

Introduction

1. Prayer must be taught ([Lk. 11:1](#)).
 - a. This implies that prayer can be done properly but also improperly ([Jm. 4:3](#)).
 - b. Not everyone can pray to God and expect Him to listen ([1 Pt. 3:12](#)).
2. The Bible outlines for us **how** to pray with a basic pattern:
 - a. **Commencement** of our prayers.
 - b. **Contents** of our prayers.
 - c. **Conclusion** of our prayers.

I. Commencement of Prayer

1. Prayer must be addressed to God the Father ([Mt. 6:9](#); [Lk. 11:2](#)).
 - a. Christ not only commanded it but He also practiced it ([Jn. 17](#)).
 - b. Sometimes the Father is addressed as “Lord” in prayer ([Ac. 4:24-31](#)).
2. We need Biblical authority for **all** that we say and do ([Col. 3:17](#)).
 - a. We will either believe Jesus on this or we will not.
 - b. We will either follow Jesus on this or we will not.
 - c. We have no authority to pray to Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Mary, Allah, saints, etc.
3. We are in a position to address the Father when we become His adopted children ([Gal. 3:26-4:7](#)).
 - a. The very structure of prayer is a Father/child relationship (cf. [Mt. 7:7-11](#)).

II. Contents of Prayer

1. Some basic principles on the contents of prayer.
 - a. Prayer must be respectful toward God ([Mt. 6:9](#); [Lk. 11:2](#)).
 - b. Prayer must be asked in keeping with God’s commandments and doing those things which are pleasing to Him ([1 Jn. 3:22](#)).
 - c. Prayer must be asked in accordance with God’s will ([1 Jn. 5:14-15](#)).
 - d. Prayer must **not** be done for the purpose of being seen by others ([Mt. 6:5](#)).
 - e. Prayer must be sincere ([Mt. 6:7](#)).

2. Some things to pray for.
 - a. Expanse or furtherance of the kingdom i.e., the church of Christ ([Mt. 6:10](#); cf. [Mt. 9:37-38](#)).
 - b. Daily provisions ([Mt. 6:11](#)).
 - c. Forgiveness ([Mt. 6:12](#)).
 - d. Deliverance from wickedness ([Mt. 6:13](#)).

III. Conclusion of Prayer

1. We pray to God the Father **in the name of** Jesus Christ.
 - a. The phrase “in the name of” means by the authority of ([Ac. 4:7-10](#)).
 - b. All that we say and do must be done by the authority (in the name) of Jesus Christ ([Col. 3:17](#)).
 - c. This is consistent with the apostle’s doctrine ([Eph. 5:20](#)) and example ([Col. 1:3](#)).
2. Amen comes to us from the Hebrew language and means “so be it” ([Jer. 11:5](#)).
 - a. We can pray with **confidence** or **boldness** when following the proper pattern ([1 Jn. 5:14](#)).

Conclusion

1. Prayer is a privilege to the believer and we must follow the pattern.
 - a. We pray to the Father in accordance with His will.
2. As children of God, let us keep the line of communication open with God praying as He teaches us through His Word.
 - a. Pray often ([1 Th. 5:17](#); [Rm. 12:12](#)).
 - b. If sin is in your life, confess it, and pray ([Ac. 8:22](#); [1 Jn. 1:9](#); [Jm. 5:13-16](#)).