

Maintaining the Right Focus & Balance in Prayer

Step 1: Connect with God relationally. Prayer is relational, not need-based.

Ephesians 2:18 (NIV) *For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. We have access to the Father, through the death of Jesus Christ and by the Holy Spirit. The only way we can come in to the presence of the Almighty God is through the Son and by the Spirit.*

Step 2: Worship His name (character). Prayer demands reverence. Prayer starts with God. Focus on His name, character and attributes.

Step 3: Pray His agenda first. The first request that we make is to be centered on His redemptive priorities not our personal needs. Prayer seeks His will, not our will.

Luke 12:31 (TLB) *He will always give you all you need from day to day if you will make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.*

Step 4: Depend on Him for everything. Prayer is a daily practice for daily needs. The three things we most need God provides: forgiveness, provision, and protection. Nothing is too big, and nothing is too small.

Psalms 121:1-2 (NLT) *I look up to the mountains— does my help come from there? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth!*

Step 5: Get your heart right with God and people. Prayer is hindered when we refuse to forgive others. This is all about fellowship and relational harmony. We must guard our hearts against all sin, especially the relational sin of bitterness, unforgiveness, and resentment.

Psalms 66:18 (NLT) *If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.*

Step 6: Pray for leadership and deliverance from temptation and evil. We are at war with the flesh, world and the devil. We need God's leadership and deliverance to win the battle.

Ephesians 6:12 (NIV) *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

Step 7: Express faith and confidence in God. Prayer should conclude with praise, faith and anticipation.