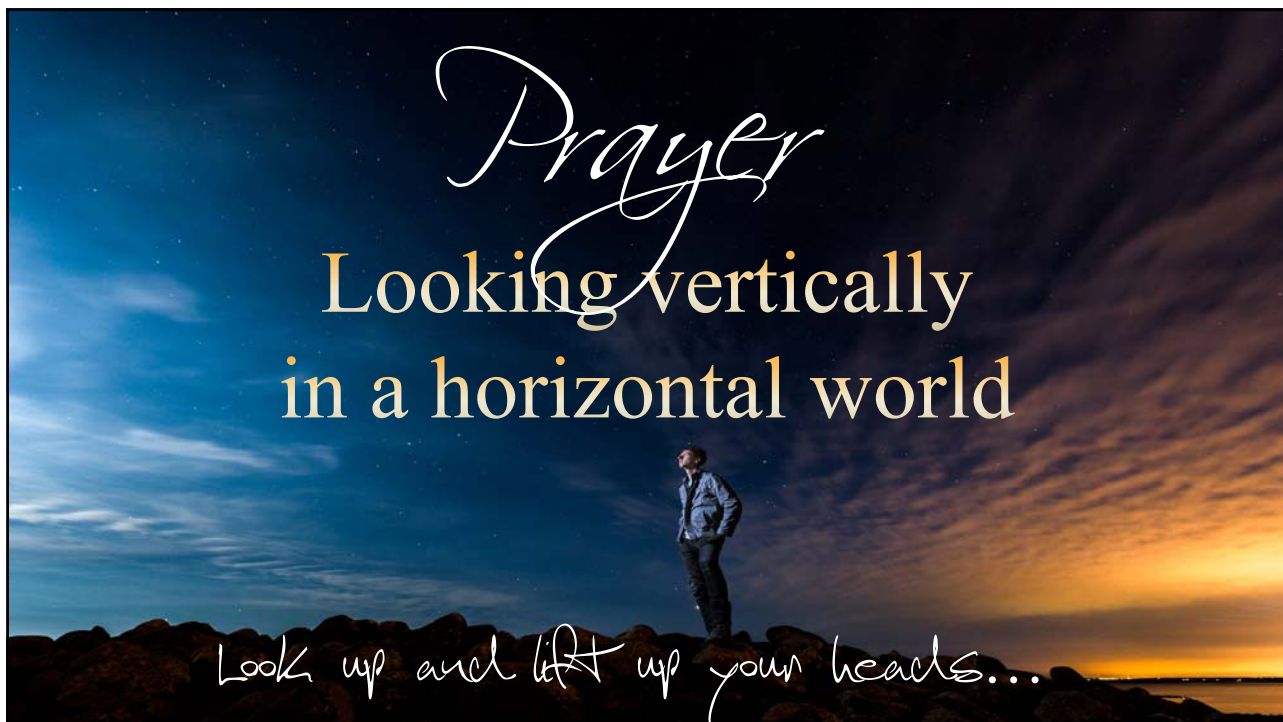




1



2

1 PRAYER

The basis of prayer - Incense

"Do not use the same formula to make any incense like it for yourselves. Treat it as a holy thing dedicated to me. If anyone makes any like it for use as perfume, he will no longer be considered one of my people" Exodus 30:37,38

