

THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER

1. This practice of seeking God in prayer goes back to the most ancient days

2. Prayer and worship interwoven

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| a) Cain and Abel | Genesis 4:1-15 |
| b) Noah | Genesis 8:20 |
| c) Abraham | Genesis 12:8 |

3. Practice of prayer (Old Testament)

- a) Priests
- b) Prophets
- c) Psalmists
- d) Community
- e) Individuals

4. Practice of prayer (New Testament)

- a) Jesus (individual)
- b) Jesus (as our great High Priest)
- c) Apostles

5. The degeneration of the practice of prayer in the days of Jesus

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| a) Praying publicly to impress people | Matthew 6:5 |
| b) They have their reward | Matthew 6:5 |

6. The true and correct practice of prayer

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| a) Pray to your Father | Matthew 6:6 |
| b) In secret | Matthew 6:6 |

c) God will reward openly Matthew 6:6

7. Wrong practices to be avoided especially

a) Vain repetition Matthew 6:7

b) As “the nations” (“heathen”) Matthew 6:7

c) Many words Matthew 6:7

8. Modern day problems

a) Similar problems as above

b) Prayerlessness

c) Claiming of promises

d) Demanding things

e) Bargaining with God

f) Poor Biblical basis