



MBS149

A MESSIANIC BIBLE STUDY FROM ARIEL MINISTRIES



THE COMPONENTS AND CONTENTS OF PRAYER



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	THE COMPONENTS OF PRAYER	3
	A. Worship	3
	B. Adoration	4
	C. Thanksgiving.....	5
	D. Confession	5
	E. Submission	5
	F. Commitment to Future Obedience	5
	G. Intercession	5
	H. Supplication	6
	I. Petitions and Requests.....	6
II.	THE CONTENTS OF PRAYER	6
	A. Extent of the Content.....	6
	B. Elements and Outline of the Content	6
	C. Organization of the Content	7
	D. Specifics.....	8

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*And he said unto them,
When ye pray, say, Father,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Give us day by day our daily
bread. And forgive us our
sins; for we ourselves also
forgive every one that is
indebted to us.
And bring us not
into temptation.
Luke 11:2-4*

We are continuing with the different facets of the subject of prayer. This short series also continues our lines of thinking along prayer. This short series is called the Components and the Content of Prayer. They are the two major categories in this study. First we will talk about the Components of Prayer and then the Content of Prayer.

I. THE COMPONENTS OF PRAYER

There are 9 specific Components of Prayer.

A. Worship

What is worship? Worship is the loving ascription of praise to God for what He is and His ways. A good way of understanding what the word worship means is to use the old English form of it which was 'worth-ship'. What is worship? Worship is saying to God what He's worth, confessing to Him what He is worth to us.

So worship is the loving ascription of praise to God for what He is and His ways. We see this in Psalm 45:1-8; Psalm 138:2; John 4:24 and Philippians 3:3.

We might also point out that worship entails a concept of submission and so it includes the concept of falling down on the knees. Falling down on the knees and worshipping often go together because of the element of submission, the concept of submission in worship. Examples of this are Daniel 3:10; Psalm 95:6-7; Matthew 4:9-10 and Acts 10:25.

B. Adoration

NOTES

The second Component of Prayer is Adoration.

This is what is meant in that model prayer when Jesus said 'hallowed be thy Name'. To adore God means to praise Him. It is slightly different from worship. Worship emphasizes knowing what God is worth and stating what God is worth but adoration is simply praising who and what He is without the concept of worthiness necessarily attached to it. Adoration should be very much a part of one's prayer. That is the point of 1 Chronicles 29:11; Acts 2:46; 16:25; Hebrews 13:15 and Revelation 4:11.

We should be praising God and in the scriptural examples that we have concerning the element of adoration in prayer we do learn at least six things we should be praising God for.

1. We should be praising God for Himself, we should praise God that He is and what He is as we see people doing in Psalm 8:1; 18:3, 31.
2. We should be praising God for Creation. As we look around the universe and see what a grand universe it is. This is something we should praise God for as we see people doing in Psalm 19; Psalm 24; Psalm 29 and Psalm 104. These are Psalms which are praising God in adoration.
3. We should be praising God for His Word. The longest Psalm is Psalm 119 and the one theme that runs throughout this entire Psalm is that the Psalmist is praising God for His Word.
4. We should be praising God for our salvation. We should be constantly thankful that we have been saved from sin, from satan, from hell, from the lake of fire and we find people praising God for their salvation in 1 Peter 1:1-9 and Revelation 5:9-10.
5. We should be praising God for His actions for us, God's interventions on our behalf as we see people doing in Psalm 40:1-3 and 2 Corinthians 1:8-11.
6. We should be praising God for other people. Throughout chapter 16 of the book of Romans Paul is constantly praising God for various people that have had a role of influence in his own life.

So we should with adoration be praising God for certain things and it should be a regular part of our prayer life.

C. Thanksgiving

The third Component of Prayer is Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving should also be a major component of our prayer life and we see this taught in a number of passages. Psalm 103:2; 136:1 where we have a grateful acknowledgement of God's love and kindness. Psalm 118:1; Luke 10:21; John 11:41; Ephesians 5:20; Philippians 4:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:18 which is a very nice passage that says thanking God in all circumstances, we are to thank God in all circumstances we find ourselves. Other verses are 1 Timothy 2:1 and Hebrews 13:15. These verses emphasize the fact that thanksgiving should be a major component of our prayer life.