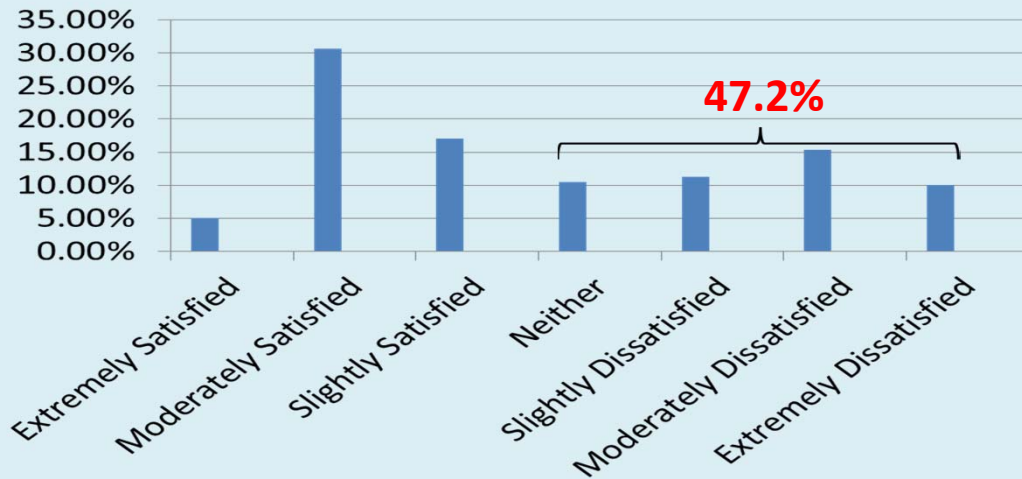
3

**Prayer is not an activity
it's a relationship**

The aim of our study

4

How satisfied are you with your Prayer life?



5

When I pray do I actually pray?

*I often say my prayers
But do I ever pray?
And do the wishes of my heart
Go with the words I say?*

*I may as well kneel down
And worship gods of stone,
As offer to the living God
A prayer of words alone.*

*For words without the heart
The Lord will never hear,
Nor will He to those lips attend
Whose prayers are not sincere.*



6

Do I need to pray?

Prayer is fundamental and essential. It is clearly taught in phrases like, “When ye pray” not “If ye pray”, and “Men ought always to pray and not lose heart” (Luke 18:1).

The disciples, realising such a need, asked, “Lord, teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1). Christ encouraged them to “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation” (Matt 26:41). The epistles are full of expressions like, “Pray without ceasing” (1Thess 5:17), “Continuing instant in prayer” (Rom 12:12), “In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God” (Phil 4:6).

There is an overwhelming abundance of references emphasising that prayer conversation must be an essential part of our daily lives.

7

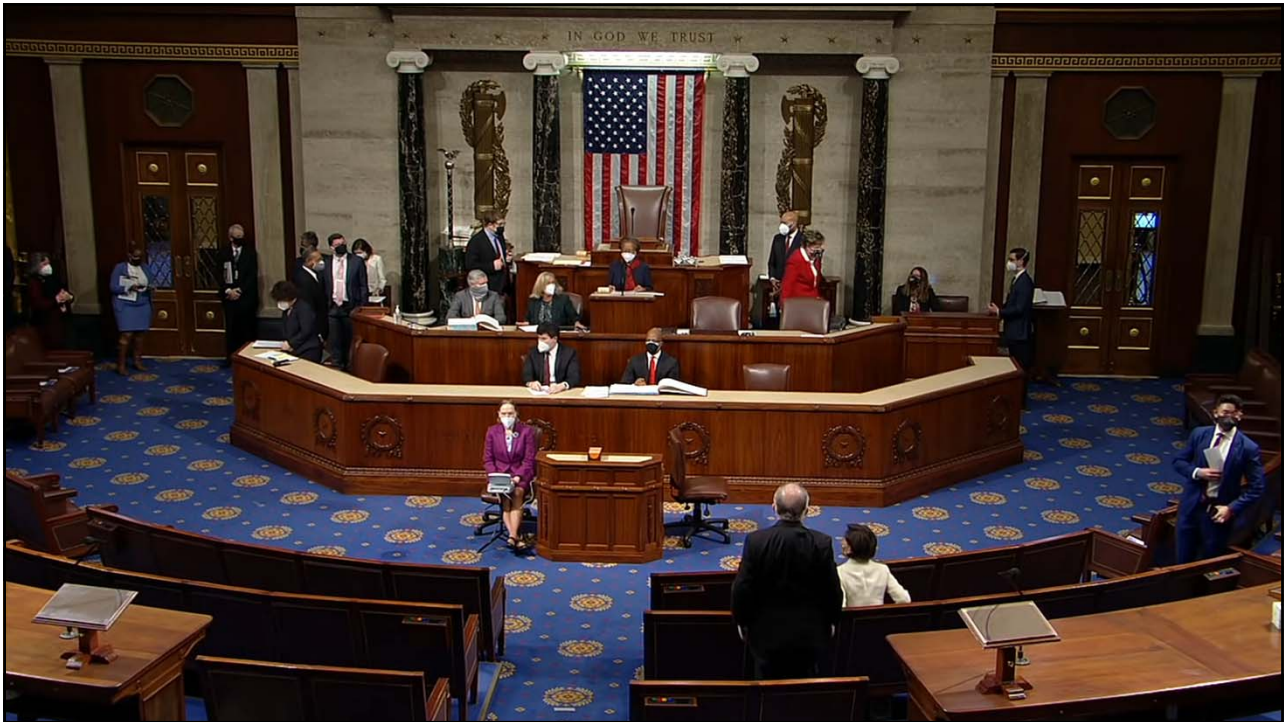
What is prayer?

