

Prayer's Privilege

Intro: We can consider prayer as a *privilege* reserved for God's children. It is something the non-Christian does not have.

I. VARIOUS WORDS FOR PRAYER

A. Sometimes it is difficult to comprehend the various shades of meaning or nuances between the various words.

B. προσεύχομαι (*proseuchomai*).

1. It seems to be a general word for prayer and is always used of prayer to God.
2. Used in:
 - a. Eph. 6:18 ¹⁸Praying always with all prayer and supplication [δέησις—*deesis*] in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication [δέησις—*deesis*] for all saints;
 - b. Phi. 1:9 ⁹And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;
 - c. 1 Tim. 2:8 ⁸I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

C. δέησις (*deesis*)

1. Primarily a wanting or need, then entreaty, supplication.
2. BDAG has "urgent request to meet a need, exclusively addressed to God, prayer"
3. Used in:
 - a. Rom. 10:1 ¹Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.
 - b. Phi. 1:4 ⁴Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,
 - c. Jam. 5:16 ¹⁶Confess your faults one to another, and pray [εὔχομαι—*euchomai*] one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

D. δέομαι (*deomai*)

1. It deals with petitions to God, to ask or implore of Him.
2. It is sometimes translated "beseech" or "request."
3. Used in:
 - a. Mat. 9:38 ³⁸Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.
 - b. 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.
 - c. 1 The. 3:10 ¹⁰Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?

E. ἐρωτάω (*erotao*)

1. Basic meaning is to request or ask or ask a question.
2. Used in:
 - a. Luke 16:27 ²⁷Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:
 - b. John 17:15 ¹⁵I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.
 - c. 1 John 5:16 ¹⁶If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

F. εὐχομαι (euchomai)

1. Means to pray (to God), to speak to or make request of God, to wish.
2. Used in:
 - a. Acts 27:29 ²⁹“Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern, and **wished** for the day.”
 - b. 2 Cor. 13:7 ⁷“Now I **pray** to God that ye do no evil; not that we should appear approved, but that ye should do that which is honest, though we be as reprobates.”
 - c. Jam. 5:16 ¹⁶“Confess *your* faults one to another, and **pray** one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer [δέησις—*deesis*] of a righteous man availeth much.”

G. παρακαλέω (parakaleo)

1. It literally means to call to one's side and has several usages.
2. In prayer it carries the idea of implore, urge, exhort.
3. Used in:
 - a. Mat 26:53 ⁵³“Thinkest thou that I cannot now **pray** to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?”
 - b. Mark 5:17 ¹⁷“And they began to **pray** him to depart out of their coasts.”

H. εὐχαριστέω (eucharistéo)

1. It carries the primary meaning of give thanks, gratitude.
2. Used in:
 - a. Mat. 26:27 ²⁷“And he took the cup, and **gave thanks**, and gave *it* to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;”
 - b. Rom. 16:4 ⁴“Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I **give thanks**, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.”
 - c. Phi. 4:6 ⁶“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer [προσευχή—*proseuche*] and supplication [δέησις—*deesis*] with **thanksgiving** let your requests be made known unto God.”

I. ἔντευξις (enteuxis)

1. It carries the primary meaning of making a formal request or petition; it is used for intercessory prayer.
2. Used in:
 - a. 1 Tim. 2:1 ¹“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications [δέησις—*deesis*], prayers [προσευχή—*proseuche*], **intercessions**, and giving of thanks [εὐχαριστέω—*eucharistéo*], be made for all men;”
 - b. Regarding eating with thanksgiving; 1 Tim. 4:5 ⁵“For it is sanctified by the word of God and **prayer**.”

II. P—PETITION**A. We are to ask.**

1. Jam. 4:2 ²“Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.”
2. 1 John 5:15 ¹⁵“And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”

B. Prayer is to be addressed to the Father.

1. Christ prayed to the Father.
 - a. John 17:1, 5, 11 ¹“These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, **Father**, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:... ⁵And now, **O Father**, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.... ¹¹And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. **Holy Father**, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we *are*.”
 - b. Mat. 26:39 ³⁹“And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, **O my Father**, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou *wilt*.”

- c. Why did Jesus never address His prayers to the Holy Spirit?
2. Christ taught us to pray to the Father.
 - a. Mat. 6:9 ⁹After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.”
 - b. John 16:23 ²³And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give *it* you.”

