

Praying with Wisdom

Introduction

Just like anything in life, we need to know how to accomplish the task well. The same is true for prayer. It seems every denomination has its own way of praying or perhaps we've copied how others pray when we learned how to pray. So, we've all probably learned different ways to pray. What is a good and biblical way to pray for others?

One model I've heard of is where we beg God. That is what I've heard some people do over and over. The Bible tells us to come before God boldly. "Therefore, let us confidently approach the throne from which God gives grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace in our time of need;" Hebrews 4:16 CJB.

Then there is the maybe model where we explain away God's power while we are praying. Yeshua (Jesus) said, "All things are possible to him who believes;" Mark 9:23 NKJV. While it is true that it is up to God whether He will answer our prayer, Yeshua encourages us to have faith in God's ability to heal. He is God and can do all things, even amazing things. Avoid this model; just boldly ask God for healing.

One of the models that was expected of me was to ask God what to pray for and then pray for the person without asking them anything. I'm not kidding. I had no idea if what I was praying for was what they wanted prayer for. I just had to trust God. Since then I've found a model that is sensitive, appropriate, and elevates the faith of both myself and the person I'm praying for. I would like to give credit to Rick Evans of the Vineyard Churches for introducing me to this method. My content does not necessarily agree in entirety with their method of prayer ministry.

It is not a formula, but a model for prayer.

- 1) We **ask** what they need prayer for
- 2) We **decide** what to pray for
- 3) We decide on the **type** of prayers
- 4) Then comes the actual **prayer** time
- 5) Then **after** the prayer

Ask – decide – type – pray – after ADTPA - security (ADT) through the Father (PA)

Or you could use the word Ad(a)tpa; sounds like adapt. It's actually a very simple and sensible model.

When I was younger I thought that if I prayed enough, maybe God would hear my prayers. In my 20s, I learned this way of praying for people where people would just come up and I'd pray for them and there wouldn't be any dialogue. In some circles you're expected to fall over or have some type of experience – I wasn't involved with that. The prayer model I am sharing with you is intended to help us to a good job when praying for others. This model isn't a formula for God to answer prayer. We ask God to do things, to come (for His presence), and to do what He wants to do.

Yeshua (Jesus) talks about a woman that comes to a judge and keeps bugging him. The judge hears her because she keeps coming to him. It doesn't suggest there are any special works involved. Perhaps we are to just keep on praying, to pray earnestly like it says in James 5: 16 NKJV, "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

The woman that keeps coming to the judge is in Luke 18:2-5 NKJV, "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within

himself, "Though I do not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me."

So according to Yeshua (Jesus), we just keep coming to God in prayer and asking Him for healing or for whatever we need an answer to. It's not the same as the PUSH formula where we "pray until something happens." PUSH is not a bad formula, but is not all there is to prayer. It carries with it the idea that we have to do it. We can't heal; only God can heal. This formula can become about us rather than God. Still, Yeshua tells us to keep on praying in the story of the judge.

We actually want to focus on what God is going to do rather than on what we are doing. Like the girl in the jungle whose back and shoulder was healed when I prayed for her, I realized that I didn't have anything to do with it. I just said some simple prayers and God decided to heal her.

In the model I am sharing with you, we ask people what they need prayer for. We access the cause and pick an appropriate prayer – and pray what they requested prayer for. We also ask God what to pray for and ask the person before we start praying if what we are hearing from God is relevant. We might say something like, are you struggling with something right now? Perhaps God told us they were having trouble at work. Keep your questions simple. You can always add a prayer for work during your prayer time.

I remember praying for this really short young boy for basketball. It would have been nice to know that he wanted prayer for that. I could have said, "Are you working on a particular sport right now?" If he answered yes, then that's what God wanted me to pray for. Your faith and the other persons faith will be built up.

While we pray, we should look to see if anything is going on. If we don't see anything apparent, we could ask if they are experiencing something or feeling anything. "Is God doing anything; are you feeling anything?" We should ask if the person got healed – I find it raises expectation when we do that. If they are feeling something, I'll bless that and ask God for more (of His presence). If nothing happened, sometimes I'll ask if I can pray one more time.

In some circles, people are expected to experience something or fall over, what does that do for the person that doesn't experience anything? They may feel disappointed or wonder if there is something wrong with them. During prayer, people may experience something or not. I thought that falling down was weird, yet God can do that if He wants to. When the guy that I blessed in the jungle fell backwards it wasn't because he was told about it. These people knew almost nothing about God. We were way deep in the jungle.