- Jesus called him “Abba, Daddy” and so should we.
- A religious service, at which people gather in order to be led in prayer by a theologically qualified priest.
- A formal and solemn request or expression of thanks addressed to the great God of the universe
- It’s a direct line to heaven. It’s no different than pressing a button and chatting on a mobile phone - God wants us to have a chat with Him.
- Prayer is asking God to meet my needs or someone else’s.

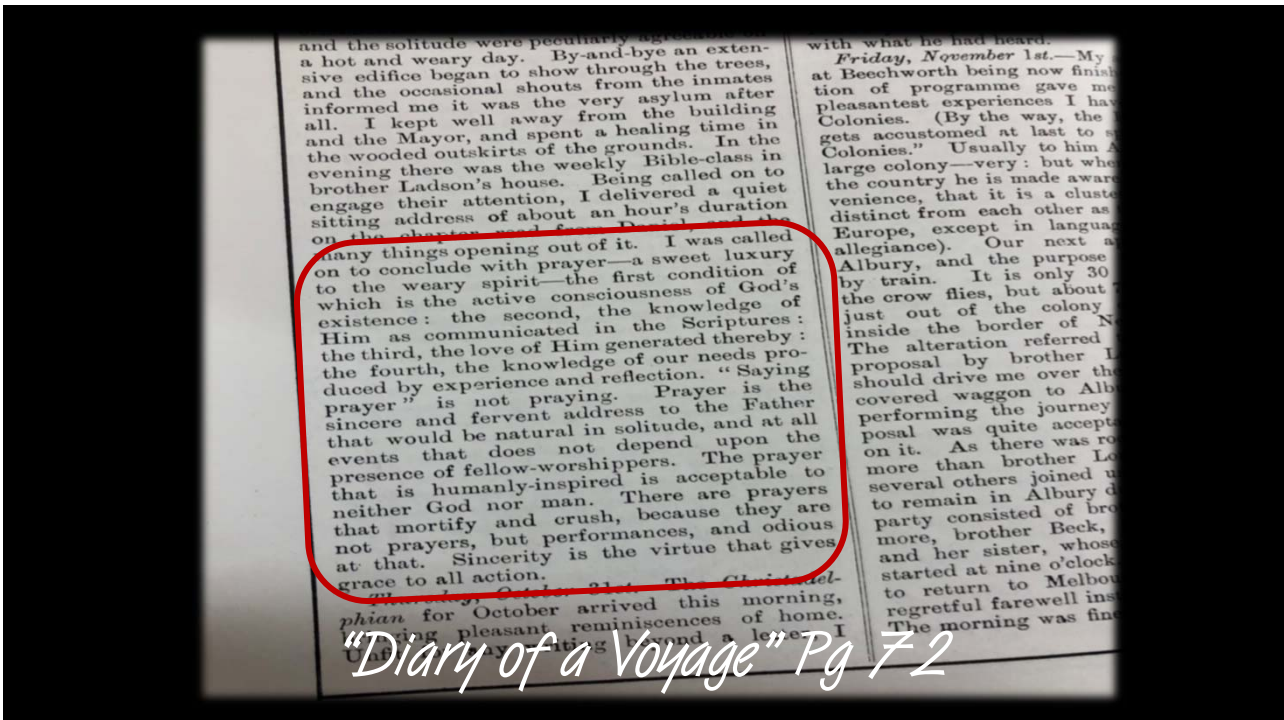


Prayer is not just a mechanical activity, nor is it a disrespectful chat. It is an appropriate conversation with the great God of heaven and earth who has revealed Himself to us as “our Father.”

