

# Philippians Series

Lesson #094

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Dean Bible Ministries

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# Who Can Pray Effectively?

## Philippians 4:6–7





**Php. 4:6, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.**

**Php. 4:7, “And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” [NKJV]**

Php. 4:6, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

Php. 4:7, “and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

**Php. 4:6, “Y’all don’t be anxious for any reason, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.” [RD]**

**The prohibition**

**μεριμνάω *merimnaō*  
2 plur pres act impera  
“Y’all don’t be anxious  
for any reason.”**

**The positive command**

***In every situation,*  
by prayer and supplication  
along with thankfulness for the situation  
*let your requests be made known to God***

# What the Bible Teaches About Prayer



## **Definition:**

- 1. Prayer is just an ongoing conversation with God.**
- 2. Prayer is the believer's vital communication link to his heavenly Father.**
- 3. Prayer takes us immediately into the throne room of God, into God's very presence.**



**Heb. 4:14, “Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.**

**Heb. 4:15, “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.**

**Heb. 4:16, “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” [NKJV]**

**παρρησία *parrēsía*; confidence, boldness; especially in speaking**



**Heb. 5:1, “For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.**

**Heb. 5:2, “He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness.**

**Heb. 5:3, “Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins.**

**Heb. 5:4, “And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was.” [NKJV]**

# **The Role of the High Priest**

**The role of the priest is to represent humans to God. The role of a prophet is to represent God to man.**

**The legitimate priests in the Old Testament were the ones who took the people before God, interceded for them with God in prayer, and were also to teach them about God. So even before God called Abraham, there were Gentile priests.**

- 1. Before Israel the patriarchs of the clan served as priests. The Gentiles had priests, but we don't know much about them. We have two examples:**



**Ex. 2:16, “Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters. And they came and drew water, and they filled the troughs to water their father’s flock.”**

**Ex. 3:1 “Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.”**

**Ex. 18:1, “And Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses’ father-in-law, heard of all that God had done for Moses and for Israel His people—that the LORD had brought Israel out of Egypt.”**

**2. Earlier, at the time of Abraham, there was another Gentile priest, Melchizedek (“King of righteousness” or righteous king).**







**Gen. 14:18, “Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High.**

**Gen. 14:19, “And he blessed him and said: ‘Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;**

**Gen. 14:20, “ ‘And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.’ And he gave him a tithe of all.”**



**Gen. 14:21, “Now the king of Sodom said to Abram, ‘Give me the persons, and take the goods for yourself.’**

**Gen. 14:22, “But Abram said to the king of Sodom, ‘I have raised my hand to the LORD, God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth,**

**Gen. 14:23, “ ‘that I will take nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that is yours, lest you should say, “I have made Abram rich”—**

**Gen. 14:24, “ ‘except only what the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men who went with me: Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion.’ ”**

**Heb. 5:1, “For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.**

**Heb. 5:2, “He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness.**

**Heb. 5:3, “Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins.**

**Heb. 5:4, “And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was.” [NKJV]**



**Heb. 5:5, “So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: ‘*You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.*’ ” [Psa. 2:7]**

**Heb. 5:6, “As He also says in another place: ‘*You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek*’;” [NKJV] [Psa. 110:1]**

**Heb. 5:5, “So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: ‘*You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.*’ [Psa. 2:7]**

**Heb. 5:6, “As He also says in another place: ‘*You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek*’; [Psa. 110:1]**

**Heb. 5:7, “who [Jesus], in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear,**

**Heb. 5:8, “though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.” [NKJV]**

**Heb. 5:9, “And as a result of being brought to His end goal, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, [RD]**

**Heb. 5:10, “called by God as High Priest ‘according to the order of Melchizedek,’ [NKJV]**

**Heb. 5:11, “of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.” [NKJV]**



**Heb. 5:3, “Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins.**

**Heb. 5:4, “And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was.” [NKJV]**

**3. Prayer takes us immediately into the throne room of God, into God's very presence.**

**We are able to enter God's presence boldly because Jesus is our High Priest.**





Tabernacle from above





Tabernacle court with altar and bronze laver



# Laver



**4. From this we learn that prayer is only for believers.**

**Why is that?**

**One exception:**

**The unbeliever who is expressing a desire to know God, is honored by God who will bring someone to that person to help them know God.**

**The unbeliever cannot pray to God, any more than the believer who has not confessed sin can.**



- **God-consciousness**: The awareness that there is something greater that is out there; the realization that there might be a Supreme or more-supreme Being and a desire to know about who or what that is. At that point they are deciding positively to learn something about God.
- **Age of accountability**: This varies from individual to individual, from culture to culture. In a Christian home where the infant hears the gospel regularly and the parents talk to the child about God and Jesus, then that child will come to God-consciousness early, in a pagan primitive world that might not happen until adulthood.
- Since God desires all to be saved (1 Tim. 2:3–4; 2 Pet. 3:9) God will bring someone or the message in some form to that person.

- **The unbeliever is a spiritually dead person, as such they cannot have a relationship with God.**
- **Spiritual death is alienation, isolated and removed from the life of God (Ephesians 4:18)**
- **Because of sin, man cannot enter the presence of God.**
- **Not all human beings are believers, only those saved. Only believers are in the family of God, only believers have God as their Father.**



**John 8:39, “They [Pharisees: unbelievers] answered and said to Him, ‘Abraham is our father.’ Jesus said to them, ‘If you were Abraham’s children, you would do the works of Abraham.**

**John 8:40, “ ‘But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this.**

**John 8:41, “ ‘You do the deeds of your father.’ Then they said to Him, ‘We were not born of fornication; we have one Father—God.’ ”**

**John 8:42, “Jesus said to them, ‘If<sup>1</sup> God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.**

**John 8:43, “ ‘Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word.**

**John 8:44, “ ‘You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.’ ”**



**John 1:11, “He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.**

**John 1:12, “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:**

**John 1:13, “who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”**