Besides these passages that actually state the doctrine that thankfulness should be a major component of our prayer life we are also given some specific examples in Scripture where people are praying and they are thanking God as part of their prayer. Examples include Matthew 11:25; John 11:41; Romans 1:8; 1 Corinthians 1:4; Ephesians 1:15-16; 5:20; Philippians 1:3; Colossians 1:3; 1 Thessalonians 1:2; 3:9; 5:17-18; 2 Thessalonians 1:3; 2:13 and 2 Timothy 1:3. These are all passages which serve as examples of a major component in prayer which is thankfulness.

D. Confession

The fourth Component of Prayer is Confession.

Confession of sin is a major component of our prayer. This is taught by 1 Kings 8:47; Ezra 9:5-10:1; Nehemiah 9:6-7; Psalm 32:5; 51:3-4, 17; Daniel 9:3-19; Hebrews 10:32 and 1 John 1:9. Confession is a very important component of our prayer.

E. Submission

The fifth Component of Prayer is Submission.

As we see in psalm 31:5 we should be willing to submit ourselves to God's authority in prayer. Submission is a component of prayer.

F. Commitment to Future Obedience

The sixth Component of Prayer is Commitment to Future Obedience.

This is Psalm 80:18 and we need to commit ourselves not only for present obedience which is submission but also to future obedience as well. Commit ourselves to obey the Lord in the future as well as now.

G. Intercession

The seventh Component of Prayer is Intercession.

We see this is 1 Samuel 12:23; Job 42:8; Acts 12:5; 1 Timothy 2:1. These four passages clearly teach that intercession is a component of prayer.

In addition to these positive statements we also have examples of it. In Ephesians 3:14-19 we read of Paul interceding for their spiritual well being and in Philippians 1:9 Paul intercedes for the Philippians spiritual growth.

H. Supplication

The eighth Component of Prayer is Supplication.
This is found in Ephesians 6:18 and 1 Timothy 2:1

I. Petitions or Requests

The ninth Component of Prayer is petitions or requests.
This is specifically petitions or requests by ourselves which is a proper part of prayer. This is taught in Daniel 2:17-18; 9:16-19; Matthew 7:7-12; Acts 4:29-30 and Philippians 4:6.

II. THE CONTENT OF PRAYER

This will be discussed in four parts.

A. Extent of the Content.

Just how comprehensive should the content be in our prayer life? Simply put we should be able to pray for anything, for whatsoever, for anything great and small even for every detail of life. In other words, in so far as the extent of the content of prayer there are no limitations. We can pray for just about anything and for every detail of life.

B. Elements and Outline of the Content

The element and outline of the content for our prayer is the model prayer. Here we will summarize what the model is. It is found in Luke 11:1-4.

“And it came to pass, as he was praying in a certain place, that when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, even as John also taught his disciples. And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Father, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins; for we ourselves also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And bring us not into temptation.”

The model prayer will be summarized in six elements.

1. The prayer is to be addressed to God the Father, it says *‘Father’*.
2. We should sanctify God, *‘Hallowed be thy name’*. This is the time to apply those other things we mentioned such as adoration, such as worship and things of that nature.
3. *‘Thy kingdom come’*. We are praying for the Kingdom program. This includes future things. Here we pray for the rapture, here we pray for the peace of Jerusalem, here we pray for the salvation of the Jewish people. Part of the Kingdom program is also the personal program, it is also at this point where we pray for individuals, we pray for our

pastor, for our Bible teacher, we pray for our missionaries that we support, we pray for the salvation of friends and relatives that we have who are still in an unsaved state.

4. *'Give us day by day our daily bread'*. It is at this point that we pray for our own individual personal needs. Here we pray for funds to buy food, here to pray to make our house, rental, car payments and all that.

