



## ***World Christian Fellowship***

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### **Prayer 01**

Concordance shows the importance of prayer in the Word of God. Variations of the word “pray” such as “prayer” and “praying,” etc., occur 545 times in the KJV.

I remember reading a well-known quote from one of the great scholar as follows, “***when we work, we work, when we pray, God works.***”

God is Sovereign! If God is Sovereign then why you and me should pray?

Is God going to change His mind because you pray?

**Omniscience of God:** God Knows All About Us!! God knew us and had a plan for our lives before we were born. He knows us better than we know ourselves, then why should I pray?

By living with Jesus and seeing Him performing great miracles the disciples asked Jesus only one thing to teach them, that’s how to pray?

**Luke 11:1**, *Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."*

## **How did Jesus pray?**

By the answer of this question, you will be surprised in spite of how many years you have been a Christian.

Jesus always prayed alone!!

**Luke 5:16**, *So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.*

**Matthew 6:6**, *Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace."* (MSG)

So to find out the secret we will dedicate this lesson to study the way Jesus prayed while He lived on earth.

### **1. Jesus was praying at His Baptism**

**Luke 3:21-22**, *When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. <sup>22</sup> And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."*

## **2. Praying alone in the morning before going to Galilee**

**Mark 1:35-36**, *Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed. <sup>36</sup> And Simon and those who were with Him searched for Him.*

## **3. Went out to pray alone ‘all night’ before choosing 12 disciples**

**Luke 6:12-13**, *Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. <sup>13</sup> And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles:*

## **4. Before feeding the 5000 after John the Baptist beheaded**

**Matthew 14:23**, *When Jesus heard it, He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself. But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities.*

## **5. Just before Peter gets the revelation that Jesus is the Son of God**

**Luke 9:18**, *And it happened, as He was alone praying, that His disciples joined Him, and He asked them, saying, “Who do the crowds say that I am?”*

## 6. Transfiguration

**Luke 9:28-29**, *Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup> As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening.*

## 7. Gethsemane garden prayer

**Matthew 26:36-46**, <sup>36</sup> *Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, “Sit here while I go and pray over there.” <sup>37</sup> And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. <sup>38</sup> Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.”*

<sup>39</sup> He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”

<sup>40</sup> *Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? <sup>41</sup> Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”*

<sup>42</sup> Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.” <sup>43</sup> And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy.

<sup>44</sup> So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. <sup>45</sup> Then He came to His disciples and said

to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup>Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand."

(Also Luke 22:39-46, Mark 14:32-42)

## 8. Prayer at the cross

**Luke 23:34**, *Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."*

**Luke 23:46**, *And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.'" Having said this, He breathed His last.*

Apart from the above He also prayed a prayer of blessings of the food just before feeding the 5000 people and again in 4000 people. Also He gave thanks for the food before he broke the bread in the Last supper.

John 17:1-26 is the High Priestly Prayer Jesus prayed.

Adapted from D.A. Carson's book

### **The Father Gave the Son...**

### **John 17**

Authority to give eternal life

v. 2

People out of this world

vv. 2, 6, 9, 24

Work to accomplish

v. 4

Words

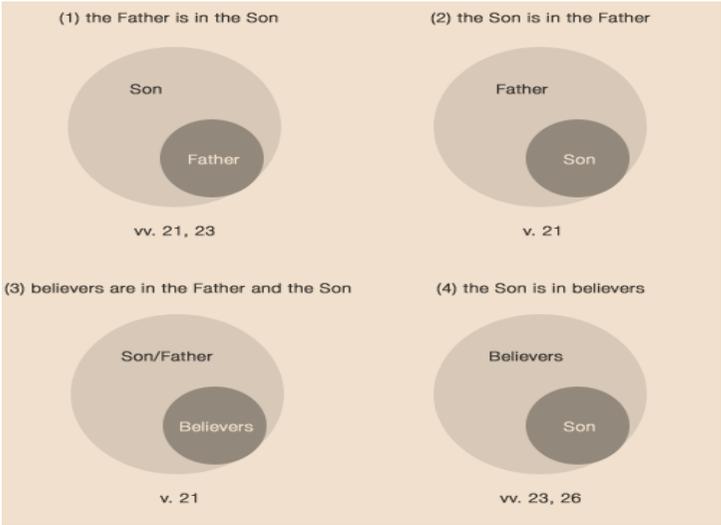
v. 8

His name	vv. 11, 12
Glory	vv. 22, 24
<b>The Son Gives Believers...</b>	<b>John 17</b>
Eternal life	v. 2
Father's word	vv. 8, 14
Manifestation of Father's name	vv. 6, 22
Glory	v. 22
<b>The Son Asks the Father to...</b>	<b>John 17</b>
Glorify him	vv. 1, 5
Keep believers in the Father's name	v. 11
Keep believers from the evil one	v. 15
Sanctify believers in the truth	v. 17
Make believers one	v. 21

<b>Jesus' Followers and the World</b>	<b>John 17</b>
They are sent into the world	v. 18
They are in the world	v. 11
They are not of the world	v. 16
The world has hated them	v. 14
Their unity with each other and union with God may cause the world to believe that the Father sent the Son	v. 21

Another fascinating part of Jesus’ prayer is the various ways in which the theme of “indwelling” serves the cause of unity. Jesus teaches that:

1. The Father is in the Son (vv. 21, 23)
2. The Son is in the Father (v. 21)
3. Believers are in the Father and the Son (v. 21)
4. The Son is in believers (vv. 23, 26)



Himself (1-5)	His Disciples (6-19)	Future Believers (20-26)
Jesus affirms the Glory of Cross (V 1-2)	Prays for their knowledge (6-9)	Oneness in the Father and the Son (20-22)

Essence of Eternal Life (3-4)	Perseverance (10-12)	Perfect unity (23)
Rejoice in the shared glory of the Father (5)	For their Joy (13)	Their future presence with them (24-25)
	Protection from Evil (14-16)	Mutual Love (26)
	Sanctification (14-17)	

There are scriptures outside of the Gospels that show us that even though Jesus is now in Heaven, He is still making intercession on our behalf (Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25 & 9:24 and 1 John 2:1).

## **Application:**

Do you pray 'alone'?

Do you have the desire and love to be alone with Him?

In 'Private' Jesus spent long time 'praying' but in the public HE only spoke few words when He needed a miracle. This is in so direct contrast to the religious leaders in those days. How about you today?