

Prayer – Our Secret Place “The Prayer Closet”

God gave us everything we need to win. One thing that is available to us is: entering into the secret place.

The secret place, “The Prayer closet” is available to us.

Matthew 6:6 (KJV) But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

Matthew 6:9 (KJV) pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven....

Psalm 42:1 — New Living Translation (NLT)

¹ As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God.

Our Heavenly Father loves us, he cares about us, and desire our fellowship.

Beginning with the first man Adam in Genesis 3:9 But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

Our Heavenly Father loves us and he wants us to be in his presence. If not, he wouldn't have called where are you? When we get alone and pray we are fellowshiping with him.

Jesus is our example of how to win in life. He went to a quiet place and prayed to the Father.

Mark 1:35 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

We can do the same thing; we can go to our secret place, our quiet place, our private place, “our closet” and pray to the father.

No matter where I am, I can get alone with God. When I am in my private place with Him that’s when I am in “my closet”. Do you have a closet? Do you have a secret place?

When I am in my prayer closet I have a good time being in His presence.

Hebrews 4:16 — (NKJV) Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. God is Omnipresent, Omniscient, and Omnipotent.

Omnipresence means all-present. This term means that God is capable of being everywhere at the same time.

Omniscience means all-knowing. God is all-knowing in the sense that He is aware of the past, present, and future.

Omnipotence means all-powerful. It means He is not subject to physical limitations like man is. God's power is infinite and limitless.

God desires to be in our presence. Wherever you are, you can enter the throne of grace.

Prayer is a conversation with our Heavenly Father. The conversation goes both ways. We speak and then God will speak to us. He will give us instructions, it is up to us to be quiet and listen to that still quiet voice on the inside.

Jesus is our example. We see from His life that “The secret place” is just finding a private secluded place.

Matthew 14:23, we read that “he went up into a mountain apart to pray

If you take the time to pray in the secret place or your prayer closet you must be willing to do what God instructs.

There is value in finding alone time with God. We all need a closet, our alone time with God.

Power Point: We are not alone; we have a helper!

John 14:16 NKJV And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever

1 Corinthians 6:19 NKJV ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

Power point: We are to trust the Lord!

Psalms 37:3-5 NLT

³ Trust in the LORD and do good. Then you will live safely in the land and prosper.

⁴ Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you your heart's desires.

⁵ Commit everything you do to the LORD. Trust him, and he will help you.

When we have things not going right on our jobs, with our families, with our finances, in our bodies, and with our spouses we can trust Him. If we are having issues in any area of our life, we can trust God and bring it to the prayer closet.

Matthew 6:6 (KJV) But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

I. What to do in “the prayer closet”?

1) *Enter your closet (your secret, private, and isolated place):* Luke 5:16 ERV ¹⁶ Jesus often went away to other places to be alone so that he could pray.

Power Point: Jesus went alone to be with the Heavenly Father, we must do the same.

2) *Shut your door (leave distractions out):* Luke 10:38-42 NLT As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what he taught. But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, “Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me.” But the Lord said to her, “My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her.”

Power point: The time we spend with God cannot be taken away from us.

3) *Pray*: 1 Thessalonians 5:17 KJV ¹⁷ pray without ceasing

Power point: Prayer initiates the power of God.

4 points to remember about prayer:

a. Pray to the Father in the Name of Jesus- Please note that we are taught to pray directly to the Father. John.16:23 KJV Jesus said "in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you".

b. Pray the will of God 1John 5:14 NIV ¹⁴ This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

We are to frame our prayers with the word of God, this is the will of God "it is written"

c. Pray the answer not the problem Mark 11:24 NIV ²⁴ Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

d. Be specific in prayer Mark 10:51 NIV ⁵¹ "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."

4) *Be Thankful*: Philippian 4:6 NIV Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Power point: We should express gratitude at all times

II. What to do once out of the prayer closet:

1) Expect your prayers to be answered - When we pray, We will believe we receive.

We will do Mark 11:24 NKJV ²⁴ Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive *them*, and you will have *them*.

2) Do the word - He will give us a battle plan, it is up to us to do it. James 1:22-24 The MSG ²²⁻²⁴ Don't fool yourself into thinking that you are a listener when you are anything but, letting the Word go in one ear and out the other. *Act* on what you hear! Those who hear and don't act are like those who glance in the mirror, walk away, and two minutes later have no idea who they are, what they look like.

3) Confess what you believe - because we shall have whatever we say Mark 11:23 NIV ²³ "Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them.

Remember confession is for us. Faith comes by hearing.

4) Receive the reward - the answer to our prayer Hebrews 11:6 NJKV ⁶ But without faith *it is impossible to please Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Proverbs 4:7 KJV Wisdom *is* the principal thing; *therefore* get wisdom: and with all thy getting get an understanding.

Note: 1 peter 3:12 NKJV For the eyes of the LORD *are* on the righteous, And His ears *are open* to their prayers;