8



9



10

1/ We will examine the vital contribution and the power of prayer in the lives of different individuals from a Biblical basis.

2/ We will note the sensitivity in the style, language, expression and dynamics of their prayers

3/ We will observe the outcome and see how they were strengthened mentally, emotionally and spiritually in their personal relationship with God.

Methodology

11

The Outcome

- ✓ **We will be drawn to more meaningful and accurate expressions in our respectful worship of God.**
- ✓ **We will be closer to our God as a living, caring, compassionate, ever-present Father and accept and appreciate His providence and His answers.**
- ✓ **We will be more regular and instant in our prayer life, and feel the depth of its power and the wonder of its relief from all the pressures of life.**

12



13



14

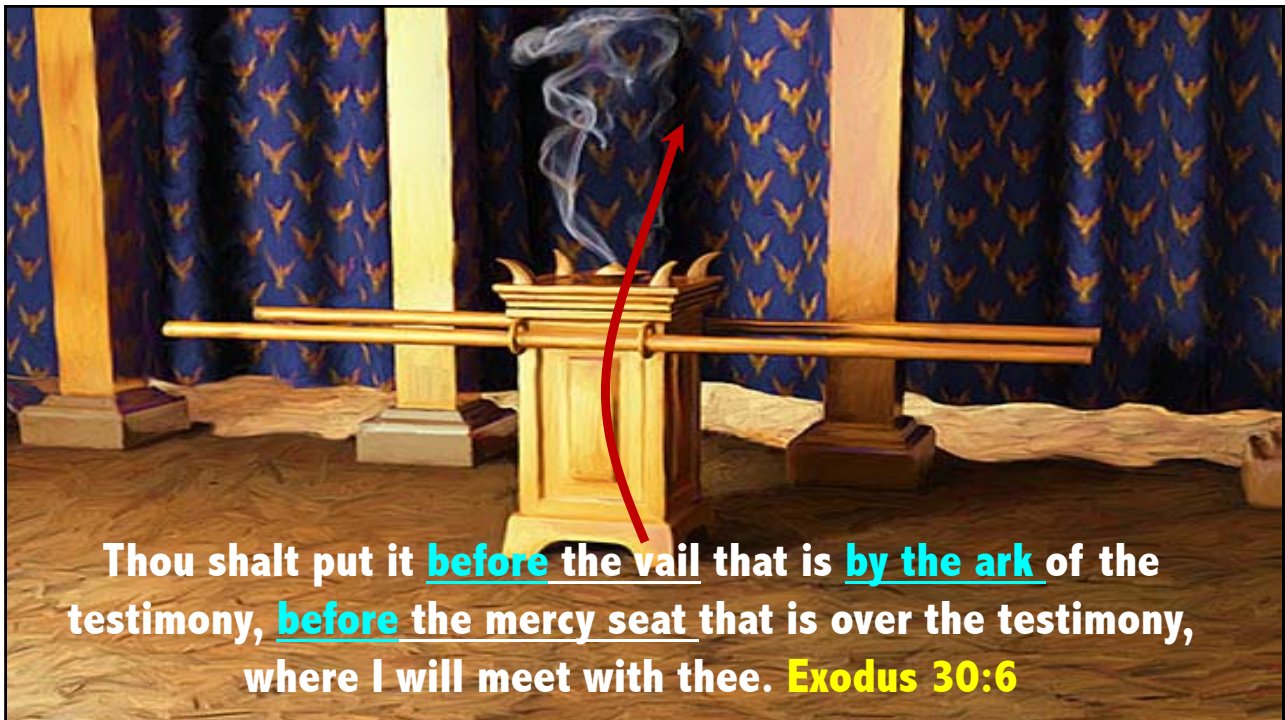
The Golden Altar of Incense

- ✓ It was positioned before the veil (Exodus 30:6)
- ✓ It was right next to the Ark (Exodus 40:5)
- ✓ And it was positioned specifically before "The Mercy Seat" (Leviticus 16:12)

