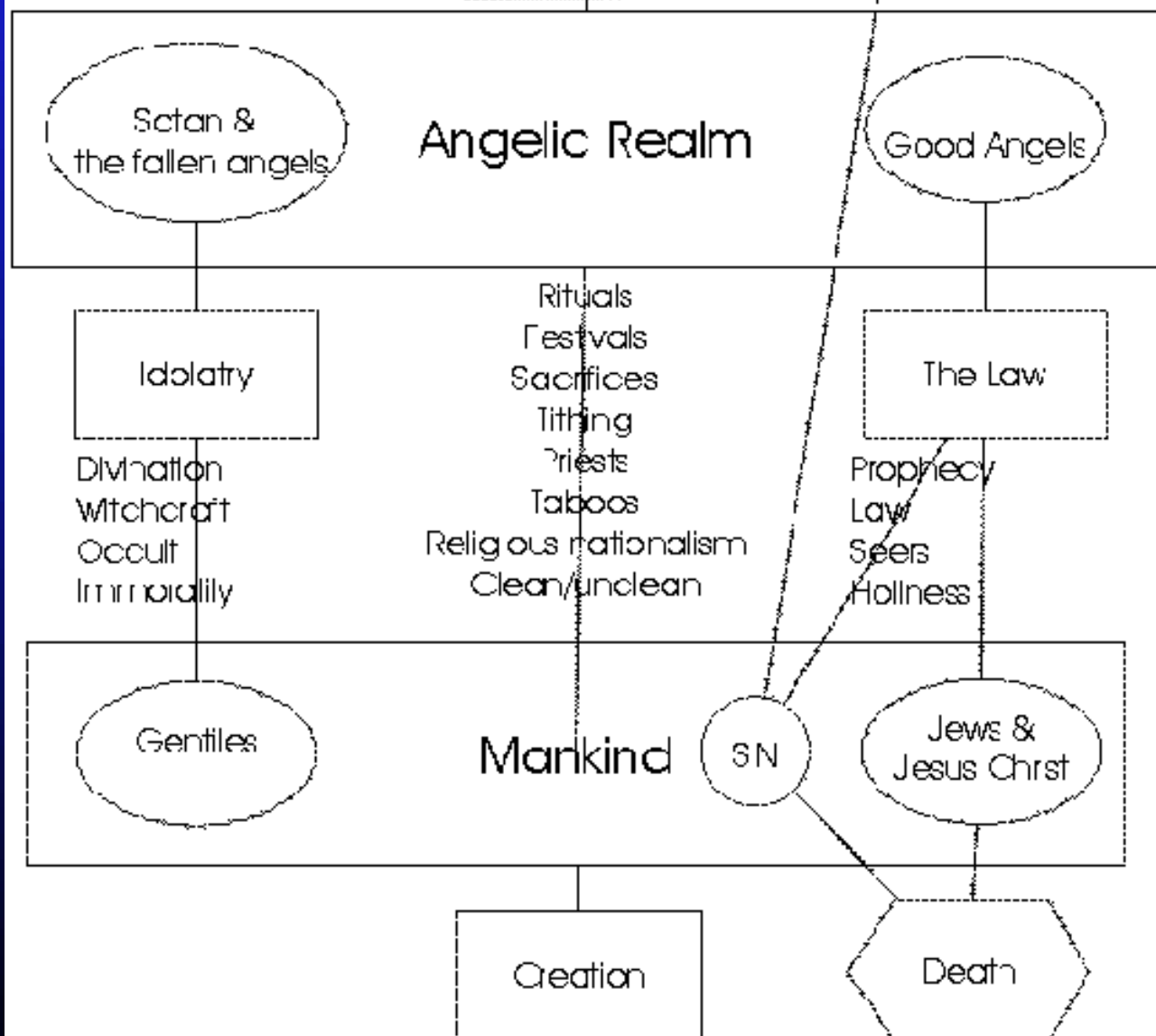
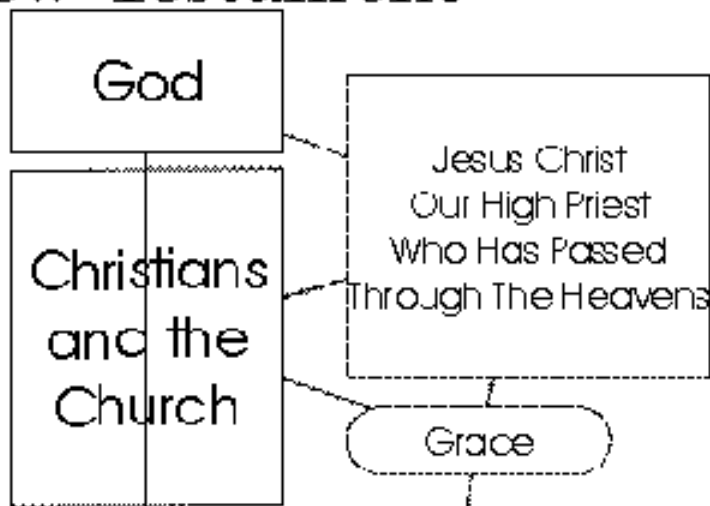


The Old Testament



The New Testament

Ephesians 1:20-23
 Ephesians 2:4-10
 Hebrews 12:18-24
 1 Corinthians 6:2,3
 Ephesians 2:18-22
 Galatians 4:4-11
 Matthew 11:11-13
 Revelation 2:26,27 3:21
 Hebrews 4:14-16



NT Enforcement

- Casting out of demons
- Healing: *That which I have* I give unto you, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk..”
- **Works of Faith:** Moving mountains / nothing shall be impossible / all things are possible to them that believe
- **Binding and loosing:** Forgiveness and remission of sins, church discipline etc.