When they came to arrest Yeshua, it says they fell down. "He said to them, "I AM." Also standing with them was Y'hudah, the one who was betraying him. When he said, "I AM," they went backward from him and fell to the ground;" John 18:5-6 CJB. In some churches they draw a line where you stand so you can get caught. It turns out to be a lot of show. We're not looking for show; we are looking for God to act. We want to get away from the religious and the fake and have a real encounter with God. If I see someone is being overcome by the presence of God while I am praying for them, I have them sit or lay down.

Through dialog we can see if we are hearing from God right. Like I've said before, it is a good idea to use words like "I think God is telling me that" It is often good to begin with a general statement when you hear something from God like, "Are you dealing with stress," or "I think God is telling me you need healing." Also, be courteous and gentle and not accusative. The Bible tells us to be humble. "Set him

right, but in a spirit of humility;" Galatians 6:1 CJB. Don't project a superior attitude, be accusative, or overbearing.

A probable dialog could go like this. I think God is telling me that He wants to use you musically. Is that meaningful to you? No, I'm not inclined musically. Possibly, God is telling me that is something He wants to begin working in you. Could we pray for that to be birthed in you anyway? Pray for what they want first.

Just think about how encouraging it would be if we had a conversation like this:

I think God is telling me that you are having some pain issues. Are you having any issues with pain? And, the answer was yes; they say they've been having some annoying pain in their shoulder and it's limiting their ability to get work done. "Let's pray for that." That kind of interaction can lift your faith.

Note: sometimes people deny things because they are embarrassed. Just leave it go. Sometimes mentioning something helps them to do something about it. Don't embarrass people; it will not help them. "Let everyone see how reasonable and gentle you are;" Philippians 4:5 CJB.

We are not trying to develop a formula, but a flexible model where we bring the focus on God to bear on what needs to be prayed for. We want to encounter God and get rid of the fluff, the extra unneeded stuff. We want to have a sensible and encouraging time of prayer.

Steps

1 Ask what they need prayer for – be welcoming; have loving eyes.

It's simply asking people what they need prayer for. Yeshua asked the man who was sick for 38 years if he wanted to be made well. I'm sure He didn't have to ask the man. John 5:5-8 CJB says,

"One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. Yeshua, seeing this man and knowing that he had been there a long time, said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" The sick man answered, "I have no one to put me in the pool when the water is disturbed; and while I'm trying to get there, someone goes in ahead of me." Yeshua said to him, "Get up, pick up your mat and walk!"

The man was healed and he didn't even know who Yeshua was! John 5:13 CJB says, " But the man who had been healed didn't know who it was." Like I've said, God can do what He wants. That takes the pressure off of us.

When you ask people what they want prayer for, you are trying to determine the need for healing in four categories: 1) The Physical 2) The Emotional 3) The Mental or 4) The Spiritual

If someone hurt their ankle it's a physical thing (see my article on "The Four Primary Areas of Healing). It could be any of the four categories. Perhaps they are dealing with emotional stress or they may have a problem thinking clearly. They could be dealing with sin issues. Because of my background, sometimes I'll forget to ask people what they want prayer for. I prayed for this girl and then asked her what she wanted prayer for – she responded with what I had just prayed for. I prayed for her again and I used her words; I wondered where she was when I was praying the first time I prayed (the Holy Spirit can inform you, but still ask what they want prayer for). Yeshua probably knew that the guy who was sick for 38 years wanted to be healed, but He dialoged with him.

Again, we pray for what people want prayer for. I remember when I first started using this model, I would ask God what to pray for and He'd then give me the same words I just heard the person speak. God was teaching me to be respectful and honor what people wanted prayer for. God cares about how we feel. God can always give you more, but at least pray for what the person wanted prayer for.

2) Deciding what to pray for

Ask yourself why this person is having this problem. Sometimes anxiety and stress can cause pain. I won't say that it is the stress in their life that is causing their back pain. I'll ask if they are under some stress – if they say no, I drop it.

Try to get some words from the Lord. [see my **“Hearing” From God to Serve and Heal** article] Work from generalities to specifics. Perhaps you get a vision of a flute. Ask if there is something about music they need prayer for – ask them for the specifics. Sometimes trying to get too specific hurts the other persons faith because you are misunderstanding what God is telling you.

You don't have to come at people. Most of the time I've found that it is better to error on the side of being extra sensitive and respectful. If a person is filled with fear I might pray. "Lord give them strength and I come against any fear in their life and I ask it to leave." God honors that and He will cast that spirit out.

