

## “A Better Way to Pray” Relational Prayer

### I. Prayer is Heartfelt Meaningful Communication with God

**James 5:16** (AMP) **The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer** of a righteous person makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working]

**PRINCIPLE 1:** Prayer is a Heartfelt Expression of Conversation with God.

#### A. Prayer is not Just a Religious Concept

**Matthew 6:5** (NKJV) “And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For **they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men...**”

**PRINCIPLE 2:** Prayer is Not a Religious Concept.

#### B. The Old Testament Concept of Prayer

Old Testament Mediators, such as Moses, David and Abraham stood between God and Man to Pray for the People.

**DEFINE: Mediator** - a Go-Between or Arbitrator

**Genesis 18:23–24** (NKJV) <sup>23</sup> **Abraham came near and said, “Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup> Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it?”**

**PRINCIPLE 3:** Many of the Models People use Today for Prayer are based on Old Testament Concepts where a Mediator stood and Begged and Pleaded for Mercy between an Angry God and People who Sinned against Him!

#### C. The New Testament Concept of Prayer

**1 Timothy 2:5** (NKJV) For **there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus**

**PRINCIPLE 4:** The New Testament Provides a New and Better Way to Pray to the Father where Jesus is the Only Mediator between Us and God.

### II. Relational/Conversational Prayer

New Testament Prayer should be Centered around Your Life-Giving Relationship with God

**Hebrews 11:6** (NKJV) ... **for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**

**PRINCIPLE 5:** Prayer Builds Our Relationship with God based on Faith, established by Jesus’ Death, Burial and Resurrection.

**DEFINE: Relational/Conversational Prayer** - Prayer Centered Around Cultivating a Relationship with God by Expressing Love, Worship and Thanksgiving to Him!

### 1. Focused on God

Colossians 3:2 (NKJV) **Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.**

**PRINCIPLE 6:** We would not have as many Problems in Life if Our Thoughts were Focused on Him and not everything Else!

### 2. Focused on God's Presence

Psalms 16:11 (NKJV) ... **In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

### 3. Focused on God's Love

Psalms 118:29 (NLT) Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! **His faithful love endures forever.**

### 4. Focused on God's Goodness

**DEFINE:** Good - Pleasant and Satisfying

Psalms 34:8 (NKJV) Oh, **taste and see that the LORD is good**; Blessed is the man *who* trusts in Him!

### 5. Focused on God's Faithfulness

**DEFINE:** Faithfulness - Honest, Truthful and Reliable,

Psalms 92:1 (NKJV) **It is good to** ... declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, And **Your faithfulness every night.**

### 6. Focused on Giving God Thanks

Psalms 92:2 (NKJV) **It is good to give thanks to the LORD, And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High**

### 7. Prayer Focused on God's Mercy

**DEFINE:** Mercy - God's Unchanging Compassion and Forgiveness

1 Chronicles 16:34 (NKJV) Oh, give thanks to the LORD... **For His mercy endures forever.**

### D. Benefits of Relational / Conversational Prayer

Isaiah 26:3 (NKJV) **You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.**

**PRINCIPLE 7:** Relational / Conversational Prayer Creates God's Presence and Keeps Our Mind in Peace!