

Salvation occurs when the unbeliever responds with nonmeritorious faith alone in Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8–9). This *faith* response has both purpose and result: The *purpose* is deliverance from punishment in the lake of fire. The *result* is the imputation of eternal life. Taken together, salvation means that believers go to heaven when they die (John 3:16).¹

- (14) Once saved, the new believer is left without any advanced inventory of divine thought. This must be learned through Bible study under the mentorship of the Holy Spirit and consistent study under a qualified pastor-teacher.
- (15) During the process of growing in grace, the believer is challenged to believe in, adopt as true, facilitate into a path of least resistance, and consistently apply the Word of God to the external challenges of the devil’s world and the internal temptations of the sin nature.
- (16) To pray with doubt is to ignore the integrity and the power of the one addressed in prayer: “O Father, please teach me Your Word,” but with no confidence whatsoever that He will do so.
- (17) So when the believer prays, he must not only understand the various attributes of the character of God but also apply those attributes to his personal relationship with the Father.
- (18) The spiritual growth of the believer, his ability to become a good soldier for Jesus Christ, and the power of prayer are all associated with the clear understanding not only of divine attributes but also their association with one’s successful prayer life.
- (19) To amplify the correlation between a believer’s prayer and the confidence he has in its fulfillment requires us to take divine essence and incorporate its attributes into the meaning of James 1:5–8.
- (20) First of all we review the structure of prayer that the Bible presents as the model approach for addressing the throne of grace.

¹ *Forty Proclamations: The Theology of Grace Doctrine Church* (St. Charles: Joe Griffin Media Ministries, 2011), 9.

The Structure of Prayer: The Format:

- I. **Salutation**: All prayer is to be addressed to the Father, not to Jesus or the Holy Spirit:

Matthew 6:6 “When you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your **Father** [**Πατήρ** (*Patēr*)] who is in secret.

v. 9 “Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven ...’”

- II. **Fellowship**: Confession of personal sins to God described by the term, “rebound”:

1 John 1:9 If we **confess** [**ὁμολογέω** (*homologéō*)] our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Ephesians 5:18b ... be filled with the Holy Spirit.

- III. **Prologue**: Thanksgiving is an expression of gratitude for God’s grace, provisions, and mercy:

2 Corinthians 9:10 Now He Who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness;

v. 11 you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing **thanksgiving** [**εὐχαριστία** (*eucharistía*)] to God.

- IV. **Intercession**: To present prayer requests for or on behalf of others:

1 Timothy 2:1 I urge that requests, prayers, **intercessions** [**ἐντυξις** (*éntuxis*)], and thanks be offered on behalf of all people,

v. 2 even for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

v. 3 Such prayer for all is good and welcomed before God our Savior.

- V. **Petition:** Prayer for self based on personal request.
A thing or provision asked for without doubting.

Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything. Instead, in every situation, through prayer and petition [δεήσις (*deēsis*)] with thanksgiving, tell your requests to God.

- VI. **Confirmation:** Prayers are to be submitted “in Christ’s name”:

John 15:16c ... whatever you ask of the Father in My name [ὄνομα (*ónoma*)] He will give you.

- VII. **Affirmation:** The word which closes the prayer is the adjective ἀμήν (*amēn*) which is derived from the Hebrew adverb אָמֵן (*'amen*): “so be it.”²

The Four Ways God Answers Prayer:

I. **Petition Affirmative—Desire Negative:**

1. The believer may present a petition asking that a change might be made in His divine provisions. For example, the first-generation Jews of the Exodus were provided with the best food ever offered anyone, anywhere.
2. That provision was manna: מָן (*man*): “manna” which in the Hebrew means, “What is it?”

Exodus 16:15 When the sons of Israel saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, “It is the bread which the Lord has given you to eat.

v. 16 “This is what the Lord commanded, ‘Gather of it every man as much as he should eat; you shall take an omer [עֹמֶר (*'omer*): **2 quarts, dry measure**] apiece according to the number of persons each of you has in his tent.’”

² “It was a custom, which passed over from the synagogues into the Christian assemblies, that when he who had read or discoursed had offered up a solemn prayer to God, the others in attendance responded *Amen*, and thus made the substance of what was uttered their own: 1 Corinthians 14:16” (“*The New Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*, trans. and rev. Joseph Henry Thayer [Peabody, Mass., Hendrickson Publishers, 1981], 32).

3. This culinary provision was the perfect food and the Jews subsided on it for the entire forty-year wanderings in the Jornada.
4. As was often the case with the first generation, there were periodic spiritual breakdowns among them as is evidenced in the complaints of the “rabble” who were tired of eating manna every day and petitioned for meat instead:

Numbers 11:5 “We remember the fish which we used to eat free in Egypt, the cucumbers and the melons and the leeks and the onions and the garlic,

v. 6 but now our appetite is gone. There is nothing at all to look at except this manna.”

5. This complaint was voiced to Moses who became disgusted with the ingratitude of those who questioned divine grace provisions:

Numbers 11:13 “Where am I going to get meat to give to all this people? For they weep before me, saying, ‘Give us meat that we may eat!’”

6. At this point, the Lord is going to answer the petition of “this people” in the affirmative:

Numbers 11:18a “Say to the people, ‘Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat. Therefore the Lord will give you meat and you shall eat.

v. 19 ‘You shall eat, not one day, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days,

v. 20 but a whole month, until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you; because you have rejected the Lord who is among you and have wept before Him saying, “Why did we ever leave Egypt?””

7. It is often a source of great suffering when people pray to the Father in opposition of divine provisions already provided in grace.
8. In arrogance and ingratitude, these people demanded that the Lord change His menu because they were dissatisfied with the current selection.