

# WHEN A CHURCH PRAYS



“Of all the spiritual disciplines, prayer is the most central because **it ushers us into perpetual communion with the Father.**”

-Richard Foster

“Even in a very busy, very distracted world, people still make time for what really matters to them. So there’s something deeper, beneath the surface, that keeps us from praying. I think it’s this: for most of us, **prayer doesn’t resolve our anxiety**. Prayer itself makes us anxious because **it uncovers fears we can ignore as long as we don’t engage deeply, thoughtfully, vulnerably with God.**”

-Tyler Staton

*Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools*



“To be constantly aware of God's presence, it is necessary to **form the habit of continually talking with Him throughout each day.**”

-Brother Lawrence

*Practicing the Presence of God*

“Pray then like this: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.’”

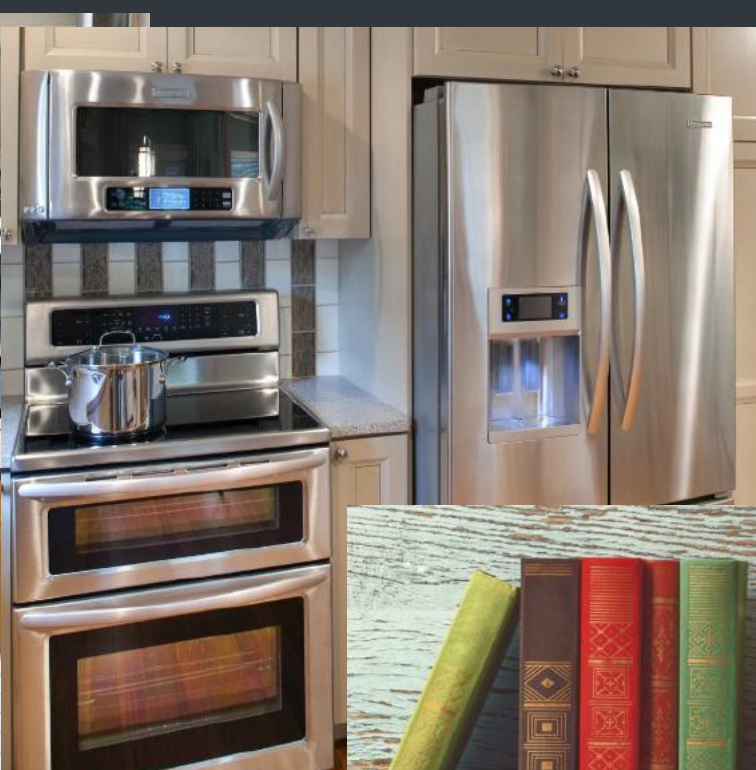
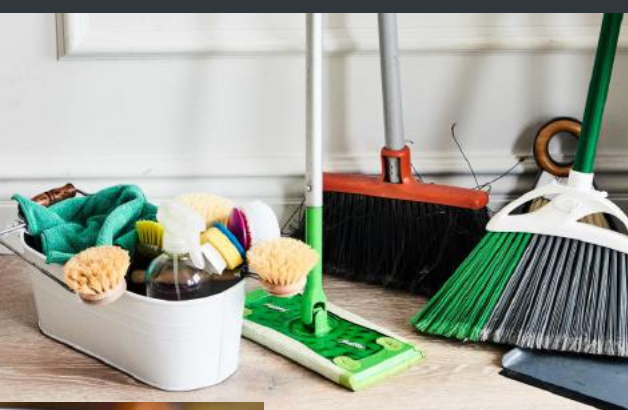
-Matthew 6:9-13



#nofilter

- **At Lazarus' tomb:** "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me" (John 11:41-42).
- **Death is coming soon:** "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name" (John 12:27-28).
- **The garden of Gethsemane:** "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will" (Matt. 26:39).
- **On the cross:** "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me" (Matt. 27:46)? "Father, into your hands, I commit my spirit" (Luke 23:46).