It was at the very heart of the Tabernacle

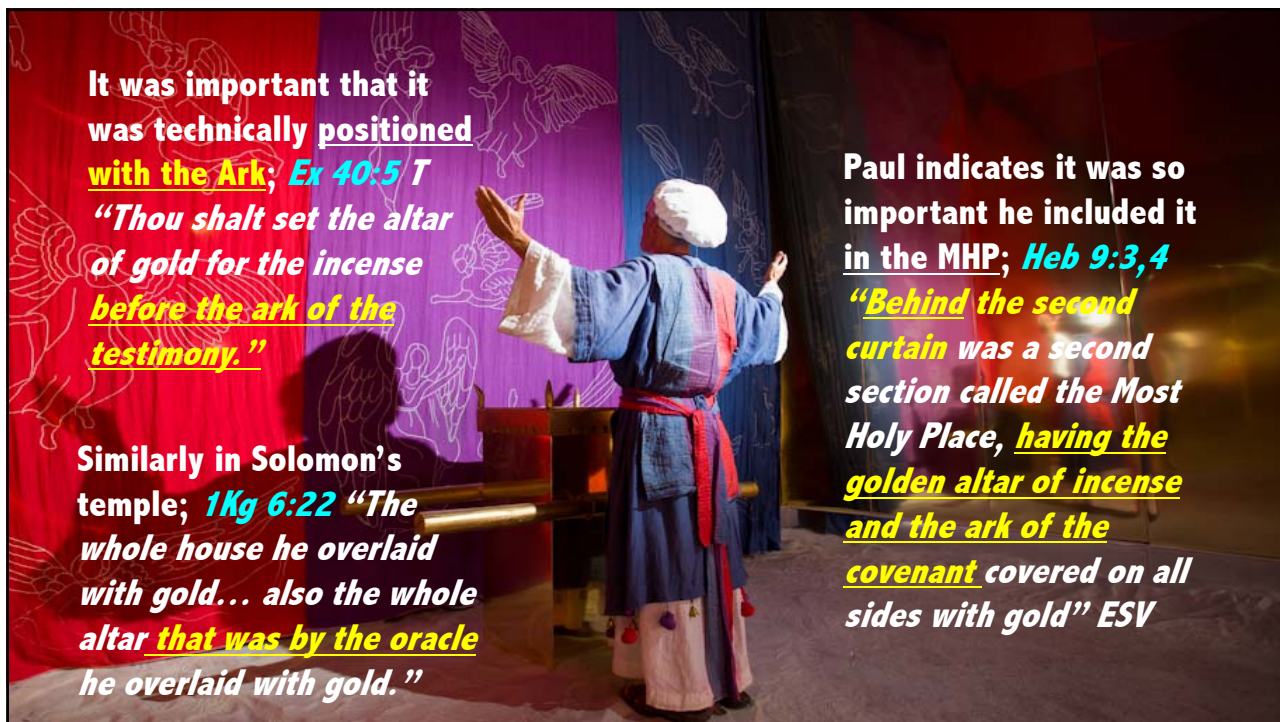


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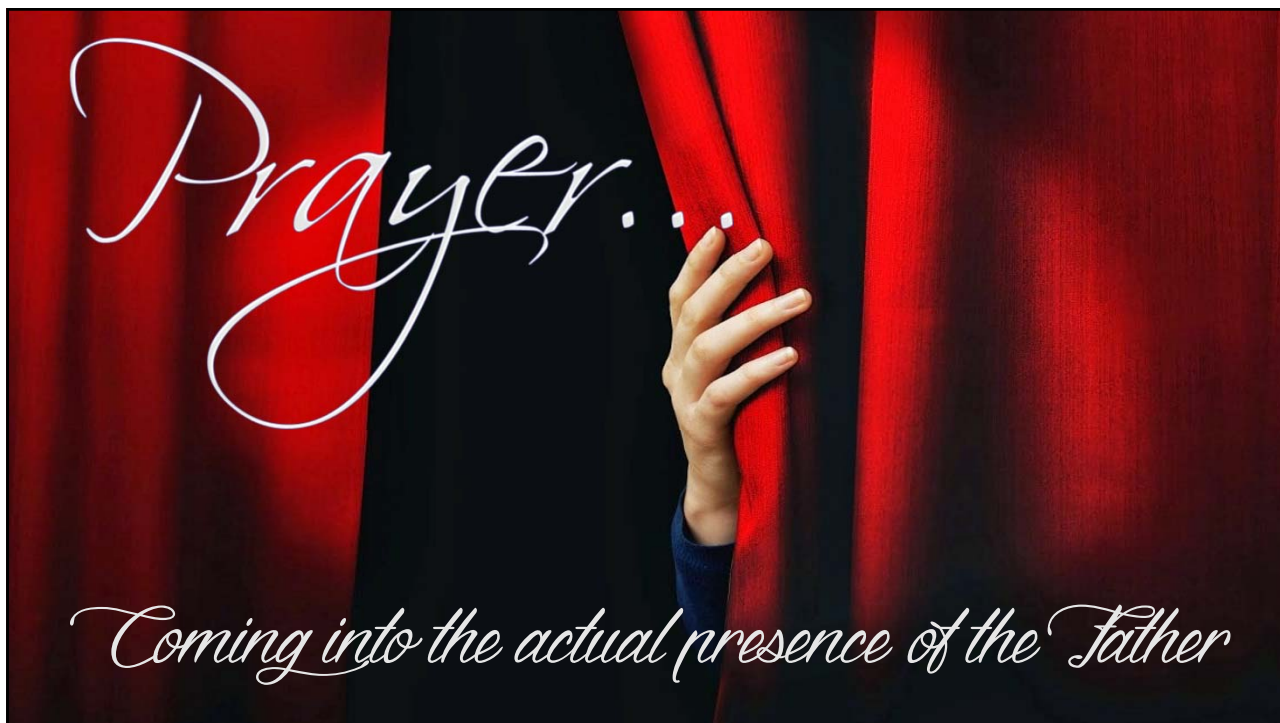


Thou shalt put it before the veil that is by the ark of the testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the testimony, where I will meet with thee. **Exodus 30:6**

16



17



18

Prayer is...

*"The lifting of the heart and mind and will to God...
Often prayer is just being with God in silent
wonder; in His presence we find our perspectives
restored, vision clarified and a great peace in our
heart, filling us with joy"*

