

PRAYER LOGISTICS

How Physically People Prayed

Standing

1 Chron 23:30 Priests stand every morning and evening thanking and praising the Lord
Mark 11:25 Jesus teaches “whenever you stand praying” you should forgive others
Luke 18:11, 13 In Jesus’ parable, a Pharisee and Tax collector were both at the temple standing and praying

Sitting

Neh 1:4 Nehemiah sat down, wept, mourned, fasted, and prayed for days

Kneeling

Dan 6:10 Daniel prayed 3x daily on his knees
Ezra 9:5 Ezra fell on his knees, spread out his hands to God, and prayed
Luke 22:41 Jesus knelt down and prayed in Garden of Gethsemane
Acts 7:60 Stephen knelt and cried out to God to forgive his killers before he died
Acts 9:40 Peter knelt down and prayed that Tabitha would rise from the dead
Acts 20:36 Paul knelt and prayed with the Ephesian elders before departing
Acts 21:5 Paul knelt and prayed with some disciples in Tyre before departing

Bowing/Prostration

Exod 34:8-9 Moses “bows” (*qadad*) to the earth and “worshiped” (*chavah*)
Deut 9:25-26 Moses “lay prostrate” (*naphal*) before the Lord
1 Kgs 1:47-48 David bowed-in-worship (*Shachah*) on his bed
Ps 35:13 Wearing sackcloth, fasting, praying “with head bowed on my bosom”
Matt 26:39 In Gethsemane, Jesus threw himself on the ground and prayed (cf. Mark 13:35)
Rev 11:16-17 The twenty-four elders fell on their faces and sang, “We give you thanks, Lord God Almighty”

Turned toward a wall

2 Kgs 20:1-2 Hezekiah’s prayer (cf. also Isa 38:2)

Hands Extended

Exod 9:27-29 Moses stretched out his hands to the Lord
1 Kgs 8:39 People stretch out hands toward the temple (see below under “temple”)
Ps 141:2 Prayer is parallel to lifting up hands
1 Tim 2:8 In every place men should pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or argument

Looking Up

Job 22:26-27 Eliphaz instructs Job to lift up his face to God and pray to him

Sackcloth and ashes

Dan 9:3 prayer, supplication, fasting, sackcloth, ashes

Laying hands

Matt 19:13 Jesus laid hands on children while praying for them

Acts 6:5-6 Apostles prayed and laid hands on the seven

Acts 13:2 Antioch church fasted, prayed, and laid hands on Barnabas and Paul to send them off

Acts 28:7 Paul prayed and laid hands on a sick man to cure him

Head coverings

1 Cor 11:4-5, 13-16 praying with head covered disgraces a man, while uncovered heads disgraces a woman

With Oil

James 5:14 Sick folk should invite elders to pray over them and anoint them with oil

Silently/Out Loud

1 Sam 1:12-14 Eli observes Hannah

Neh 2:3-5 Nehemiah prays when before the king (silently?)

Ps 54:2 Prayer as “the words of my mouth”

Ps 141:1-2 Give ear to my voice when I call to you with prayer and lifted hands

Dan 9:21 While Daniel was speaking in prayer, Gabriel came

Acts 7:59-60 Stephen prayed and cried out in a loud voice while being stoned

Length

Matt 6:7 Jesus critiques those who heap up empty phrases thinking they will be heard because of their many words

Mark 12:40//Luke 20:47 Jesus critiques those who say long prayers for the sake of appearance

Where People Prayed

Temple

1 Kgs 8:30, 33, 35, 42 (Cf. also 2 Chron 6) Solomon’s request that God would answer when his people pray “toward this place”; “in this house”; “stretch out hands toward this house” (v. 39); “toward the city...and the house” (v. 44); “toward their land...city...house” (v. 48); God agrees to heed prayers made “in this place” (2 Chron 7:15)

1 Kgs 8:54 “Solomon finished offering all this prayer and this please to the LORD, he arose from facing the altar of the LORD, where he had knelt with hands outstretched toward heaven”

2 Kgs 19:14 Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD and prayed (cf. also Isa 37:14)

Ezra 10:1 Ezra prayed, confessed, wept, and threw himself down (*naphal* / *hithpael*) before the house of God

