

Prayer
(Matthew 6:5-13)

I. The Precaution to Prayer (v5-v9)

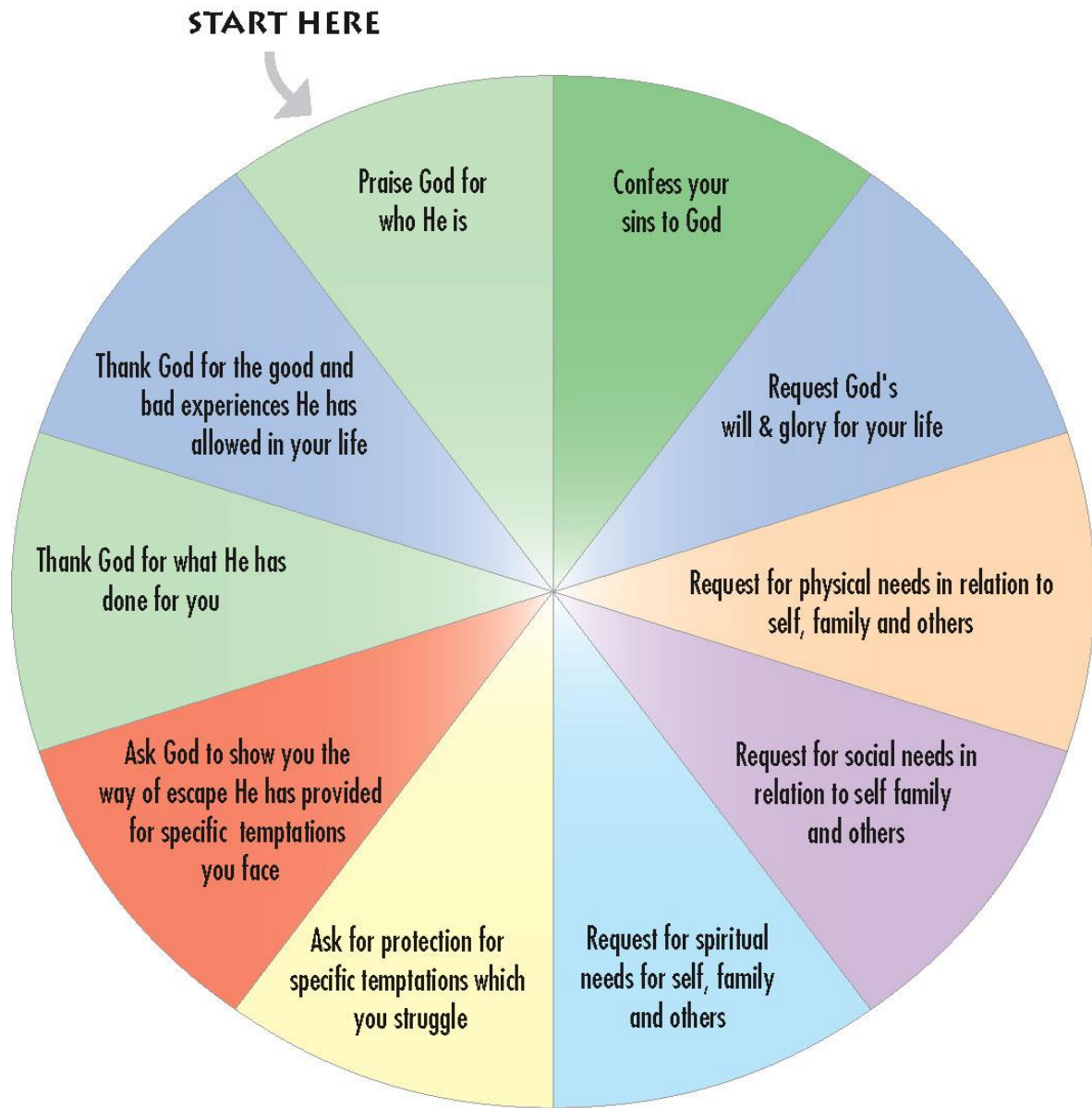
- A. Prayer is not for public approval of men but for personal devotion to God (v5-v6).
- B. Prayer is not done in private to negotiate a blessing but prayer done in private will result in God's blessing as He wills (v6).
- C. Prayer is not a mantra to chant so God will give you what you treasure but a means of communication to the God you treasure (v7-v8).
- D. Prayer is not a formula merely to receive our personal request but a means to rich fellowship with God (v7-v8).
- E. Prayer is not to make God aware of your need; it is to make you aware of your need for God (v7-v8).
- F. Prayer is not a means to connect God to your agenda but a means to connect yourself to God's agenda (v7-v9).

II. The Pattern of Prayer (v9-v13/Ephesians 5:20)

- A. Adoration of the Character of God- reflecting on God, worshipping God for who He is (v9)
- B. Aligning with the Agenda and Will of God- seeking the Kingdom of God (v10)
- C. Asking for provision from God- asking for what you need (v11)
- D. Admission of sin to God- acknowledging to God where you have sinned (v12)
- E. Appealing for protection from God - pursuing God to protect you from evil(v13)
- F. Appreciating and Accepting the blessings and hardships from God (Ephesians 5:20)

III. The Practice of Prayer

- A. Come to God knowing He is a person to know, not a concept or formula to follow (Hebrews 11:6).
- B. See prayer as an avenue to fellowship not merely a means to your personal request (John 17:1-26).
- C. Make sure you confess your sins or your prayers will not be listened to by God (Psalm 66:18).
- D. Study the Word of God so you can know the will of God in order to pray in the proper way to God (John 15:7).
- E. Get alone with God to pray on a consistent basis (Matthew 6:6).
- F. Come to God with an attitude of gratitude, understanding you deserve hell and all you have received from God is out of mercy and grace from God (Ephesians 5:18-20).



SPEND A MINIMUM OF 3 MINUTES PER SECTION
PER DAY FOR THE NEXT WEEK.

Stuart Scott, The Master's College, BC 502s: Essential Qualities of Biblical Counselor (Santa Clarita, California: Adapted from Class Information, 2004). Graphics by Adrian Baxter

ACTS Prayer Time

Adoration- Acknowledge and appreciate the character of God in all ways you know and have experienced Him.

Confession- Acknowledge all sins in thoughts, motives, desires, conversation, behavior, relationships and serving before God and ask forgiveness of sin in these matters.

Thanksgiving- Appreciate God for what he has done in your life and the lives of people around you; Accept and affirm the Goodness of God in the good and bad times of your life knowing God is working these things out for your greatest good and His ultimate Glory.

Supplication- Ask God for the things you need and want and what others need and want that is in accordance to His will and character.

