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## JOINING FORCES WITH GOD THROUGH PRAYER

John Wesley said, "God does nothing except in response to believing prayer." God has given believers the authority and privilege as His representatives to change things through prayer. Prayer is one of the most outstanding ways believers can serve God. Some Christians think prayer is a burden, but others have discovered the joy of prayer. In order for the church to be effective in prayer, believers need to understand what prayer is and how we can join forces with God through prayer to bring His Will upon the earth.

### DEFINING PRAYER

The dictionary defines prayer as an "earnest request" or "with reverence, to speak to God in request, confession, or praise." We generally describe prayer as communing with God, or talking to God. We have also defined prayer as petitioning God, making requests or asking God to meet our needs. We should note that prayer is not just a one way conversation, but involves us listening to God. Simply put, prayer is fellowshiping with our Heavenly Father.

### VARIOUS KINDS OF PRAYER

In Paul's letter to the Ephesians, he listed prayer as a vital part of the believer's armour. This leads us to conclude that prayer is an important aspect of the believer's arsenal against the enemy. Paul exhorts us to "pray...with all (manner of) prayer." (Ephesians 6:18 AMP) The Goodspeed translation reads, "use every kind of prayer and entreaty, and at every opportunity pray in the Spirit." We can see from these translations that there are

several kinds of prayer. In order to pray effectively, we need to understand the spiritual principles that make these prayers work properly. Just as there are many kinds of sports, each with its particular rules and regulations, different prayers operate by different rules. We must follow the specific guidelines to make each prayer effective.

The following is a brief overview of nine types of prayer found in the Bible.

**1. Prayer of Faith** – Also known as the prayer of petition, this prayer is used when making requests for our personal needs. The key to this prayer is receiving the answer by faith when we pray. This is the prayer Jesus taught in Mark 11:24 and Matthew 21:22. It's the prayer that changes things!

**2. Prayer of Consecration** – Also referred to as the prayer of dedication and submission. This is the prayer Jesus offered before going to the cross (Luke 22:42). This prayer is often misused. We should only pray, "if it be they will" when we don't know God's specific plan for our lives.

**3. The Prayer of Commitment** - This prayer is also called the prayer of casting your cares on the Lord or "the stress relieving" prayer. This prayer is based on I Peter 5:7, "casting the whole of your care (all of your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all)." God wants us to live a carefree life. (See also Philippians 4:6)

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**4. The Prayer of Praise and Worship -**

This prayer allows us to express our love and devotion to the Lord. This prayer does not petition God, but is a simple act of faith expressed in praise and worship to God. This is the prayer we use to approach God's presence. "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise" (Psalm 100:4-5).

**5. The Prayer of Agreement -**

This is a prayer you pray with another person to petition God. The success of this prayer is based on two people being in complete agreement and faith. This prayer allows you to join faith with someone when asking God for something and is able to release multiplied power! (Matthew 18:18-20, Deuteronomy 32:30)

**6. United Prayer -**

This prayer is sometimes referred to as "group prayer" or "corporate prayer," based on Acts 4:23-24. This type of prayer is often used in the local church and in Christian gatherings. Great power for the miraculous is released through unity of spirit and singleness of mind. (See Acts 5:12, 12:5-12)

**7. The Prayer of Supplication -**

This prayer is mentioned when Christians pray for other believers. Paul refers to supplication and intercession in his letter to Timothy, a young pastor, exhorting him and the church to pray for others. (See 1 Timothy 2:1) This kind of prayer is not a mere casual request, but a deep urgent petition to God on behalf of other believers. (See also 1 John 5:16)

**8. The Prayer of Intercession -**

Similar to supplication, intercession is offered on behalf of the lost, unbelievers or the backslider. By definition, intercession means, "to stand in the gap for someone" (Ezekiel 22:30). We mediate or plead on behalf of others who cannot reach out to

God on their own. See examples of Moses (Exodus 32:9-14) and Abraham (Genesis 18:16-33).

**9. Praying In Tongues -**

The Bible sometimes refers to this kind of prayer as "praying in the Spirit," "supplication in the Spirit" or "praying with the Spirit" (1 Cor 14:2, 14-15; Eph 6:18). In this kind of prayer, it is the human spirit that prays, empowered by the Holy Spirit. This prayer is not based on mental knowledge, but involves yielding to the Spirit to allow Him to pray His perfect will through us for the situation.

**WHAT IS THE BEST PRAYER?**

You may be asking yourself, what is the best kind of prayer to pray, since there are so many kinds of prayers? The best prayer you can pray is the one that is needed at the moment. This is the reason it is essential to know the various kinds of prayers and the rules that govern them. Also, in order to pray the most effective prayer for the situation, you will need to pray the way the Holy Spirit leads you to pray. As believers, you and I have a great challenge and responsibility to pray effectively. The Lord needs our cooperation so he can move upon the earth on behalf of humanity. Prayer makes that possible.

Miigwetch,  
Pastor Roma Fisher, Director

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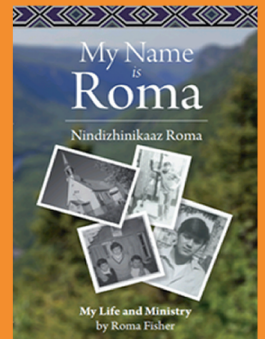
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