

THE ACTUAL PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE
An Instructive Example

An obvious way to improve our own prayer lives is to learn the specific ways in which God's people in the past sought the Lord! Everything recorded in Scripture has an instructive purpose to us today. If we take the time to seek the Lord through His Word, He will reveal truth and insight to increase our wisdom and understanding and to shed light on every area of life. Therefore, there is just no substitute for the Word and prayer! I trust that your study of these specifically recorded prayers will provide the instruction, motivation and encouragement you need in your own individual prayer life.

Here are some specific questions to keep in mind as you read through these prayers.

1. Who is praying?
2. What has occasioned this prayer? What does the context and surrounding verses reveal as to why and how this prayer came about at this point in time? What experience(s) has the one praying encountered?
3. How are they praying? What terms are used? How is God addressed? How is God described? Praised?
4. What is the purpose of the prayer? What is the main subject or request of the prayer?
5. What personal "feelings" are exposed?
6. What evidence of God's answering this prayer is evident from the context of Scripture?

PERSONAL APPLICATIONS

1. How can I express this in my own words to God at this time in my life?
2. How can I relate to this prayer - past, present, or future? How can I identify with what's been prayed?
3. What basic phrases, words, concepts used in this particular prayer give me insight as to how I can pray?

RECORD OBSERVATIONS FROM THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES OF PRAYER

Jehoshaphat II Chron.20:1-32 (prayer - 20:6-12)

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.
- f.
- g.
- h.
- i.
- j.

Solomon II Chron.6:1 - 7:3 (prayer - 6:12-42)

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.
- f.
- g.
- h.
- i.
- j.

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An obvious way to improve our own prayer lives is to learn the specific ways in which God's people in the past sought the Lord! Everything recorded in Scripture has an instructive purpose for us today. If we take the time to seek the Lord through His Word, He will reveal truth and insight to increase our vision and understanding and to shed light on every area of life. Therefore, there is just no substitute for the Word and prayer! I trust that your study of these specifically recorded prayers will provide the instruction, motivation and encouragement you need in your own individual prayer life.

Here are some specific questions to keep in mind as you read through these prayers.

David I Chron.17 (prayer - 17:16-27)

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.
- f.
- g.
- h.
- i.
- j.

1. Who is praying?
 2. What has occasioned this prayer? What does the context and surrounding verses reveal as to why and how this prayer came about at this point in time? What experience(s) has the one praying encountered?
 3. How are they praying? What terms are used? How is God addressed? How is God described? Praised?
 4. What is the purpose of the prayer? What is the main subject or request of the prayer?
 5. What personal "feelings" are expressed?
 6. What evidence of God's answering this prayer is evident from the context of Scripture?

PERSONAL APPLICATIONS

Daniel Daniel 9:3-23 (also Dan.2:16-23)

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.
- f.
- g.
- h.
- i.
- j.

1. How can I express this in my own words?
 2. How can I relate to this prayer - past, present, or future? How can I identify "with what's been prayed?"
 3. What basic phrases, words, concepts used in this particular prayer give me insight as to how I can pray?

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Jehoshaphat II Chron.20:1-32 (prayer - 20:6-12)

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.
- f.
- g.
- h.
- i.
- j.

Paul Eph.1:15-23

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.

Paul (cont'd)

- f.
- g.
- h.
- i.
- j.

Disciples Matt.6:5-13 (9-13)

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.
- f.
- g.
- h.
- i.
- j.

Jesus John 17:1-26

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.
- f.
- g.
- h.
- i.
- j.

Paul Col.1:9-12

- | | |
|----|----|
| a. | h. |
| b. | i. |
| c. | j. |
| d. | |
| e. | |
| f. | |
| g. | |

The Psalms are also very instructive examples in teaching us how to communicate honesty with God. See another Bible Study available entitled, "Psalm Study: A Devotional Experience" and also "What To Pray For."