

ESTABLISH YOUR PERSONAL HOUSE OF PRAYER



Prayer is not meant to be a hurried ritual, but a dwelling place with God. The Lord Jesus gave us the model prayer, the 'Our Father,' which can be seen as a spiritual house with many rooms. Each room represents a truth to enter, a place to dwell and a lesson to learn in our communion with God. Building your personal house of prayer means learning to live daily in these rooms, moving from thanksgiving, to surrender, to forgiveness, to intercession, all in the presence of your Father.

Thanksgiving and praise

"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good, His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations." (Psalm 100:4-5).

The key to entering into God's presence is thanksgiving and praise. Praise is our response to what God has done. It affirms that we trust Him and acknowledge His control over our lives. Too often, we rush into requests and intercession without pausing to thank Him. Yet, thanksgiving and praise please God and set our hearts right before Him.

Focus on God's perspective: Begin keeping a prayer request book. Write down prayers God has answered and return to them with thanksgiving. Praise Him in song, in writing, or in spoken words. Do not allow excuses to hinder your thanksgiving.

Honouring His Word

Meditating on God's Word is central to prayer. His promises reveal His perspective, and when our thoughts are fixed on Him, we live in His peace. *"You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You." (Isaiah 26:3).*

Fixing your thoughts on God requires discipline. Reading Scripture, listening to audio Bible recordings, or reflecting on His promises fills your mind with truth and leaves little space for negativity or criticism.

Focus on God's perspective: Make a special effort this week to spend more time in God's Word. Strengthen your spiritual 'thinking muscles' by dwelling on His promises, not the faults of others.

Our Father in heaven

Prayer begins with relationship. The first room in the house of prayer is to acknowledge God as your Father. He is loving, attentive and available. A secure relationship with Him is the foundation of a healthy prayer life.

Focus on God's perspective: Speak to your Father as if He is real and present in the room, because He is. Take time to share your heart honestly with Him. Secure sons and daughters who are convinced of the Father's love will live close to Him in prayer.

Hallowed be Your name

God's name reveals His character. To hallow His name means to honour who He is. His names in Scripture reveal His holiness, His power, His provision and His love. Meditating on His names draws us into deeper knowledge of Him.

Focus on God's perspective: Begin highlighting every mention of God's name as you read the Psalms. Study the names of God to understand His character more fully. Let this become your second room in the house of prayer.

Your Kingdom come

When we pray for God's Kingdom, we invite Him to rule our lives, families, churches and nations. The Kingdom of God is wherever He reigns in obedience and trust.

Focus on God's perspective: Ask the Holy Spirit to show you areas of your life not yet surrendered to His rule. Confess and yield those areas until His Kingdom comes in them.

Your will be done

Surrender means giving up ownership of our lives and accepting God's will as our delight. Prayer requires our full attention, not daydreams. Loving God with all our heart, mind and strength means choosing His will above our own.

Focus on God's perspective: Ask God to show you what true surrender looks like in your life. Commit yourself to run the race with perseverance, pressing in to delight in His will on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread

This room in the house of prayer reminds us that God provides daily, not just occasionally. His provision may not always come in abundance for storing, but it will always be sufficient for the day. *"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us." (Ephesians 3:20).*

Focus on God's perspective: Stewardship begins with small amounts. Be faithful with little, tithe consistently and use resources wisely. Trust Him not only for provision, but also to teach you how to give to others from His abundance.

Forgive us our trespasses

Forgiveness means to release and let go. Jesus' blood cleanses us, but we must confess and receive His forgiveness daily when the Holy Spirit convicts us.

Focus on God's perspective: Reflect on your daily life. Ask the Spirit to reveal hidden attitudes in your heart. Write them down, confess them and pray through each one. Speak honestly with God, for He already knows your heart.

As we forgive others

Forgiveness toward others prevents bitterness from taking root. Every day we face offenses, and unless released, they can harden our hearts.

Focus on God's perspective: Think about people you struggle to forgive. Remember how easily you yourself fail, and how much you need God's mercy. Begin the process of forgiving, even if the other person never apologises.

Lead us not into temptation

Temptation itself is not sin, but yielding to it is. We face temptations of craving, lust and pride, but God provides a way to overcome through humility, purity and generosity.

Focus on God's perspective: Identify your daily temptations and write them down where you will see them often. Ask God each morning for strength to resist and to walk in victory through Jesus Christ. Put on the armour of God daily (**Ephesians 6:10-18**).

Deliver us from evil

Spiritual warfare is real. The battle is not against people, but against powers of darkness. God has equipped us with His armour and given us authority in Jesus' name.

Focus on God's perspective: Read **Ephesians 6:10-16** and reflect on each piece of the armour of God. Pray to submit to Him, resist the devil and proclaim His Word with confidence.

For Yours is the Kingdom

The Kingdom of God is not a matter of food and drink, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (**Romans 14:17**). As Kingdom citizens, we represent Christ in this world by our obedience and prayer.

Focus on God's perspective: Ask daily, "What would Jesus do?" Pray for all people, not only for yourself, following the command of **1 Timothy 2:1-2**. Let intercession become a lifestyle.

And the power and the glory forever

The final room of prayer is power and glory. The Holy Spirit empowers us to pray and live for God's glory. Any true strength comes only from Him, never from ourselves. *"...to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man."* **(Ephesians 3:16).**

Focus on God's perspective: Invite the Holy Spirit to fill you daily. Pray with expectancy, then give God the glory when He answers. Look for opportunities to bless others in His power, always remembering that the glory belongs to Him alone.

Conclusion

The house of prayer is a dwelling place that the Lord Himself invites us to enter. Each room teaches us to give thanks, to surrender, to forgive, to intercede and to glorify His name. As we learn to live in His presence, our prayer life becomes not only stronger, but also more intimate. God is building a house of prayer in you. Will you enter and dwell there daily?