I remember praying for 3 women to be released from the demonic while I was in the jungle. I closed my eyes to pray for them and as soon as I finished, I opened my eyes and they returned to normal and walked away. They had no idea I was praying for them and they didn't speak English; I was in the jungle. If I hadn't opened my eyes, I would have been standing there with no one around with my eyes closed. It's not a bad idea to see what's going on when you are praying for someone.

Someone came to a friend of mine for prayer because she was being tormented spiritually. He had his eyes closed while he was praying and the spirit took her over. When he opened his eyes, she was mocking him. When someone needs spiritual release, they need to make a commitment to resist the devil and being angry at the devil helps too. They need to have contempt for what the devil is doing to them. It says in James 4:7 NKJV, "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

Also, draw the line on specifics – we don't have to go to extremes. For example, "on the 3rd of November you lied." Sometimes God does want you to be specific. For example, God told someone I know that some guys marriage was in trouble. They were at the coffee shop and he didn't know him. Through the conversation he was able to encourage the man to get help and then later he found out that they were able to save the marriage. Most of the time it is better to start with something less specific.

Instead of just going into auto pilot and moving right into prayer

- 1) It is the opportunity for God to reveal to you what to pray for and how to pray
- 2) To determine which areas might need prayer – emotional, physical, mental, or spiritual
- 3) To ask God for more information and revelation.

It can be an encouraging and exciting time of ministry. You never know what God will do, One time I asked God for the rain to stop and it started snowing. God can do what He wants.

3) Types of prayers

There are prayers for:

Blessing – a prayer of blessing.

Healing – physical, emotional, mental, or spiritual healing

Forgiveness – a prayer concluding with God forgives you.

Accepting Yeshua – a prayer to accept Yeshua.

Cleansing – a prayer that rebukes sin and makes commitment.

Peace – a prayer to bring healing peace over our body, emotions, mind, or spiritual life.

Deliverance of demonic – a prayer to release from the demonic.

Wisdom – a prayer to know what to do about something.

There are other types of prayer. I'll often pray for several of these during the prayer time.

4) The actual prayer

We are trying to bless what the Holy Spirit God is doing. If you have a service where you decide to have ministry time, you can also address the things that God wants people to have prayer for. Try to see what the Holy Spirit wants to do. For example, God put it in my heart to walk around blessing children at meeting in a jungle village.

One time during worship at a jungle church I had a vision of a girl with blue eye shadow. I thought God wanted me to pray for her so I announced it after the meeting and a girl with blue eyeshadow came up for prayer. The local missionary and her daughter had invited her. She wanted prayer for her hearing; she was deaf in one ear. Talking about a little bit of pressure. I prayed for her and her hearing was restored. She began crying, and the missionary and her daughter began crying. The missionary told me that she was her neighbor and had been praying for her for two years. She then accepted Yeshua as her Messiah.

Do's and Don'ts

- * We are focusing in on being real with God.
- * The focus is not on ourselves, but on God.
- * It's not a show. We are not trying to drum up emotion. Some pastors intentionally do not have music during ministry to show that what people were experiencing had nothing to do with hype (music though is good for keeping prayer private).
- * We don't look for hype, but real encounters with God.

Laying on of hands is the biblical model that Yeshua used. Matthew 8:15 CJB say, "He touched her hand, the fever left her, and she got up and began helping him." Yeshua touched her hand. The Jewish model is to touch someone on their head. You can lay hands on someone's shoulder or lightly on their head or even on the affected area. Laying of hands is meant for association. For example, when the High Priest would lay his hands on the goat that was to be sent into the wilderness on Yom Kippur, he would lay his hands on its head. It represented the peoples' sins being removed from them as it went into the wilderness. I often feel led by God to lay my hand on the person's head and I encourage you to do that as well.

I believe that it could mean that as we stretch out our hands, it represents and relates to the direct hand of God touching others. Acts 4:29-30 CJB says "So now, Lord, take note of their threats; and enable your slaves to speak your message with boldness! Stretch out your hand to heal and to do signs and miracles through the name of your holy servant Yeshua!"

God uses our hands in a symbolic way. Remember, it is not us doing the healing, but God. Moshe (Moses) kept his hands raised and as long as they were raised, Israel was winning the battle. "When Moshe raised his hand, Isra'el prevailed; but when he let it down, 'Amalek prevailed. However, Moshe's hands grew heavy; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. Aharon and Hur held up his hands, the one on the one side and the other on the other; so that his hands stayed steady until sunset; Exodus 17:11-12 CJB. By laying on of hands, we are able to associate that it was God's work; in the case of Israel's battle with Amalek, it showed that it was God as work; otherwise Israel might have thought it was their own victory.

