

## The Doctrine of Prayer: Part 1

Luke 18:1 We “ought always to pray and not faint.”

On this first Sunday of the New Year it is an appropriate time to be reminded that we will need God this year, all year long. It behooves us then to beseech Him daily in prayer that we may confess our sin, strengthen our faith, acknowledge our needs, employ His protection and secure His guidance. Paul exhorted Timothy and us “first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men” (1 Tim 2:1). Our prayer should include:

- **Praise** and adoration as in Psalm 148:1-14.
- **Confession** as in Psalm 51:1-19 and 1 John 1:9.
- **Supplication** as in Psalm 119:170, and Ephesians 6:18.
- **Intercession** as in James 5:15-16; Daniel 9:3-19.
- **Thanksgiving** as in Philippians 4:6, and 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18.

We are to pray in secret (Mt 6:6) when we have our own daily quiet time and talk with God. We are to pray with our family to seek His blessing, help and guidance (Acts 10:2, 30). We are to pray in public, when appropriate, to acknowledge God’s authority and to teach all people to depend on Him (Mt. 18:20; 1 Cor 14:14-17).

You should avoid things that will hinder your prayers from being answered. A spirit of pride and self-promotion will hinder your prayers (Mt 6:5-7). Vain repetition and artificial formulas should be avoided (Mt. 6:7-8). An unforgiving spirit will hinder your prayers (Mt 6:14-15). Disunity between you and other believers will hinder your prayers (Mt 18:19-20). Disharmony between husband and wife will hinder your prayers (1 Pet 3:7). Holding on to secret sins will hinder your prayers (Ps 66:18; Is 59:1-2).

As we begin this New Year, **let us commit ourselves to be men and women of prayer!** “If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14).

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