Isa 56:7 temple referred to as a house of prayer for all peoples

Matt 21:12-13//Mk 11:15-17//Luke 19:46 Jesus quotes Isa about the temple being a house of prayer but being turned into a den of robbers

Luke 18:9-10 Jesus tells a parable of a Pharisee and tax collector going to the temple to pray

Acts 3:1 Peter and John go to temple at the 3:00 hour of prayer

Acts 22:17 Paul was praying in the temple when he fell into a trance

Near Water

Acts 16:13 Paul and company supposed correctly there would be a place of prayer by the river
Acts 21:5 Paul and disciples from Tyre prayed at the beach (before boarding a ship)

In private

Matt 6:5-6 Not to be seen publicly like the hypocrites, but behind closed doors in your room
Matt 14:23//Mark 6:45 Jesus went up a mountain alone to pray
Mark 1:35 Jesus went away to a deserted place to pray before the sun rose
Luke 5:15 As crowds gathered around Jesus he would withdraw to deserted places to pray
Luke 6:12 Jesus went to a mountain to pray during the night before appointing 12 disciples the next day
Acts 10:9 Peter went to a rooftop to pray

Among a Few People

Matt 26:36-45//Mark 14:32-40//Luke 22:40-46 Jesus took a few disciples with him to Gethsemane to pray nearby
Luke 9:18 Jesus was praying along with only the disciples near him and asked them who the crowds say he is
Luke 9:28 Jesus went up a mount with Peter, James, John to pray and was transfigured

Among People

Luke 1:10 The angel of the Lord appears to Zechariah while the assembly was praying and he was offering incense
Luke 3:21 Jesus was praying at his baptism when the HS descended upon him
Acts 1:13-14 The disciples devoted themselves to prayer in the upper room where they were staying
Acts 1:23-24 Disciples prayed together about which disciple would replace Judas
Acts 2:42-47 Early church prayed together
Acts 4:30 Group of believers were praying together when the room shook and HS filled them
Acts 12:5, 12 Many in the church had gathered together to pray for Peter in prison

When People Prayed

Ps 5:2-3 In the morning
Ps 88:13 In the morning
Dan 6:10 Daniel prayed 3x daily
Mark 1:35 Jesus prayed in the morning, while it was still very dark, in a deserted place
Luke 6:12 Jesus spent the night in prayer before choosing his twelve disciples
Acts 3:1 Peter and John go to temple at the 3:00 hour of prayer
Acts 10:9 Peter prayed at noon on the rooftop
Acts 10:30 Cornelius was praying at 3:00 when an angel appeared to him
Acts 16:25 Paul and Silas were praying and singing in prison around midnight
1 Thess 3:9 Paul and company pray night and day for the Thessalonians
1 Thess 5:16 Without ceasing
1 Tim 5:5 Real widows pray night and day
2 Tim 1:3 Paul remembers Timothy constantly in his prayers, night and day

To and through whom?

In the Spirit

Rom 8:26-27 Spirit intercedes for us as we pray

1 Cor 14:14-15 We should pray with both the spirit and the mind

Eph 6:18 Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication

Jude 20 Pray in the Holy Spirit

To the Father/God

Matt 6:9 Jesus says to pray "Our Father in heaven..."

Luke 11:2 Jesus says to pray "Father..."

John 14:13 Jesus says "I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son"

John 15:16 Jesus says "the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name"

John 16:23 Jesus says, "if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you"

John 16:25 Jesus says, "On that day you will ask in my name. I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God"

Acts 4:24-30 Believers in Jerusalem "raised their voices together to God and say, 'Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth' referring to Jesus later in the prayer in the third person (v. 30)

Acts 10:2 Cornelius "prayed constantly to God"

Acts 12:5 When Peter was in prison, "the church prayed fervently to God for him"

Acts 16:25 While in prison, Paul and Silas "were praying and singing hymns to God"

Acts 26:29 Paul tells Agrippa "I pray to God" that those listening would become like him

Rom 16:25-27 "To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ...to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen." (some mss lack "to whom")

Eph 1:17 "I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him"

