

## PRAYER

Quite simply, Prayer is the Life Blood of Christianity.  
Without Prayer we have nothing.  
It is our connection with our Heavenly Father.

But for many it is a religious act without any sense of reality or connection.  
It is a meaningless act of hope.  
“I hope someone is listening.”  
“I hope someone will answer.”

We need to understand the truth of Christian Prayer.  
Not as the world prays but as a perfect relationship  
with our God, our Father and our Friend.  
This is our Life

Let's enjoy this study together and be changed forever,  
God Bless you.

# PRAYER ONE

## **PRAYER OF THE RIGHTEOUS**

### **What is Christian Prayer ??**

#### **BUILDING IN THE HEAVENLIES**

Not Religious utterance but clear relationship and conversation with our Heavenly Father.  
Prayer is listening as much as talking. It is a conversation (Comment 2 ears , 1 mouth )

Math 6:9

*Jesus taught “ when you prayer , do like this, Our father.....”*

Prayer is common to man, all men prayer , But to whom ?? Prayer is a secular word , means to make request to high authority. Slave to Master, servant to a King etc. So also to God “We Pray” but this does not mean we know God or are part of God or have a relationship with God. These are just words of hope into the air.

Let us examine the scripture.

James 5:16

*“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much”*

Prayer must become our life line to Heaven , to the Father.

#### **Basis of availing prayer**

- 1 Righteous
- 2 Effective/fervent

### **1 Righteous Man - we must have a relationship with God**

Psalm 34:15-17 *“The righteous cry and the Lord hears”*

Proverbs 15:29 *“The Lord is far from the wicked but he hears the prayer of the righteous.”*

Proverbs 1:20-33 *“.....I will not answer...” ( comment on vs 33 )*

c/f Psalm 51:17 *“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit”*

James 4:6-10 *“God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble.”*

#### **Only as we come through the Tabernacle Pattern**

Brazen Altar-Brazen Laver-Candlestick-Shewbread-Altar of Incense-Throne Room (Jesus fulfils these).

Hebrews 10:19 *“Having therefore boldness to enter into the Holiest of all by the blood of Jesus...let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from a evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”*

Other scriptures:

Hebrews 7:25

*"seeing he ever lives to make intercession for them"*

John 14:6

*"I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man comes to the Father but by me"*

John 10:9

*"I am the door by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved"*

1 Corinthians 1:30

*"Jesus our righteousness"*

2 Corinthians 5:21

*"Jesus sin for us that we might be righteous"*

Psalms 37:23

*"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord"*

Proverbs 24:16

*"For a just man falls seven times and rises up again"*

Luke 18:9

Parable of two men that went up to the temple to pray

2 Corinthians 7:1

*"therefore humble yourselves before God.."* Confess sin

1 John 1:9

*"If we confess our sins he is faithful to forgive us"*

Now God will begin to hear prayer

The Lord's Prayer – Relationship Prayer

Confidence – Boldness – Strength

See Also : Math 5:8 , Ps 24 : 3-4 , Heb 12 : 14

### **The Blood of Jesus is our only Hope**

So we see out of relationship ( righteousness) comes effectual and fervent prayer

## **2 Effectual (energy)**

Energy-Powerful-Active (not passive) Has conviction based on the Word of God I believe – I have faith .

James 5:17

Elijah prayed earnestly. He believed God's Word and acted on it.

Matthew 15:27

*"Yet the dogs eat of the crumbs"* Woman knew Word of God and acted on it

Luke 11:8

*"..because of his importunity he will rise and give him"* Man also knew the Word of God and acted on it  
Not persisting but knowing God and the Word of God "I am not going to be put off!!" "I am not going to give up!!"

Mark 16:17 God will always honour His word

Psalms 138 *"for thou have magnified thy Word above all thy name"*

Prayer must be backed with conviction of Word of God.

James 1:6-8 *"but let him ask in faith, nothing wavering"*

James 4:3 *"ye ask and receive not, because ye ask amiss"*

Double minded – receive nothing from God. Prayer must be backed with authority of God's word. c/f Jesus spoke with authority.

We must pray according to God's Word! Must be biblical.

Consistent with God's Word

## **3 Fervent (engeryeomais)**

Implies greater belief.

An inward conformity consistent to the mind of the Lord. Agonising - striving because we know the mind of the Lord. In prayer (our conversation with God ) we need to discover a point of agreement with the Holy Spirit where the Peace of God is ruling in our Heart. Yes Lord !!!?? This is when we are in the Will of God .  
Note: Phil 4:6-7 , Col 3 : 15 Peace of God when all is well.

