

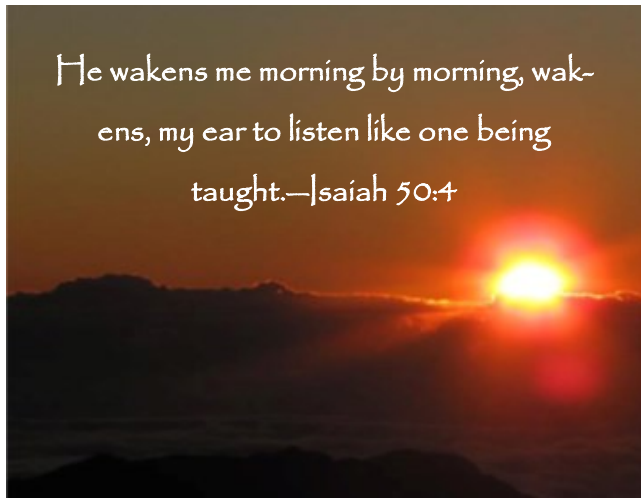
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PRAYERS OF THE HEART

PRAYING THE NAMES OF GOD



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Praying God's Character,
God's Mission, and Our Soul's
Deep Need

1. Edited and expanded by Wesley Johnson from "The Names of God" By: J. Hampton Keathley, III, Th.M. http://www.bible.org/page.asp?page_id=220 and from <http://www.jesusanswers.com/bible/names.htm>

WHAT IS YOUR SOUL'S DEEP NEED?

Step One: Sit comfortably and be still and calm. Simply, "Be still, and know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10)

Step Two: With eyes closed, imagine that God is calling you by name. Hear God asking you, "What do you need most in your life right now?"

Step Three: Answer God directly with whatever comes honestly from your heart. Your answer may be no more than a single word such as comfort or love or forgiveness. Your answer might instead be a phrase or brief sentence, such as "I want to feel your forgiveness" or "I want to understand your love." Whatever your response, it will be at the heart of your prayer.

Write your need here : _____

Step Four: Select the name for God that tells you He excels at meeting that need. See the chart for suggestions.

Write your name for God here: _____

How does this need square with the character and mission of God?

Step Five: When you combine your name for God with your answer to God's question of "What do you need?" you have your own prayer of the heart.

Write your prayer here: _____

For example:

What I want is peace. My name for God is Yahweh Shalom and my prayer of the heart is: ***Yahweh Shalom, grant me your peace.***

What I want is wisdom. My name for God is Wonderful Counselor and my prayer of the heart is: ***Wonderful Counselor, speak your wisdom to me.***

What I want is basic needs for my family. My name for God is Yahweh Jireh, The Lord sees and He will Provide. My prayer of the heart is: ***Yahweh Jireh, help me provide for my family.***

TITLE	MEANING/SIGNIFICANCE OF NAMES	BIBLE REFERENCES
Abba, Father	Abba stresses God's loving care, provision, discipline, and authority.	Heb 12:4-12 Rom 8:15
Good Shepherd	Our Protector lays down his life to save and to shield his own.	John 10:11
Immanuel	Jesus is God with us.	Isaiah 7:14
The Way the Truth and the Life	Jesus is the one reliable path back home to the Father; he is the one way we can live forever with God.	John 14:1-6
The True Vine	Jesus is the ever-flowing source of divine life, health and strength.	John 15:5
Prince of Peace	Jesus is the Ruler who brings peace.	Isaiah 9:6 John 14:27
Wonderful Counselor	Jesus Guides with Amazing Wisdom.	Isaiah 9:6
Mighty God	Jesus is Almighty God.	Isaiah 9:6
Eternal Father	Jesus is the Everlasting Source of Eternity.	Isaiah 9:6
Alpha and Omega	Jesus is the Beginning and the End of everything.	Revelation 1:8
Lion of Judah	He is the triumphant leader of our salvation.	Revelation 5:1-5
Lamb Who Was Slain	The Worthy Judge of All the World.	Revelation 5:6-14
Faithful and True	The Returning Savior King.	Revelation 19:11-13
Word of God	The Authoritative Voice of God.	Revelation 19:13
King of Kings/ Lord of Lords	The Conquering King of all Creation.	Revelation 19:11-21
Bright Morning Star	The Promise of Full Light to Come.	Revelation 22:16
Light of the World	Jesus is the light that dispels the darkness in our souls; he is the light by which we see our way in life.	John 8:12
The Teacher	The Holy One alone has the words to Everlasting Life	John 1:38 John 6:60-69
Author of Life	The Creator of All Life	Gen 1:1 Acts 3:15