5. The fifth part of the pray has to do with confession of sins, 'forgive us our sins', it is at this point that we apply 1 John 1:9 *'if we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.'*

6. The sixth element in the outline prayer is praying concerning the spiritual warfare, *'bring us not into temptation'*. Here is where we pray concerning spiritual victory against the world, the flesh and the devil and his demonic hosts.

C. Organization of the Contents

The third thing about the Content of Prayer has to do with the Organization of the Content.

We should avoid praying haphazardly or in a disorganized manner. We should be praying in an organized manner and the best example of the organization of content is Jesus' famous prayer in John 17. We have pointed out in the past things about this prayer, we've seen that six different times He clearly addresses the prayer to the Father and the various six elements He mentioned earlier are found in His particular prayer. He does pray concerning the disciples not to be caught up in the sins of the world, He prays for their deliverance from the evil one and all the other elements. The prayer is clearly organized and it's a prayer that is organized in three parts.

1. In verses 1-8 Jesus prayed concerning Himself alone.
2. In verses 9-19 He prayed specifically for the eleven apostles who were still with Him
3. In verses 20-26 He prayed for the rest of the people, specifically those that would come to saving faith as a result of the witness and ministry of the eleven apostles.

Clearly then we can see that His prayer was organized.

As far as the extent of the content we can pray about anything, about whatsoever, anything great and small for every detail of life and then secondly there needs to be a model of the extent of that content based up on the model of Luke 11:1-4 and thirdly as we move through the outline our prayer needs to be organized. I have organized my own

prayer based upon the model of Luke 11:1-4 and I find any specific request I might have will fit within the category of one of these things. There is nothing wrong in shooting a prayer up here and there but there needs to be a balance between pure extemporaneous prayer and organized prayer and Jesus clearly had His prayers organized.

D. Specifics

What are specific elements in the content of prayer? What specific things does the Bible say we can and should pray for? Altogether there are 20 specifics.

1. We are to be praying for **all men in general** as taught by 1 Timothy 2:1 where Paul says we should be praying for all men everywhere. This is emphasizing all kinds of men, we can't pray for every individual in the world but we should be willing to pray for all types and all kinds of men.

2. We should be praying for **Rulers** as seen in 1 Timothy 2:1-2. We should be praying for our president regardless of our political affiliations, we should be praying for the governor of the state in which we live, we should be praying for the mayor in the city in which we live and in the town in which we live. We should be praying for those in civil authority or rulers.

3. We should also be praying for **the salvation of Israel**. This is a very important thing about prayer, we should be praying for the salvation of Israel. This is taught by Psalm 122:6; Isaiah 62:6-7; Romans 10:1. These three passages clearly emphasize the importance of praying for the salvation of the Jewish people.

4. We should be praying about **the wrong actions of unbelievers**. Instead of reacting negatively to unbelievers actions against us and then becoming bitter about these actions we need to pray for the wrong actions of unbelievers. This is clearly taught in Luke 23:34 where Jesus prayed for those who were crucifying Him and it is also taught in Acts 7:16 where Stephen as he was being stoned, which was clearly actions of unbelievers, he was praying specifically for their salvation.

5. We should be praying for our **enemies and our persecutors**. We find this in two passages of Scripture.

The first is in Matthew 5:44-48 where Jesus says that *'I say unto you'*, and that makes it emphatic. It means that Jesus is about to say something that carries authoritative instruction. *'Pray for your enemies'*. Prayer here definitely concerns unbelievers. *'Pray for them that persecute you'*. We are to continue praying for persecutors as long as they are still tormenting us, as long as they are persecuting us that's how long we pray for them. We are to pray for their benefit and to establish the fact that we are children of God, and as true children of God we will be praying for our enemies.

The second passage that teaches this is Luke 6:27-28 where Jesus says *'pray for them that despitefully use you'*. Pray for means concerning them the unbelievers and the word despitefully means those that harass you, those that insult you. If you are being harassed for your faith, if you are being insulted for your faith pray for those who are guilty of those things.

6. We should be praying for **all saints**, all fellow believers. This is according to Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 1:9 and Colossians 1:9-11.