1 John 5:14, 15 “*whatsoever we ask we know that we have the petitions that we desire of him*”

**God will only ever do His Will, nothing else.**

**It is a question of us conforming to His Will.**

**We discover His Will through Prayer**

Discuss:

Matthew 18:19,20 “*two agree on earth concerning anything*”

John 14:13,14 “*whatsoever ye ask I my name that will I do*”

John 15:7 “*abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done...*”

1 John 3:21, 22 “*whatsoever we ask we receive of him*”

Prayer that avails much as we co-labour with Him. No other prayer avails anything because only the Will of God will be done.

Not asking amiss (James 4:3) but praying in the will of God.

- 1 Righteous Relationship
- 2 Leads to continual prayer according to God’s word
- 3 Leads to power prayer harnessing God’s will
- 4 Leads to answered prayer

When we know the mind of the Lord we can be assured of answered prayer.

We can act in faith on the mind of the Lord.

**We do not persuade God through prayer.**

**Prayer persuades us of the Will of God Matthew 6:7-8**

Do we think we are persuading God

No – the answer/will of God was always there. It is us who had to find it. God will never violate His will just to keep us happy We need to discover His will and keep Him happy !!!!

**Faith begins when we know the Will of God**

**1 Thess 5: 16-21 “prayer without ceasing ...” continuous peace, continuous communication, continuous Will of God in our lives.**

# PRAYER TWO

## PERSONAL PRAYER

### Personal prayer

James 5:16      *“Effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much”*

Psalm 34:15&17, Proverbs 15:29

If unrighteous, forget prayer in the sense of communication. Only one prayer – James 4:7-10, 1 Jn 1:9

All sin, iniquity, stubbornness, self-indulgence, self-righteousness, not caring for wife (1 Peter 3:7) all blocks prayer and hinders relationship with God.

Because it is fundamental that prayer requires the presence of God and “without holiness no man shall see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14) “Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.” (Matthew 5).

### PRAYER TWO:

Prayer is basic to humanity. Matthew 6 Jesus said “when you pray”

Means

- To wish, hope, beseech, ask for
- Intercede, ask on behalf of others
- Pour out
- To God

Mankind has always prayed. Tradition has rendered it meaningless, unrighteous prayers.

God desire’s relationship. “I will never leave you nor forsake you”, “Nothing can separate us from the love of God”, “I will be a Father unto you and you shall be my sons and daughters” – but there’s more.

**God desires us to become friends. Relationship**

He has extended a hand of friendship to us and he wants us to respond the same way.

- Not religious people
- Not believers in God
- Not people who know of God
- Not laws and regulations
- Not people who are under the letter of the law
- Not obedient by command

**But keeping His commandments as an act of friendship, not law**

“If you love me keep my commandments”

“He that desires friends must show himself friendly”

“There is a friend that sticks closer than a brother”

“Iron sharpens iron”

## Let's talk about Gods desire in the relationship

God - Father - Friend

Jesus is coming back for his friends

Let's consider the scriptures:

Adam walked with God (Genesis 3:8)

Noah walked with God (Genesis 6:9)

Enoch walked with God (Genesis 5:22,24)

Moses – face to face (Deut.34:10)

David – heart after God's (1 Samuel 13:14) (Matthew 12:4 shewbread).

Abraham – called a friend of God (James 2:23)

God not ashamed of Abraham ( Heb 11:16 )

John 15:15      Jesus called us friends

Pr 18:24      “ ....must show himself friendly..”

Discuss “God reaches out a hand of friendship ”

Matthew 7:21      “ .Many cry Lord, Lord..... depart from me I never knew you”

Math 25      “... foolish virgins.....depart from me I never knew you”

This relationship with God must be totally open. No secrets. Friends talk about everything. In response to God's open heart to us, this is the only reply that is acceptable. *A friend closer than a brother.* This is the only thing that matters to God , OUR RELATIONSHIP !!!!

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## Maintaining our relationship with God through Prayer ?

Repentance , Thanksgiving, Worship, Communion.

**1. Repentance** and Forgiving others

Math 6:12      “...forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sins against us....”

Psalms 51:17      “a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”

Ps 139:22- 23      “...search me, try me .....”

