**THE IMPORTANCE AND PRIVILEGE OF PRAYER IN THESE END TIMES**

1. **All (200)**
2. [**Old Testament (187)**](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?qs_version=KJV&quicksearch=I+PRAY+THEE&begin=1&end=46)[Genesis (37)](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?qs_version=KJV&quicksearch=I+PRAY+THEE&begin=1&end=1)[Exodus (7)](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?qs_version=KJV&quicksearch=I+PRAY+THEE&begin=2&end=2)[Numbers (8)](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?qs_version=KJV&quicksearch=I+PRAY+THEE&begin=4&end=4)[Deuteronomy (1)](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?qs_version=KJV&quicksearch=I+PRAY+THEE&begin=5&end=5)[Joshua (1)](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?qs_version=KJV&quicksearch=I+PRAY+THEE&begin=6&end=6)[Judges (16)](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?qs_version=KJV&quicksearch=I+PRAY+THEE&begin=7&end=7)[Samuel (21)](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?qs_version=KJV&quicksearch=I+PRAY+THEE&begin=9&end=9)[2 Samuel (18)](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?qs_version=KJV&quicksearch=I+PRAY+THEE&begin=10&end=10)[1 Kings (18)](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?qs_version=KJV&quicksearch=I+PRAY+THEE&begin=11&end=11)[2 Kings (21)](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?qs_version=KJV&quicksearch=I+PRAY+THEE&begin=12&end=12)[1 Chronicles (2)](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?qs_version=KJV&quicksearch=I+PRAY+THEE&begin=13&end=13)[2 Chronicles (8)](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?qs_version=KJV&quicksearch=I+PRAY+THEE&begin=14&end=14)[Nehemiah (2)](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?qs_version=KJV&quicksearch=I+PRAY+THEE&begin=16&end=16)[Job (4)](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?qs_version=KJV&quicksearch=I+PRAY+THEE&begin=22&end=22)[Psalm (9)](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?qs_version=KJV&quicksearch=I+PRAY+THEE&begin=23&end=23)[Isaiah (5)](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?qs_version=KJV&quicksearch=I+PRAY+THEE&begin=29&end=29)[Jeremiah (5)](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?qs_version=KJV&quicksearch=I+PRAY+THEE&begin=30&end=30)[Ezekiel (1)](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?qs_version=KJV&quicksearch=I+PRAY+THEE&begin=33&end=33)[Jonah (3)](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?qs_version=KJV&quicksearch=I+PRAY+THEE&begin=39&end=39)
3. [**New Testament (13)**](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?qs_version=KJV&quicksearch=I+PRAY+THEE&begin=47&end=73)[Matthew (1)](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?qs_version=KJV&quicksearch=I+PRAY+THEE&begin=47&end=47)[Mark (1)](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?qs_version=KJV&quicksearch=I+PRAY+THEE&begin=48&end=48)[Luke (6)](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?qs_version=KJV&quicksearch=I+PRAY+THEE&begin=49&end=49)[Acts (3)](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?qs_version=KJV&quicksearch=I+PRAY+THEE&begin=51&end=51)[2 Timothy (1)](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?qs_version=KJV&quicksearch=I+PRAY+THEE&begin=62&end=62)[Philemon (1)](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?qs_version=KJV&quicksearch=I+PRAY+THEE&begin=64&end=64)

# Scripture Readings….**1 Kings 8:39-66**

***9****Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;)****40****That they may fear thee all the days that they live in the land which thou gavest unto our fathers.\****41****Moreover concerning a stranger, that is not of thy people Israel, but cometh out of a far country for thy name's sake;****42****(For they shall hear of thy great name, and of thy strong hand, and of thy stretched out arm;) when he shall come and pray toward this house;****43****Hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to thee for: that all people of the earth may know thy name, to fear thee, as do thy people Israel; and that they may know that this house, which I have builded, is called by thy name.****44****If thy people go out to battle against their enemy, whithersoever thou shalt send them, and shall pray unto the Lord* ***toward the city which thou hast chosen,*** *and toward the house that I have built for thy name:****45****Then hear thou in heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.****46****If they sin against thee, (for there is no man that sinneth not,) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them to the enemy, so that they carry them away captives unto the land of the enemy, far or near;\****47****Yet if they shall bethink themselves in the land whither they were carried captives, and repent, and make supplication unto thee in the land of them that carried them captives, saying, We have sinned, and have done perversely, we have committed wickedness;****48****And so return unto thee with all their heart, and with all their soul, in the land of their enemies, which led them away captive, and pray unto thee toward their land, which thou gavest unto their fathers, the city which thou hast chosen, and the house which I have built for thy name:****49****Then hear thou their prayer and their supplication in heaven thy dwelling place, and maintain their cause,****50****And forgive thy people that have sinned against thee, and all their transgressions wherein they have transgressed against thee, and give them compassion before them who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them:\****51****For they be thy people, and thine inheritance, which thou broughtest forth out of Egypt, from the midst of the furnace of iron:****52****That thine eyes may be open unto the supplication of thy servant, and unto the supplication of thy people Israel, to hearken unto them in all that they call for unto thee.****53****For thou didst separate them from among all the people of the earth, to be thine inheritance, as thou spakest by the hand of Moses thy servant, when thou broughtest our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord God.54And it was so, that when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the Lord, he arose from before the altar of the Lord,* ***from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven.****55And he stood, and blessed all the congregation of Israel with a loud voice, saying,56Blessed be the Lord, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.****57The Lord our God be with us, as he was with our fathers: let him not leave us, nor forsake us:58That he may incline our hearts unto him, to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and his statutes, and his judgments, which he commanded our fathers.59And let these my words, wherewith I have made supplication before the Lord, be nigh unto the Lord our God day and night, that he maintain the cause of his servant, and the cause of his people Israel at all times, as the matter shall require:60That all the people of the earth may know that the Lord is God, and that there is none else.61Let your heart therefore be perfect with the Lord our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this*** *day.*