NT Adoration

- Veil of the temple torn in two
- Access to the Father via the Holy Spirit
- Love of God poured out into our hearts via the Holy Spirit
- Daily transformation from glory to glory
- Rejoicing in the Lord always
- Your young men shall prophesy and your old men dream dreams...
- Abundance of revelation as the Holy Spirit teaches us the things of God

NT Requesting

- Anything you ask in My name (John 14:14, 16:23)
- If we ask anything according to His will... (1 John 5:14, 15)
- All things are yours.... (1 Corinthians 3:21-23)
- Come boldly before the throne of grace in time of need (Hebrews 4:16)
- Prayers for wisdom, spiritual insight and maturity (Ephesians 3:14-21)

Spiritual Senses

- **Spiritual Eyes:** Ephesians 1:18; John 6:22,23; Matthew 13:13-17; Luke 24:31; John 12:35-41, Acts 26:18, Hebrews 12:2, Revelation 3:18
- **Spiritual Blindness:** Matthew 23:14,16,17,19,24,26 John 9:39-41, Acts 28:27, 2 Corinthians 4:4, 2 Peter 1:9, 1 John 2:11, Revelation 3:17
- **Spiritual Ears:** Acts 7:51, 28:27; Romans 11:18; Revelation 2:7,11,17,29; Matthew 11:15,13:9
- These must be **trained** through use (Hebrews 5:14)
- **Jesus used them** to know the Father's will (John 5:19)

Using Our Spiritual Senses When We Pray

- Luke 12:12
- John 4:23,24
- John 14:16,17; 15:26, 16:13
- Acts 2:17,18
- Acts 13:2
- Acts 8:26-29
- Acts 10:9-17
- Acts 16:7-10

Discerning God's Voice - 1

- God's voice always lines up with God's word
- God's voice always lines up with the fruit of the Holy Spirit
- God's voice always lines up with the nature and the commandments of Jesus Christ
- God's voice may discipline but never totally condemns the believer in Jesus Christ.
- God's voice always directs us towards loving and righteous and fruitful ends

Discerning God's Voice - 2

- **James 3:14-18** But if you have **bitter jealousy and strife** in your hearts, do not glory and lie against the truth. (15) This is not the wisdom coming down from above, but is **earthly, sensual, devilish**. (16) For where **envying and strife** are, there is confusion and every foul deed.

(17) But **the wisdom that is from above is first truly pure, then peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy**. (18) And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Discerning God's Voice - 3

- **Galatians 5:19-26** Now the **works of the flesh** are clearly revealed, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lustfulness, (20) idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, fightings, jealousies, angers, rivalries, divisions, heresies, (21) envyings, murders, drunkennesses, revelings, and things like these; of which I tell you before, as I also said before, that they who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.
- (22) But the **fruit of the Spirit** is: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith, (23) meekness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (24) But those belonging to Christ have **crucified the flesh** with its passions and lusts. (25) If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.
- (26) Let us not become glory-seeking, provoking one another, envying one another.

Discerning God's Voice - 4

- **1 John 2:9-11** The one who says he is in the light but hates his brother is in the darkness until now. (10) The one who loves his brother remains in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. (11) But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness, walks in the darkness, and doesn't know where he's going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.
- Resentment, rejection and revenge create darkness in us, so that we cannot see God or pray correctly
- Love creates light in us so that we come to know God and to pray effectively

Discerning God's Voice - 5

- **GOD** – FRUIT pure, peaceable, wise, gentle, full of love and the fruit of the Spirit, calm, unhurried, gracious, forgiving, inviting, promising, blessing
- **SATAN /FLESH**– ENERGIES accusing, tempting, harassing, envying, striving, competing, demanding, alluring, adulterous, impatient, foolish, unwise, cursing, avenging, occult, magical, fear-creating, unforgiving, hard-hearted, tempestuous, denying.
- **SELF** – ANXIETIES worries, fears, pompousness, self-centredness, ego, trivial concerns, self-absorption, no peace, inability to rely on God or trust in His goodness and faithfulness

Praying With Power!

- 1 John 5:14-15 Now this is the confidence we have before Him: whenever we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. (15) And if we know that He hears whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked Him for.
- Get into God's will
- Ask
- Listen For God
- Pray further based on the response that you receive
- Be confident that God has heard you
- Believe that you have received.