TITLE	MEANING/SIGNIFICANCE OF NAMES	BIBLE REFERENCES
Yahweh Sabbaoth	The Lord of Hosts." He is the commander of the armies of heaven.	1 Sam 1:1-20 17:41-50 2 Kings 6:15-16 Ps 46:6-7 Isa. 9:6-7
Yahweh Ro'hi	"The Lord my Shepherd." The Lord cares for His people as a shepherd guides and protects his sheep.	Ps. 23:1-6 John 10:1-30
Yahweh Tsidkenu	"The Lord our Righteousness." The Lord is the means of our righteousness.	Jer. 23:1-6 Romans 3:21-24
Yahweh Shammah	"The Lord is there." Portrays the Lord's personal presence.	Ezek 37:20-28 and Ezek 48:35
Yahweh Elohim Israel	"The Lord, the God of Israel." Identifies Yahweh as the God of Israel in contrast to the false gods of the nations.	Jud. 5:1-5 Isa. 17:4-14
Jesus	The name Jesus comes from Greek for 'Joshua' or 'Yeshua', which means 'Jehovah Saves,' or 'God is salvation'.	Matthew 1:21
Son of God	Jesus is God in the flesh, revealing the exact nature of God the Father.	Mark 1:1-3 Hebrews 1:1-4 John 14:8-14
Son of Man	Jesus Saves as Man to man. He understands and identifies with human need.	Luke 19:1-10
Son of David	Jesus is Messiah King, descendant of King David, full of wisdom to rule on earth and in the heavens.	Matthew 15:22-28
Word	Jesus is the full expression of the Invisible God; he completely explains the mystery of God.	John 1:1-18
Lamb of God	Jesus is God's Holy Sacrifice for the World's Sin.	John 1:29-37
Bread of Life	Jesus satisfies the longings of our souls with everlasting life and everlasting strength.	John 6:35; 48-51
Living Water Our Savior	The One who Satisfies our Deepest Thirst.	John 4:1-14
Head of the Church	The Source of Life and Leadership for all believers everywhere.	Colossians 1:15-20

PRAYERS OF THE HEART HAVE FOUR ELEMENTS:

- 1) The Soul's deep need
- 2) The Name of the Lord
- 3) Compliance to the Mission of God (by this we avoid purely selfish desires)
- 4) Repetition

Prayers of the heart are meant for the active moments of our lives – they are to be used while we go about our regular duties.

Pray them while doing the dishes, gardening, enjoying a favorite hobby, or driving the car.

Jesus Provides a Model Matthew 26:36-44

³⁶Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." ³⁷He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." ³⁹Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." ⁴⁰Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. ⁴¹"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." ⁴²He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done." ⁴³When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

Blind Bartimaeus Receives His Sight

Mark 10:46-52

⁴⁶ Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means “son of Timaeus”), was sitting by the roadside begging. ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁸ Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁹ Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.”

So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.” ⁵⁰ Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

⁵¹ “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.”

⁵² “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

Luke 18:1-8

¹ Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ² He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. ³ And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’”

⁴ “For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’”

⁶ And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”

In each example answer these questions:

- 1) What was the deep desire?
- 2) By what name was the Lord addressed?
- 3) How did this square with the mission of God?
- 4) What, then would be the prayer of the heart?

Names of God in Scripture ¹

TITLE	MEANING/SIGNIFICANCE OF NAMES	BIBLE REFERENCES
Elohim	The plural form of <i>EL</i> , meaning “strong one.” ...it is a plural of majesty and intimates the trinity. It is especially used of God’s sovereignty, creative work, mighty works.	Gen 1:1-31; Deut 5:22-27; Deut 8:10-20; Isa. 45:18-19; Isa 54:1-8; Jer 32:26-36
El Shaddai	“God Almighty.” Stresses God’s abundant, loving supply; He is the All-Powerful God who brings generations of blessing out of emptiness and lack of faith. He chastens, blesses and protects his own.	Gen. 17:1-27 28:1-5; 35:9-15 Ps. 91:1-16
El Elyon	“The Most High God.” Stresses God’s strength, sovereignty, and supremacy over earthly kings and kingdoms.	Gen. 14:1-20 Ps. 9:1-10 Daniel 4:28-37 Luke 1:32-35
El Roi	“The Living One who sees me.” God sees us when we are far from home; he meets us where we are and gives us a future and a hope.	Genesis 16:1-16
Yahweh (YHWH)	The sacred, personal Name of Israel’s God. The Name comes from the verb which means “to exist, be.” Thus Yahweh is the source of all being, the self-existent Savior God who is ever present with his people working out his covenant of redemption.	Genesis 4:1-9 Exodus 3:1-15 Psalm 103:1-13
Yahweh Jireh (Yireh)	“The Lord sees, the Lord will provide.” Stresses God’s provision for His people.	Gen. 22:1-19
Yahweh Nissi	“The Lord is my Banner.” Stresses that God is our rallying point and our means of victory; the one who fights for His people.	Ex. 17:8-16
Yahweh Shalom	“The Lord is Peace.” Points to the Lord as the only means of our peace when we face overwhelming odds.	Jud. 6:1-24