Yeshua layed hands on a man with leprosy and he was healed. Mark 1:41-42 NKJV says, "Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, 'I am willing; be cleansed.' As soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed." God has used the method of laying on of hands for thousands of years to help us associate what is happening with what God is doing. Yeshua modeled it for us.

One time I was praying for a girl in the jungle that had leprosy and I held my hand over her head (I didn't know she had leprosy, but I thought God was telling me not to touch her.). I prayed for her to be released from the demonic and to accept Yeshua as the Messiah. She had no idea what I prayed for. We sat down after prayer and the pastor running the meeting asked if anyone wanted to accept Yeshua and she got up and went forward. It was very encouraging for me. To this day I think God must have done something while I was praying for her, but I will never know what it was.

Touch the other person appropriately. If you are a guy, you need to ask permission to lay hands on woman and nothing other than the head or shoulder. Actually, lay hands on people though. The biblical model is laying on of hands. Be appropriate when touching others. Men should ask a woman if it is okay to lay your hand on them. A woman praying for another women can touch each other areas other than the head or shoulders. If you are on a prayer team and there are men and women on the prayer team, guys try to pray for men and women with women. It is okay for men and women to pray for each other.

It's okay for multiple people to pray for others. Four of us prayed for a young woman with a bad back. We all got to share in the joy when she got healed. A quiet person may feel uncomfortable with several people praying for them. It can be good for guy to ask a woman if they could pray for them. Sometimes a man may prefer another man or a woman may prefer a woman.

We don't have to value hype. If a person is feeling like they might fall have them sit down. Remember, we are not putting on a show. Don't push people or scream at them or speak in tongues out loud over them or wave your hand around over them – don't do things that are distracting. If someone is doing something that is distracting, I have a hard time even thinking about prayer.

Also, people react in different ways to God. They may shake or scream or lay down on the floor because they are feeling faint. Why do we experience God in different ways? We are all different so we will experience Him in different ways. We can definitely experience God. Shaul (Paul) got knocked to the ground and blinded when he met Yeshua (Jesus). I'm glad we don't experience God all the same way. We all react differently to the presence of God.

One of the reasons that we experience God is that it is a relational thing. God becomes real to us. We know that He is doing something. The people in the Bible experienced God. Remember at the mountain of God.

The idea that people don't experience God is not biblical.
Abraham experience God, Jacob experienced God, and the early believers experienced God.
God is a very real God and we should experience Him. We should enjoy God's presence.
I'm not saying we should allow just anything.
I strongly resist trying to manufacture God in any way.
I want a real relationship with God.

Also, we don't want to make excuses for the prayer not being answered while we are praying.

We pray with expectation, then it's just up to God.

Don't pray, "Oh God, if this is your will." Pray with authority and confidence.

Pray with authority and be specific.

Yeshua sent trained people and sent them out and He sends us out.

Keep your eyes open as much as possible when praying for others.

You can then see if God is doing something.

Praying for three women in Brazil 5 feet away. Some kind of religious bondage spirit.

If I had kept my eyes closed I would have been standing there praying with my eyes closed with nobody around.

If I see that God is doing something I ask for more and keep inviting the Holy Spirit and Yeshua to come and for the kingdom to come. – at times, I just say come or more (of your presence); keep it simple.

I am zealous for asking for more and for the Holy Spirit and the kingdom to come.

Luke 11:2

So He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

***Handout. -Why I am zealous for asking for more.

You'll hear me say more and come a lot.

5) After the prayer

Sometimes you can just excuse yourself and move on.

If the Holy Spirit is on them, you may just leave them and let God do what He is doing with them. – don't feel you have to say something.

I almost always ask how they are doing.

Was what I prayed for meaningful to you?

Was the prayer relevant?

Based on what they say, I may go back and pray more.

Don't be hasty.

You might suggest going to a doctor. "Have you gone to the doctor?"

Never tell people to stop taking their medicine. If they are healed the doctor can confirm this.

You may make suggestions, but most of the time the prayer is sufficient.

Don't try to talk too much – just let God do what He will do.

We are God's kingdom people.

Col 1:13 NKJV

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.

Yeshua wants the kingdom to come into the present.

Matt 6:9-10 NKJV

In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come.

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

We are showing people God's love and compassion.

Yeshua is there with us

Heb 13:5 NKJV

"I will never leave you nor forsake you."

He is ready to accomplish what He wills with power.

1 Cor 4:19-20 NKJV

But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills, and I will know, not the word of those who are puffed up, but the power. 20 For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.

John 14:12 NKJV

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.