1 John 5:16 "If you see your brother or sister committing what is not a mortal sin, you will ask, and God will give life to such a one"

Rev 15:3-4 Those who conquered the beast sang the song of Moses and the Lamb, "Great and amazing are your deeds, Lord God the Almighty"

Giving Thanks

Acts 27:35 After taking bread, Paul "gave thanks to God" and broke it and began to eat

Acts 28:15 Upon arriving at Rome and meeting believers, Paul "thanked God and took courage"

Rom 1:8 Paul says, "I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you"

Rom 14:16 Paul talks about people giving thanks to God when eating and abstaining

1 Cor 1:4 Paul gives thanks to God for the Corinthians

Eph 5:19-20 Paul instructs them to sing and give thanks "to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Phil 1:3 "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you"

Col 1:3 "In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ"

Col 1:11 Paul encourages the Colossians to endure everything while giving thanks to the Father who rescued us and transferred us into the kingdom of his son.

Col 3:17 “do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him”

1 Thess 1:2-3 “We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ”

1 Thess 2:13 Paul and company constantly give thanks to God for his work among the believers

2 Thess 1:3 Paul says “we must always give thanks to God for you”

2 Thess 2:13 Paul says again “we must always give thanks to God for you”

2 Tim 1:3 “I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did, when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day”

Heb 12:28-29 “Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire.”

Phlm 1:4 “When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus”

Rev 11:16-17 The twenty-four elders worshipped, sang, and gave thanks to the “Lord God Almighty”

Blessing

Luke 1:68 Zechariah prophesies, “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel”

2 Cor 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation”

2 Cor 11:31 “The God and Father of the Lord Jesus (blessed be he forever!) knows that I do not lie”

Eph 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing”

Heb 13:20-21 “May the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus...make you complete...through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.”

1 Pet 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”

1 Pet 5:10-11 “And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.”

2 Pet 3:18 “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”

Jude 1:24-25 “Now to him who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.”

To the Lord

Acts 1:24 when they were discerning Judas’s replacement the believers prayed “Lord, you know everyone’s heart...”

Acts 8:22, 24 Peter told Simon the magician to repent and “pray to the Lord” to be forgiven and Simon asked them to pray to the Lord on his behalf as well (v. 24)

To Jesus

Acts 7:55, 59 Stephen as he was dying, after gazing into heaven and sing “the glory of God and Jesus sitting at the right hand of God” prayed, “Lord, Jesus receive my spirit.”

1 Cor 16:22/Rev 22:20 “Come, Lord Jesus”

1 Tim 1:12 “I give thanks/have gratitude to Christ Jesus”

Rev 5:9 Four creatures around the throne sing “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe”

Baptizing

Matt 28:19 baptize people in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:37 “be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven”

Acts 8:15 People had not yet received the Spirit but had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus

Acts 10:47 To people who had already received the HS, Peter ordered that Cornelius house be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ

Acts 19:5 To those only baptized into John’s baptism, Paul instructs them to be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus and when he laid hands on them the HS came on them and they spoke in tongues and prophesied

Welcoming Children

Mark 9:37 whoever welcomes a child in Jesus’ name welcomes Jesus and whoever welcomes Jesus welcomes not him but the one who sent him (Cf. Luke 9:48)

Healing

Luke 10:17 The 70 exclaim “Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!”

Acts 3:6 Peter tells the lame man, “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk”

James 5:14 Over sick people, elders should pray and anoint with oil in the “name of the Lord”

Acts 16:17 Paul says to a spirit, “I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her”

James 5:14 Elders should pray over the sick and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord

Calling Upon

1 Cor 1:2 To the church in Corinth “together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours”

Instructing People

1 Cor 1:10 Paul appeals to the Corinthians “by the name of the Lord Jesus Christ” to agree

2 Thess 3:6 Paul and company command the Thessalonians in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to keep away from certain people

Pronouncing Judgment

1 Cor 5:3-4 In the name of the Lord Jesus Paul pronounced judgment on a man

Related

Heb 9:24 Christ appears in the heavenly sanctuary in the presence of God on our behalf

*****Does the church’s later development of the doctrine of Trinity change anything?*****