

Prayer – Capacity Limitations?

[Ephesians 1:15, 16](#)

As long as we are alive, we are to communicate with God in Prayer.

Commanded to Pray [Matt. 7:7](#)

- Ask – receive
- Seek – find (guidance)
- Knock – door opens-with intensity

[Isa. 65:24](#) *“And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.”* HOW FAR DOES A PRAYER TRAVEL IN A SECOND? There must be a great distance from earth to Heaven. We don’t know for sure. We're told the closest star cluster is over 4 light years away, and that the farthest known star cluster is 13.3 billion light years away. Given that light travels 186,282 miles per second, light from the nearest star cluster reaching the eyes of an individual now *actually left that cluster over 4 years ago*. Realizing light travels nearly 6 trillion miles in a year, it seems clear that Heaven is an unfathomable distance from us – THEN we have to conclude that prayer travels *really* fast!

[John 14:13, 14](#) *“And whatsoever you ask in my Name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”* (vs.14) *“If you shall ask anything in my name I will do it.”*

[John 15:7](#) *If (ἐάν) ye abide in me and my words abide (remain) in you, whatsoever (ὅ ἐάν) ye wish, ASK and it shall happen to you.”*

[1 Thess. 5:17](#) *“Pray without ceasing”*

[Heb. 4:16](#) *“Let us come boldly...”*

Prayer – Capacity Limitations? (Continued)

- I. PRAYER DOES NOT HAVE A LIMITED SUBJECT MATTER – It is communion/fellowship.
 - Men have prayed for lengthened life, as did Hezekiah in [2 Kings 20:5f](#) – Men have prayed for help, as Daniel ([Dan. 9:16](#))
 - For Mercy, as David – ([Ps. 51](#))
 - For sight, as Bartimaeus – ([Mk. 10:46-47](#))
 - For a son, as Hannah ([I Sam. 1:11](#))
 - For Grace, as Paul ([2 Cor.9:8](#))

- II. PRAYER DOES NOT HAVE GEOGRAPHICAL RESTRICTIONS. People have prayed in many different places:
 - Jonah prayed in deep waters ([Jonah 2:1](#))
 - Peter prayed on a housetop ([Acts 10:9](#))
 - Hezekiah prayed, horizontal, on a bed ([2 Kings 20:2](#))
 - Hagar prayed out in the wilderness ([Gen. 21:16](#))
 - Jarius prayed in the street ([Lk.8:41](#))
 - Jesus prayed on the mountain side ([Mark 6:46](#))
 - Again, Jesus was praying on the cross ([Luke 23:42](#))

- III. PRAYER DOES NOT DEPEND UPON THE LENGTH OF THE PRAYER
 - Short prayers as Peter’s 3 word Prayer “LORD SAVE ME” ([Matt. 14:30](#))
 - Long prayers like Moses at the consecration of the Tabernacle or Solomon at the dedication of the Temple ([2 Chron. 6:12-42](#))

Prayer – Capacity Limitations? (Continued)

IV. EFFECTIVE PRAYER IS NOT RESTRICTED TO TIME, AGE, POSITION IN LIFE, OR PHYSICAL WELFARE

➤ Time:

- David prayed in the morning
- Silas prayed at night

➤ Age:

- Samuel prayed in his childhood
- Timothy prayed in his youth
- The Centurion prayed in his manhood
- Simeon prayed in his old age
- Job prayed in sickness
- Jacob and Jesus prayed while dying.

V. VARIOUS ATTITUDES RELATED TO PRAYER

- Some people think of prayer as just asking.
- Some people think of prayer as arguing with God.
- Some people think of prayer as a first-aid kit for times of trouble.
- Some people think of prayer as informing God of their own opinions.
- Some people think of prayer as a method, with beautiful expressive terms, to convince God to do for them what God does not want to do.
- Some people think of prayer as coaxing God, or coercing God.

VI. WHAT REALLY IS PRAYER? Prayer is listening as well as talking. Abraham talked to God – God talked to him. Moses talked to God and God talked to Moses. Elijah talked to God about the welfare of the people, and God spoke to Elijah. Nehemiah talked to God and God talked to him about Jerusalem.

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VII. PRAYER IS POWER, A DEVELOPER, A CHRISTIAN'S DOOR TO THE WARDROBE – THE FLAVORER AND PERFUMER OF LIFE. (Smell an artificial flower sometime!) A LIFE WITHOUT HARMONY, WITHOUT RESTORATION TO FELLOWSHIP, WITHOUT THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; WITHOUT SATURATION WITH THE WORD, IT HAS NO PERFUME – IT MIGHT LOOK GOOD, BUT NO FRAGRANCE!!

[Luke 18:1](#) Jesus said: *“Men ought always to pray and not to faint.”*

[Luke 11:1](#) *“Lord teach us to pray”* NOT HOW TO! But let's consider

VIII. HOW TO PRAY

1. Pray without hypocrisy – [Matt. 6:5](#) *“don't be as the hypocrites are – love to stand in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets that they may be seen of men.”*
2. Pray privately ([Matt. 6:6](#)) in secret – He rewards openly.
3. Pray with belief, trust, and confidence [Heb. 11:6](#) *“But without Faith, it is impossible to please Him.”* Jesus said to the father of the demonic boy *“If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth”* [Mark 9:23, 24](#).
4. Pray definitely – [Matt. 6:7, 8](#) *“do not use vain repetitions...”*
5. Pray submissively to God's plan [Matt. 26:39](#) *“O My Father”*, if (1st class)
6. Pray forgivingly – Envy, jealousy, bitterness MUST DISAPPEAR! [Mark 11:25, 26](#)

Listen to Jesus as He commands prayer – [Luke 10:2](#) *“Pray the Lord of the harvest...”*

Listen to a praying Apostle Paul, [Eph. 1:16](#) – also pray without ceasing – In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. ([I Thess. 5:17, 18](#))