Prayer: Studies in Principle and Practise. Melva Pukis and Cyril Tennant

"Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice... Set a watch O Yahweh before my mouth; keep the door of my lips" (Ps 141:2,3)

19

v7,8 "Every morning and evening"

Start & finish the day by communicating with the one you love

Ps 5:3 My voice **shalt thou hear in the morning**, O Yah; **in the morning** will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.

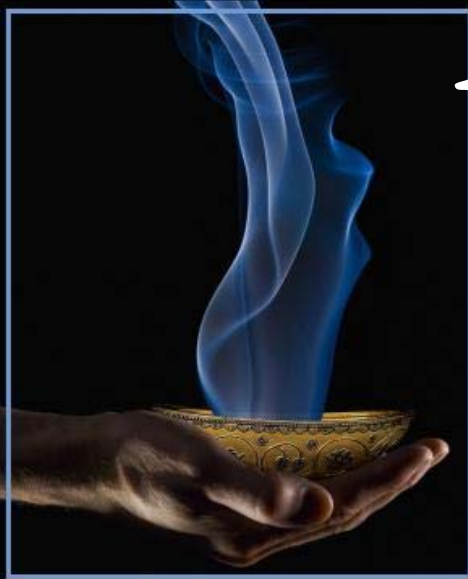
Ps 55:17 **Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray**, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.

