

## 21-DAY FAST AND PRAY JANUARY 18, 2019

There are at least nine different types of prayer mentioned in the Word of God, tonight we will look at the last three. We have placed into action, the prayer of thanksgiving, the prayer of consecration, the prayer of intercession, the prayer of worship, the prayer of faith, and the prayer of agreement.

**1. The prayer of imprecation:** Imprecatory prayers are found in the Psalms 7, 35, 55, 58, 59, 69, 109, and 139 were written by David to ask God to bring judgment upon his enemies. They are used to invoke God's judgment on the wicked and thereby avenge the righteous.

When David prayed for God to shatter the teeth of his enemies, likening them to young lions pursuing him to his death, he was making the point that God is holy, righteous, and just, and He will ultimately judge the wicked for the evil they do.

Jesus quoted some of the imprecatory psalms during His earthly ministry. In John 15:25, Jesus quotes Psalm 35:19 and 69:4. Paul also quoted an imprecatory prayer in Romans 11:9–10, which is a quote of Psalm 69:22–23.

Since Jesus and Paul quoted verses from these imprecatory psalms, it proves those psalms were inspired by God and counters any allegation that they were sinful or selfish prayers of revenge.

Using imprecatory prayers from the Psalms today should only be done against our spiritual enemies (Ephesians 6:12). (*Praying imprecations on human foes is unjustifiable, as it would require taking these prayers out of context.*)

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The psalmists use this type of appeal to emphasize the holiness of God and the surety of His judgment.

*"But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain." - Revelation 5:5, 6 NKJV*

**2. The Bible also speaks of praying in the Spirit** (1 Corinthians 14:14-15) and prayers when we are unable to think of adequate words. In those times, the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us.

Romans 8:26-27 might be the most comforting passage in Scripture. It reads,

*"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."*

Sometimes we are so overwhelmed we don't even know what to pray. There are times when words fail and human intelligence fumbles with the articulation of what it is we need. When life knocks the breath out of you, God understands the words contained in a single tear. When words fail, we can rely on the Holy Spirit to pray through us. Relying on the Spirit to pray "builds up" your spirit man in the places where you need it most.

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When you pray in the Spirit, no demon can understand you. This gives you the advantage of surprise. Praying in the Spirit is communicating directly to God – you are speaking mysteries.

*"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints." - Ephesians 6:18 NKJV*

**3. The prayer of supplication:** We are to take our requests to God.

Philippians 4:6 teaches, *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;" (Philippians 4:6 NKJV)*

Part of winning in spiritual battles is to be *"praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication" (Ephesians 6:18).*

The Hebrew and Greek words most often translated "supplication" in the Bible mean literally "a request or petition," so a prayer of supplication is asking God for something.

Unlike the prayer of petition, which is praying on behalf of others, the prayer of supplication is generally a request for the person praying.

There is another crucial aspect of the prayer of supplication, the necessity of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Those who belong to Christ also have the indwelling Holy Spirit who intercedes on our behalf. Because we often don't know what or how to pray when we approach God, the Spirit intercedes and prays for us, interpreting our supplications so that, when we are overwhelmed by trials and the cares of life, He comes alongside to direct our prayers as He sustains us before the throne of grace.