

## Introduction

**Prayer Quiz: Put a T in front of the statements about prayer you think are true. Put an F in front of the statements you think are false.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **After the sin in the Garden of Eden Adam and Eve could no longer communicate with God because their sin separated them from God and God cannot look at sin.**
2. \_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer is the means by which we access the presence of God.**
3. \_\_\_\_\_ **In order to enter God's presence, a Christian must first confess and repent of all known sin in his/her life.**
4. \_\_\_\_\_ **All Christians need to have a daily quiet time of prayer (a specific amount of time dedicated only to prayer).**
5. \_\_\_\_\_ **Jesus taught his disciples to have a daily time of devotions before sunrise, so the best time to pray is in the morning before the day gets going.**
6. \_\_\_\_\_ **God hears all of our prayers, but spending daily time devoted only to prayer is what He desires most from His children.**
7. \_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer is a spiritual exercise we do to keep ourselves spiritually strong and pure.**
8. \_\_\_\_\_ **God will not answer quick little prayers in our time of need if we have not been having regular quiet times.**
9. \_\_\_\_\_ **A consistent prayer life will help us to know God more, to become closer to Him, to have His power emanating from our lives, and will increase His anointing.**
10. \_\_\_\_\_ **One very good way to pray is by reading or singing the Psalms.**

## I The Privilege of Prayer

**A God and unredeemed man continued to communicate after the fall.**

**1 Enoch, Noah, the Patriarchs, Moses, the Prophets**

**B Before the cross God reached out to man, and men and women reached out to God, but man did not enjoy the continual presence of God nor did God dwell in men and women as He does under the New Covenant.**

**1 The veil has been torn.**

**Matthew 27:50-51**

**And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. <sup>51</sup> Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split.**

- 2 We do NOT need to enter God's presence because His presence has ALREADY entered us. We have the privilege of fellowshiping with Him at any and all times. We may worship Him, thank Him, and rejoice before Him at any time of the day or night.**

**1 Thes. 5:16-18**

Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

- 3 The honor of coming before His throne was purchased for us by the blood of Jesus Christ. This blood continually cleanses us from all sin, and therefore we may enter at any time without a list of requirements to fulfill.**

**1 John 1:7**

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

**Hebrews 10:19-22**

Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, <sup>21</sup> and having a High Priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

**Hebrews 4:15-17**

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. <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- 4 We degrade His sacrifice that provides constant communion with Him when we convert this privilege into a religious exercise with manmade rules of what to, when to, where to, why to, how to pray.**

**Galatians 3:3**

Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

- a Religion has us pray to get things WE ALREADY HAVE. In other words religion always seeks to improve upon what God has already done...to "perfect" us through our own efforts...our flesh.**

☞ Religion says we must do this and that to enter His presence.

**Hebrews 10:19-22**

Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus...

☞ Religion says we need to get to know Him "more".

**Jeremiah 31:34** "They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know

Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

✎ Religion says we need to get "Closer" to Him.

**Colossians 1:27**

To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

✎ Religion says if we pray more we will have "more power" in our lives.

**Ephesians 1:18-20**

That you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the **exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power** 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

✎ Religion says we need to pray more fervently to have more anointing.

**1 John 2:27**

But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you.

**PRAYER RULES KEEPS US FROM ACKNOWLEDGING AND UTILIZING  
THE PRIVILEGES AND POWER HE HAS ALREADY PURCHASED FOR US  
WITH HIS PRECIOUS SACRIFICE.**

**Galatians 2:21**

I do not set aside the grace of God;  
for if righteousness  
(or anything that God has already provided by grace through His blood)  
comes through the law (religious rules),  
then Christ died in vain.

**In other words, if we were able to obtain all of these things  
by our own efforts, there would be NO REASON  
for Jesus to die.**

**Prayer is NOT a religious exercise.  
It is a RELATIONSHIP with God through Jesus Christ.  
This relationship isn't a PART of our lives.  
It IS our lives.**

**II Old Covenant vs. New Covenant Prayers**

**A Our prayers should reflect the accomplishments of the cross and the New Covenant relationship we have with God.**

*Always remember, Old Covenant believers longed for what we **ALREADY HAVE**.*

**Colossians 1:26-27**

*The mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.*

*<sup>27</sup> To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

Old Testament Prayers <sup>1</sup>	New Testament Prayers
<p><b>Psalm 10:1</b>  <i>Why do You stand afar off, O Lord? Why do you hide in times of trouble?</i></p>	<p><i>Lord, thank-you for always being here. How blessed I am that you do not leave me in times of trouble.</i></p>
<p><b>Isaiah 64:9</b>  <i>Do not be furious, O LORD, nor remember iniquity forever; Indeed, please look—we all are Your people!</i></p>	
<p><b>Psalm 27:9</b>  <i>Do not hide Your face from me; do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation.</i></p>	
<p><i>Some of the prayers we sing need to be changed to reflect the New Covenant.</i></p>	
<p><b>Psalm 51:10-12</b>  <i>Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. <sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of Your salvation.</i></p>	

<sup>1</sup> I am NOT suggesting we change Scripture, but if we are to apply these prayers to our lives, they need to reflect the changes that took place at Calvary.