“Prayers are tools. Every distinctive human behavior requires tools: farming, loving, cooking, learning, building, believing. Some tools are made of wood, some of metal, some of words. A tool that is made of words is no less a tool than one made of steel. Prayer is a tool that is made, mostly, of words. **Prayers are tools, but with this clarification: prayers are not tools for doing or getting, but for being and becoming.** Prayers are tools that God uses to work his will in our bodies and souls. Prayer are tools that we use to collaborate in his work with us.”

-Eugene Peterson, *Answering God*

Prayer is not to get something.

Prayer is not even just  
something we do.

Prayer is for being with God and  
becoming more like Jesus.

# ACTS Prayer Model

- Adoration
- Confession
- Thanksgiving
- Supplication



# Adoration – Simply praising God for who He is

“Lord, you are our God; We will exalt you.  
We will praise your name, for you have  
accomplished wonders, plans formed long  
ago, with perfect faithfulness.”

-Isaiah 25:1

# Adoration

- Exodus 3:5
- Deuteronomy 7:9
- 1 Chronicles 16:29
- Psalm 29:2
- Psalm 47:2
- Psalm 63:4
- Psalm 66:4
- Psalm 68:4
- Psalm 72:18
- Psalm 86:12
- Psalm 95:1
- Psalm 100:4
- Psalm 134:2
- Ezekiel 1:28
- Romans 8:37-39
- 1 Timothy 1:17
- Jude 1:25
- Revelation 4:11
- Revelation 5:13
- Revelation 7:12

Confession - Admitting your sins  
and asking for God's forgiveness  
and mercy in your life.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and  
righteous to forgive us our sins and to  
cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

-1 John 1:9



# Confession

- Leviticus 5:5
- Numbers 5:7
- Ezra 10:1
- Nehemiah 9:2-3
- Psalm 32:5
- Psalm 38:18
- Proverbs 28:13
- Daniel 9:5
- Mark 1:5
- John 8:32
- John 20:23
- Acts 2:38
- Acts 3:19
- Acts 19:18
- Romans 10:9-11
- 1 Timothy 6:12
- 2 Timothy 2:19
- James 4:8
- James 5:16
- 1 John 4:15

Thanksgiving – Thanking  
God for all the wonderful  
things He's done.

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his faithful love endures forever.”

-Psalm 107:1

# Thanksgiving

- Psalm 7:17
- Psalm 9:1
- Psalm 28:7
- Psalm 95:2
- Psalm 100:4
- Psalm 106:1-2
- Psalm 107:8-9
- Psalm 136:1-3
- Isaiah 12:4
- 1 Corinthians 15:57
- 2 Corinthians 2:14
- 2 Corinthians 4:15-16
- Ephesians 1:15-16
- Ephesians 5:19-20
- Philippians 4:6
- Colossians 2:6-7
- Colossians 3:15
- Colossians 4:2
- 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- Revelation 11:17



Supplication - Bringing requests for yourself and for others to God.