III. R—REQUEST

A. Our prayers normally involve making requests to God.

1. Phi. 1:3-4 ³I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy”
2. Phi. 4:6 ⁶Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”
3. 1 John 5:15 ¹⁵And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”

B. Must be according to God's will.

1. Man doesn't always ask properly:
 - a. Man cannot direct his own way; Jer. 10:23 ²³O LORD, I know that the way of man *is* not in himself: *It is* not in man that walketh to direct his steps.”
 - b. Jam. 4:2-3 ²Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. ³Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts.”
2. Thus, we must ask according to God's Will; 1 John 5:14 ¹⁴And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:”

IV. A—AVAILETH MUCH

A. God tells us that it does.

1. Mat. 7:7-11 ⁷Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: ⁸For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. ⁹Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? ¹⁰Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? ¹¹If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?”
2. 1 John 5:15 ¹⁵And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”
3. Jam. 5:16 ¹⁶Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

B. Illustrations:

1. Jam. 5:17-18 ¹⁷Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. ¹⁸And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.”
 - a. He was a man of like passions to give us an illustration of that prayer avails much.
 - b. Nothing in fulfilling Elijah's prayers (for it not to rain and then for it to rain) was of a miraculous nature.
2. Hannah prayed for a man-child.
 - a. 1 Sam. 1
 - b. God gave her Samuel
3. Prayer will likewise avail the righteous today.

V. Y—YIELDING

A. Christ always yielded His will to the Father.

1. Mat. 26:42 ⁴² He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.”
2. John 5:30 ³⁰ I can of mine own self do nothing; as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.”
3. John 6:38 ³⁸ For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.”

B. Likewise, we must submit our will to the Father.

1. Jam. 4:7 ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”
2. Heb. 12:9 ⁹ Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected *us*, and we gave *them* reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?”

C. If we fail to yield our will to His in our prayers, our prayers will be vain.

1. They will not rise higher than the ceiling.
2. 1 John 5:14 ¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:”
3. Jam. 4:15 ¹⁵ For that ye *ought* to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.”

VI. E—EVERYTHING

A. The righteous can pray for everything.

1. 1 John 5:14 ¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:”
2. Phi. 4:6 ⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”
 - a. In every thing, nothing excluded.
 - b. Thanksgiving:
 - (1) We are to be a thankful people.
 - (2) Song: “Count your many blessings”

B. For what can we pray?

1. Forgiveness; Mat. 6:12 ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.”
2. Our daily needs; Mat. 6:11 ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.”
3. For one another (other saints); Phi. 1:4, 9-11 ⁴ Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,... ⁹ And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and *in* all judgment; ¹⁰ That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; ¹¹ Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.”
4. The sick; Jam. 5:14 ¹⁴ Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:”
5. Our enemies; Mat. 5:44 ⁴⁴ But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;”
6. For sinners; Rom. 10:1 ¹ Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.”
7. Strength to overcome temptation; Mat. 26:41 ⁴¹ Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.”
8. Rulers; 1 Tim. 2:1-2 ¹ I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men; ² For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.”

9. All men; 1 Tim. 2:1 ⁴¹ I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men;”
10. This could be multiplied many times over—any thing and every thing.

VII. R—RIGHTEOUS

A. God hears the righteous.

1. 1 Pet. 3:12 ⁴² For the eyes of the Lord *are* over the righteous, and his ears *are open* unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord *is* against them that do evil.”
2. Jam. 5:16 ⁴⁶ Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

B. Who are the righteous?

1. 1 John 3:7 ⁴⁷ Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.”
2. God’s righteousness:
 - a. Psa. 119:172 ¹⁷² My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments *are* righteousness.”
 - b. Rom. 1:17 ⁴⁷ For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”

C. God does not hear the prayer of sinners.

1. John 9:31 ³¹ Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.”
2. Solomon teaches this principle:
 - a. Pro. 15:29 ²⁹ The Lord *is* far from the wicked: But he heareth the prayer of the righteous.”
 - b. Pro. 28:9 ⁹ He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer *shall be* abomination.”
 - c. Psa. 66:18-19 ¹⁸ If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear *me*: ¹⁹ *But* verily God hath heard *me*; He hath attended to the voice of my prayer.”
3. Some things a sinner cannot pray for.
 - a. No such thing as sinner’s prayer, so cannot pray for salvation.
 - (1) For grace; 2 Tim. 2:1 ⁴¹ Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.”
 - (2) Faith; Rom. 10:17 ¹⁷ So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
 - (3) Remission of sin; Acts 2:38 ³⁸ Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
 - b. Cannot pray for the sick, for family members and loved ones, for the lost, for themselves.
 - c. They cannot pray for anything and God hearing it.

Conclusion: Let us avail ourselves of the precious privilege of prayer.