Ps 88:13 But unto thee have I cried, O LORD; and **in the morning** shall my prayer prevent thee.

Ps 92:2 To show forth thy lovingkindness **in the morning**, and thy faithfulness **every night**

Ps 141:2 May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like **the evening sacrifice**

20



Incense

Rev 5:8 "...the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints."

Rev 8:3,4 "...there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.

The saints are "each" known individually for their effusive prayers. God treasures and preserves those precious expressions of appreciation

21

Prayer

Prayer is not merely an occasional impulse to which we respond when we are in trouble: prayer is a complete life attitude.



22



v7 “When he trims the lamps”

There are prayers which are childish. They are mostly of “orthodox” origin. They will disappear with Bible enlightenment. The prayers that *“we may be made truly thankful, that we may have had an edifying time, that the speaker (who perhaps has his address prepared) may speak acceptable words, that the hearers (who are already there just as they are) may have good and honest hearts...”*

They are all prayers that smell of the old Roman cask; prayers that are unreasonable, that could not be answered, that are a mere rattle of words, and in their implications are an unintelligent shutting of the eyes to facts, and an insult to the majesty of God. They are mostly the result of *“saying prayers” instead of praying*; and of slavishly conforming to “pious” phrases instead of allowing the heart to open in a rational sense of our relation to the Eternal, and a true discernment of what we require of Him.

Robert Roberts, The Christadelphian, August 1893

23

“Be with the speaker”

- That the speaker will be guided to speak words of wisdom or be given such words
- That the speaker will be super enhanced and enabled to present his material well
- That God will be to the speaker “all that he needs” as he speaks
- That the hearts/minds of the friends may be somehow changed and made receptive to the Gospel during the lecture
- That brethren and sisters may be ‘strengthened’ by some abstract influence
- That the audience may be made enthusiastic by God’s immediate force

24

“Be with the speaker”

- That God would banish mundane thoughts from our minds during the meeting
- That as the bread/wine is passed around and consumed brethren and sisters may feel certain emotions or think certain thoughts.
- That as bro/sis leave the meeting they may suddenly feel certain emotions; e.g. feel glad, joyful, happy etc

These petitions regularly heard, are unscriptural and dangerous.

Aside from the first (which is requesting inspiration), it is irrefragable (indisputable) that the above supplications could only be fulfilled by the direct operation of God’s power upon the hearts and minds of the subjects, mysteriously injecting moral strength and emotions and predisposing men to accept the Word – concepts foreign to Scripture.

(Bro Chris Maddocks, Waymark Magazine)
<http://www.christadelphian.uk.com/Booklets/HolySpiritBooklet.pdf>

25

Correct Biblical expressions

God does not perform any of those mental actions which enable the advancement of human happiness because He has qualified the human mind to perform these when it desires. God has furnished the means for sight, hearing, tasting and smelling but He does not do these actions for man. God thinks, meditates, reasons and judges for no man; nor does he perform for any man the mental actions of imagination, memory, attention or conscience. Also God does not read, comprehend, believe, repent or reform for any man; nor does he love, hate, sorrow, rejoice or feel any emotions on behalf of any member of our race. No, all these actions man must and does perform for himself.

But if the man must perform all these actions for himself, what does God contribute towards their performance? He furnishes only “capacity, means and motives.” Here, “capacity” signifies natural endowment of intellect; “means” is the providential exposure to the written Word and the opportunity to assimilate its teaching; and “motives” is the things set forth in the Word inducing a man to obey the Truth

The Bible Student, Vol. 5, p.198. Quoted by Bro Alec Crawford in The Spirit: A General Exposition on NT Usage, p 23.

26

v8 “perpetual incense”

Lk 18:1 Spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought **always to pray**, and not to lose heart

1Thess 5:17 Rejoice **evermore**; pray **without ceasing**.

