

The Practice and the Puzzle

The practice of prayer

1. Where Mark 1:35

- Privacy
- Coffee/tea
- Music

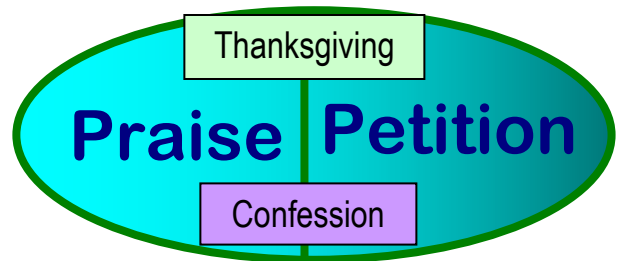
2. When

- Morning - Exodus 34:2
- Evening/night - Ps. 63:6
- We bring to God the best we have, even if it's not much.
- Sanctify the place and time.

3. What Praise and petition Matt.6:9-13

Praise: Who are you Lord? Take notes. Pray Scripture. Try to just talk to Him.

Petition: List, Operation World, prayer chain



4. Position

God looks at the heart. 1 Samuel 16:7

Kneel, walk, stand, sit, lie down

The puzzle of prayer

1. Revealed Truth: true but not exhaustive Deut.29:29

Illustration of a puzzle: We are not asked to invent new pieces or to force a “solution” of supposed contradictions.

2. The point of purpose: illustration of a rifle. Look at why God revealed the things He did. How does He want us to think about Him? About us?

3. The twin pillars: God’s sovereignty and Man’s responsibility

When I look at God I'm supposed to think: He's in control, He can do anything, I can fully trust in Him to take care of me.

When I look at myself, I'm supposed to think: I will reap what I sow, My prayers make all the difference, I will give an account for all I do.

4. How we should view prayer and petition

Any approach to theology that leads to a lack of prayer should be reexamined.

Theology rightly discerned and practiced should lead to a life filled with humility, faith, prayer, worship, and obedience.