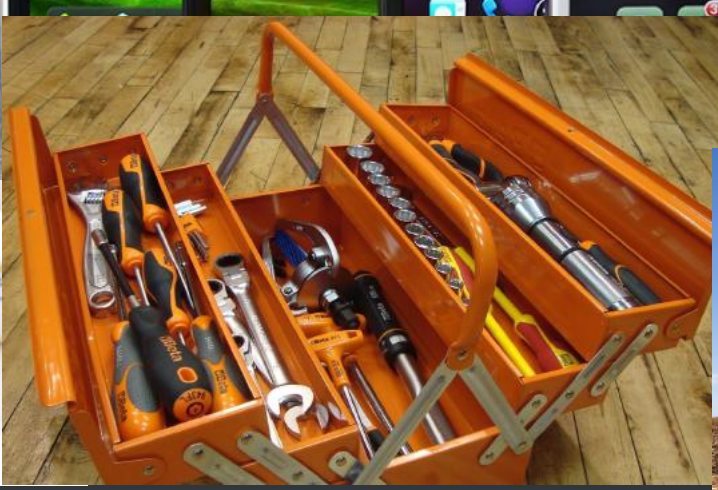
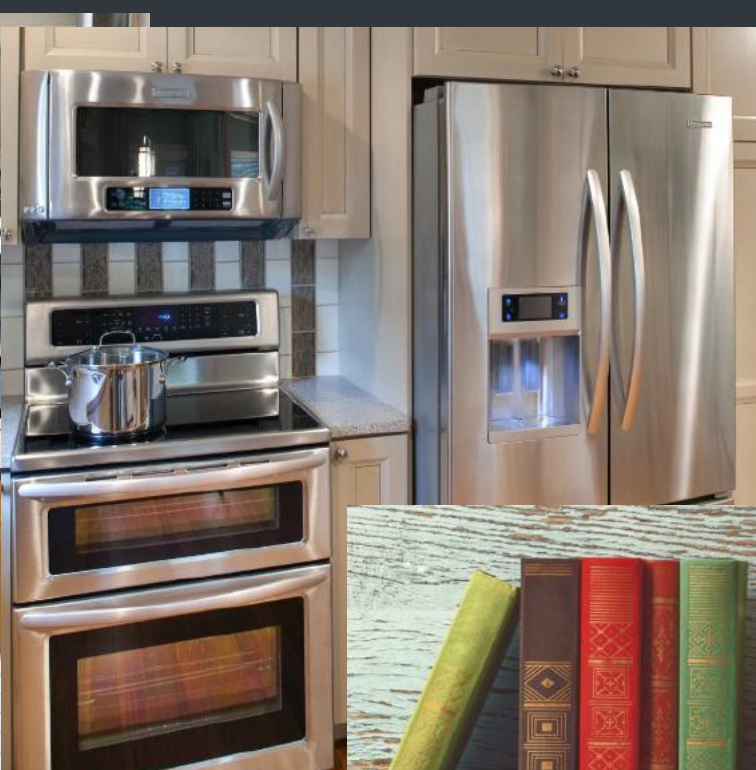
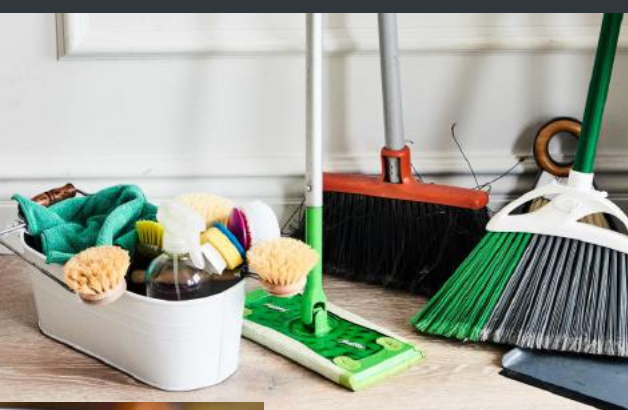
“Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints.”

-Ephesians 6:18

# Supplication

- 1 Kings 8:30
- Psalm 28:2
- Psalm 55:1
- Psalm 86:6
- Psalm 91
- Psalm 119:170
- Psalm 143:1
- Psalm 130:2
- Luke 11:3
- John 15:7
- Acts 1:14
- Romans 8:26
- Philippians 4:6
- Philippians 4:19
- 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- 1 Timothy 2:1
- Hebrews 4:16
- Hebrews 7:25
- James 5:16
- 1 Peter 5:7







Prayer is a tool we  
learn, practice, and  
develop over time.



“God does not ask much of you. But remembering Him, praising Him, asking for His grace, offering Him your troubles, or thanking Him for what He has given you **will console you all the time.**”

-Brother Lawrence

*Practicing the Presence of God*