Eph 6:18 **Praying always** with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with **all perseverance and supplication** for all saints

Col 4:2 **Continue in prayer**, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

1Thess 3:10 **Night and day praying exceedingly** that we might see your face

2Tim 1:3 **Without ceasing** I have remembrance of thee in **my prayers night and day**

27

1. Stacte

Praise, emotion, spontaneity

STACTE - *Nataph* or ‘dropping’, from which is implied its origin as an exudate in the form of drops. Two plants are possibilities: The Balm-of-Gilead (*Commiphora gileadensis*), a native of S Arabia, and Storax (*Styrax officinale*). The resin is obtained by making incisions or deep gashes in the branches from which exude droplets of gum – **hence tears, spontaneity, emotional response**.

This is the only occurrence but the root word is used **Amos 9:13** *The days come, saith Yahweh that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that sows seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine... Indicative of effusiveness and generosity. So the idea in prayer is the spilling over of emotion, feelings, the eyes filling and overflowing.*

Lam 3:48,49 *“My eyes run down with rivers of water for the destruction of the daughter of my people. My eye trickles down, and ceases not without any intermission.”*



28

2. Onycha

Deliverance, rescue, escape



Heb "Shekeleth" The shells of the Sea Mollusk, crushed into powder. The shell body of certain gastropods, especially varieties from the Red Sea have served as an incense material in ancient Jewish tradition, as well as Arabian cultures. These shells were common in the Red Sea area, Israel saw them and connected them to their victory and escape from Egypt. In prayer it is a reminder of God's deliverance from the slavery of this world and the promise of freedom and liberty in Christ.

2 Pet 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

29

3. Galbanum

A repulsion of sin



The bitter resin from the bark of the Ferula in Arabia was usually mixed with fragrant substances to make the smell even sharper and more prominent. It has a strong pungent odour, disagreeable by itself but used to improve and preserve perfumes. Pliny says it was an ancient tradition that the substance when burnt was reputed to keep snakes away.

1Pet 2:22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

Heb 10:26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins

Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

30

4. Frankincense

Moral uprightness, activity, service



A very expensive aromatic gum that comes from Arabian Boswellia tree. It is collected by incising the bark and the gum will exude and dry to a **clear white resin**. "Lebonah" TWOT "As the amber resin dries a **white dust** forms on the drops or tears giving rise to the Semitic name Leben "**to be white**" relating to **moral purity**. The root word is used in **Dan 12:10** "Many shall be purified, and **made white**, and tried." **White = purity, upright walking in Truth. In our prayers it speaks of expression that relate to the purity of the Word of God and our active adherence to those values.**

Ps 51:7 ...wash me, and I shall be **whiter than snow**

Ps 119:140 Thy word is **very pure**

Rev 3:5 He that is overcoming, the same shall be clothed in **white raiment**

Rev 19:8 to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and **white**: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

31

v34-38 How to blend a

v34 And the LORD said unto Moses, Take unto thee sweet spices, stacte, and onycha, and galbanum; these sweet spices with pure frankincense: of **each shall there be a like weight**:

v35 And thou shalt make it a perfume, a confection after the **art of the apothecary**, tempered together, pure and holy:

v36 And thou shalt **beat some of it very small**, and put of it before the testimony in the tabernacle of the congregation, where I will meet with thee: it shall be unto you most holy.

v37 And as for the perfume which thou shalt make, **ye shall not make to yourselves according to the composition thereof**: it shall be unto thee holy for the LORD.

v38 Whosoever shall make like unto that, to smell thereto, shall even be cut off from his people.

Well b

Well b

Well b

Well b

Exclus

Never to be seen
be elevative, in
never irreverent
majesty and glo
comprehend. 1
invisible, the o
ever. Amen.



32

So what will you do? **Points to ponder**

- ✓ In view of the original exclusivity of the altar of incense, do I treat the great privilege of prayer casually, indifferently?
- ✓ Am I praying in the light of Biblical knowledge – with an understanding of how God works, and what expressions may actually be inappropriate?
- ✓ Do I pray consistently every morning and night - and more?
- ✓ Is prayer an occasional whim or a life constant?
- ✓ Are my prayers uniquely formulated and correctly balanced – or are they just a personal shopping list?

Prayer is NOT an activity - it's a relationship