**Beloved, I PRAY WE NEVER TAKE PRAYER FOR GRANTED!!!!**

**Solomons Prayer as he prayed,**

***And it was so, that when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the Lord, he arose from before the altar of the Lord, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven.***

***And the Lord said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.***

***Introduction***

**Beloved Solomons prayer was a Prayer right out of the Heart!!!**When we realize what a privilege prayer is, we like the disciples of old will plead, “Lord, teach us to pray” ***And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples. (Luke 11:1).***I am afraid and I believe that many Christians in many churches simply take prayer for granted.
I say this because on the surface many of Gods children are not as prayerful as they ought to be simply because they have forgotten what a grand privilege it is.

**What prayer is not and what Prayer is**.
First of all Prayer is not merely wishing for something.
Nor is it simply thinking about something or reciting some lines of scriptures out of the Bible.
Prayer is our means of opening up our heart and mouth and speaking directly to God .

***In (Luke 18:10-14). Jesus gave this certain story… 10Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.11The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.12I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.13And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.14I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. Can’t get any clearer that this!!***

Prayer is also the act of communicating our thoughts to the infinite mind of God. Think about this !!!!
Over in the book Romans 10:1 we learn that it is the heart’s desire expressed to God.

***Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.***

It is making our request and thanksgiving known unto God (1 Timothy 2:1-3).

**Let us consider the following quotes that some writers have written concerning their view on Prayer….**.
“Prayer is the avenue through which one approaches the Almighty.”
“Prayer is “making personal contact with a power that transcends time, space and matter”,
“Prayer is The reach of man after the Absolute Reality.”
“Prayer is the voice of faith”.
“Prayer is a correspondence fixed in heaven”.
“Prayer is so simple; It is like quietly opening a door and slipping into the very presence of God.”

**The privilege of Prayer**What a privilege to have access to our God (1 John 3:1). ***Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.***Can you imagine what it would be like to be invited into the oval office for a private discussion with the president of the USA.
If I could tell you that I could go in and talk with the president at any time, you would think that was a special favor unlike any other.
You might even ask how I got such a privilege.
Yet, we are invited to open up our hearts to the Creator and Ruler of the universe!
***Oh, what a privilege that is.***!!!!!!

**The Need For Praying is in place because….**
We can better appreciate the privilege of prayer when we consider its necessity.
Yes, we need to pray. It is not just a liberty. We have the right to pray.
Several reasons can be given for this need.

**It is a Command…..
*“Pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
“Therefore I want the men in everyplace to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension” (1 Timothy 2:8).
“Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart”(Luke18:1).***The Lord said to ***“pray then in this way…***

***” (Matthew 6:9-13). 9After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.10Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.11Give us this day our daily bread.12And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.13And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.***

Beloved often times Children want to talk with their Father
It is a natural desire.
Can you imagine never talking to your earthly father?
Can you imagine your children never or very seldom talking to you?
Well with cell-phones and i-pads, it happens more than it should.
Jesus began “The Lord’s Prayer” this way: “Our Father who art in heaven…” (Matthew 6:9).

God is concerned with our wants and our needs
***“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!”(Matthew 7:11).***

***“Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear; you are of more value than many sparrows” (Luke 12:7).***
**We need to find grace to help
*“Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need”(Hebrews 4:16).***Because we as humans are weak and frail, we are dependent upon the assistance of Divine power.
We should realize more and more every day our need for the help of God.

We need to find grace to help
We continually stand in need of God’s care and protection.
We simply cannot make it without God’s help.
Beloved, Apart from Jesus we can do nothing …The bible says….
***We can do all things through Christ. (Philippians 4:13).***

God is the Almighty
***“With God, all things are possible”(Matthew 19:26).
God can do more than we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20-21***;
***“…Lord God Almighty”(Revelation 4:8).***
 He has the power to grant and do something about matters.
He is in control.

• God is the Almighty
• The reason we pray for world problems, peace and rulers is that God is able to do something about those things.
The reason we pray for those with cancer, heart problems and other diseases is that God is able to do something about those things.
God is in control.

God is willing to grant us good things.
***“and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fulness of God” (Ephesians 3:19)
Ask, knock, seek and God will provide (Matthew 7:7-8).***
God gives us what is best for us, even when his answer is “no”.

We need to express our love and adoration
“hallowed be Thy name…” (Matthew 6:9).
We are to offer thanksgiving (1 Timothy 2:1-3).
Prayer is an opportunity to express our appreciation to God.
It is an act of worship, a time to praise God.

We need forgiveness
Simon the sorcerer repented and asked for forgiveness…

(***Acts 8:22:24). 22Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.23For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.24Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.***

What a privilege to be able to turn to God and start your life over.
Think about this,What if you couldn’t do that?
We must pray to follow the example of Christ!!!!!
Christ suffered for us as an example

***(1 Peter 2:21). 21For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:***We are also told to be like Christ in all things.

**Prayer does good
*“…the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:16).***
Prayer is effective.
We pray because we need to pray, not because that is our routine or because it satisfies our conscience.

**Conclusion**

**I leave you with these 5 thoughts on Prayer…..**We have seen that prayer is a divine privilege.
We have seen that prayer puts us into the presence of God where else would a Christian want to be.
We have seen why we should pray.
We have seen that only in one case can the sinner pray to God and be heard.
Last of all, Do you enjoy and take advantage of the privilege of prayer?