7. We should be praying for **new believers**. If anyone is in danger of stumbling, those that are new believers, new converts to the faith according to 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 and 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12.

8. We should be praying for those **believers who have backslidden**. When a believer backslides we should be praying for them according to 1 John 5:16.

9. We should be praying for **people in the ministry**. This is taught by 1 Thessalonians 5:25 and Ephesians 6:19-20. We should be praying for ministers. We should be praying they would be given utterance to prosper the gospel. We should be praying they would be fearless in teaching and presenting and preaching the Word.

10. We should be praying for our **missionaries and all evangelistic endeavors**. That is the point of Colossians 4:3 and 2 Thessalonians 3:1. We need to pray for missionaries and all evangelistic endeavors.

11. We need to pray for **laborers**. We need to pray that God will send more evangelists and more missionaries. This is brought out by two passages.

First of all Matthew 9:38 that says *'Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that He send forth laborers into His harvest'*. We are to pray for an increase in the evangelistic labor force. Pray here concerns the salvation of the unsaved that is the harvest.

The second passage is Luke 10:1-2. In verse 1 the disciples were sent out two by two and in verse 2 the prayer is the same as that in Matthew 9:38 but the point in this context is that those who pray for laborers should be willing to become laborers.

12. Be able to **see and fellowship with specific saints**. People that you know, that are fellow believers, you've been separated from them and you want to be with them that is a valid concern for prayer. This is the point of Romans 1:9-12 and 1 Thessalonians 3:10.

13. We should be praying for **our children** according to 1 Chronicles 29:18-19. If we have children God has given us a very heavy

responsibility and that responsibility should be carried out by means of prayer.

14. We should be praying **for safety**, especially the **safety of fellow missionaries**. This is seen in 2 Thessalonians 3:2.

15. We should be praying for **wisdom**. We need wisdom for when we are confronted with various situations. We need to learn to pray for wisdom.

16. We should pray for **suffering**. When we suffer or we see others suffer we should be praying concerning the aspect of suffering whether it is us or others as seen in James 5:13.

17. We should be praying concerning **sicknesses**. This is taught by James 5:14-16. In verse 14 if a person is sick he is told to call for the elders of the church so that these elders can pray concerning his illness. According to verse 15 this is a sickness that is due to a specific sin. In such cases verse 16 promises these prayers will be answered and in such cases healing is indeed guaranteed. If the sickness is due to human frailty then there is no guarantee that the sickness is going to be healed but if the sickness is a divine discipline as a result of a specific sin and that sin is now confessed and the elders pray for the sick one in those cases only is the sickness guaranteed to be healed.

18. We are to be in the realm or **midst of a crisis** we are experiencing. This is taught in Psalm 102:17 and James 5:14.

19. We are to pray for **ourselves**. We have every right to pray concerning ourselves. This is taught in both Testaments. In the Old Testament 1 Chronicles 4:10 and Psalm 106:4-5 and in the New Testament 2 Corinthians 12:7-8 and Hebrews 5:7; putting ourselves into the prayer picture is very much a valid specific concern in prayer.

20. We are to pray for the **Jews in the diaspora**. The word diaspora or the dispersion refers to Jews who are living outside the Land. In Jeremiah 29:7 we are told that prayer for the diaspora is a valid prayer. Even more specific in this verse it concerns the Jewish believers who are in the diaspora. When Jews are living outside the Land and there are many Jewish believers in fact the majority of both Jews and Jewish believers live outside the Land, and especially Jewish believers need to apply Jeremiah 29:7, they are to pray for the peace of the place where they settled. For those of us who are Jewish believers who live in the United States of America one of the specific things we should be praying for is the peace of the place where we now live. The peace of the United States. Jewish believers who live in other countries need to pray for the peace of those other countries.✠

NOTES

**IF YOU ENJOYED THIS
BIBLE STUDY,
DR. FRUCHTENBAUM
RECOMMENDS:**

*MBS144, 145, 146, 147, 148,
150, and 151.*