1 John 1:9      “If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us”

John 3:36      “he that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life”

Luke 13:3      “except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish

**Understanding forgiveness and Forgiving others: Math 6:12, 14-15**

C/f King and debtor	Math 18 : 21-35
Griefs and Sorrows	Is 53: 4-6
Blood on Door post	Ex 12: 7 , 13

Jesus said “Offences will come” Math 18:7, Luke 17:1, John 16:33, Heb 12:1 un-forgiveness ???

Read and Discuss :

Jn 20:19-23      Forgiveness releases you not the offender !!

Rom 12:17-21, God will repay

Pr 20:22      Wait for the Lord, He will repay

To forgive is a choice. Healing is a process.

Key principals of forgiveness: a) forgiveness is toward God and man. One package Horizontal and vertical. The Cross “I am forgiven and I forgive”

b) to forgive releases us, not the offender. They are put into God's hands.

c) forgiving is not forgetting it is simply the beginning if the healing process

d) healing takes time and the wound needs to be protected during healing

e) even after healing there is a scare but it no longer causes pain

therefore has no effect on our life We may never forget but we can choose not to remember .

## **2. Thanksgiving** ( Attitude of thanksgiving declares Trust )

Psalms 100:4 "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving....: (praise)  
Hebrews 13:15 "that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name  
1Tim 6:6-8 " Godliness with contentment..."  
Phil 4:11-13 "... I have learned to be content ..."  
Col 1:12 "Giving thanks unto the Father"  
1 Thess 5:18 "...in everything give thanks..."  
Romans 5:8 "while we were yet sinners Christ died for us"

## **3. Worship**

John 4:24 "God is Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in Spirit and in Truth."  
Matthew 6:9 "Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name:"  
Rom 12:1-2 "...present your bodies a living sacrifice ..."  
2Cor 5:18 "... now all things are of God ...."  
Comment : Math 15:25 " Lord help me ....."  
2Cor 3:17-18 "... changed from Glory to Glory....."  
1Jn 3:1-3 "... we shall know him because we shall be like Him."  
Worship is a lifestyle. It is not something we do. It is something we are !!  
Note: We cannot worship and remain the same  
Our object of sacrifice is our object of worship ???!!!!  
New wine skin daily for new wine Math 9:17

## **4. Communion**

C/f John 6:47-58

"Whosoever eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eats my flesh, and drinks my blood dwells in me, and I in him..."

To become one with God.

Fellowship (conversational)

How much time with the Lord – all the time!

Constant awareness of God's presence.

Jn 14:23 "...we will make our abode in you .." ( Jn 17: 20-23 )  
Isaiah 43:2 "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you..." Trials of life  
Matthew 28:20 "... I am with you always, even unto the end of the world"  
Colossians 3:15 "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts"

The Holy Spirit – referee in your heart – constant companion, then special times together, talk over special things – friendship.

Ps 119:105 " thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light to my path ....."

1 Peter 5:7 "Cast cares upon the Lord for he cares for you"

Matthew 11:28 "Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden"

Jesus went alone to pray – Gethsemane Matthew 26

Daniel 11:32 "but the people that do know their God shall be strong and do great exploits"

1Jn 4 : 17 and 1 Jn 3 : 1- 3 Read together in closing.

# PRAAYER THREE

## PETITIONING PRAYER

### **Petitioning Prayer**

- 1 Righteousness – pre-requisite for answered prayer
- 2 Relationship/Friendship – prayer essential in order to bring mind, spirit, will under submission to Holy Spirit.  
Repentance (Psalm 51:17)  
Thanksgiving (Heb.13:15)  
Worship (John 4:24)  
Communion (Proverbs 18:24)
- 3 Petitioning Prayer – beseeching, asking, supplication

Philippians 4:6

“Be careful for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”

Prayer is most commonly asking for or to wish for. Essence of Greek – to ask (as it applies to us) is subject to king, child to parent, beggar to passer by.

Even in our chat time there is a sense of inquiring, asking, gleaning from.

What can we say really, only thanks, worship and then questions. Let’s look at ‘asking prayer’.

Matthew 7:7-11

“Ask and it shall be given, seek and ye shall find”

Ephesians 3:20

“Now unto him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think”

Matthew 21:22

“And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive”

John 14:12-14

“If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it”

John 15:7

“Abide in me....ask what ye will and it shall be done”

John 15:16

“whatsoever ye ask the Father, in my name”

There is no question God desires to answer prayer.

Ask and Receive – that’s all there is to it but that’s not the experience of many. I think we get bored with prayer because we don’t see results, no power.

Why?



## **1 Sincerity**

Sincerity in desiring an answer.

Matthew 7 'ask', 'seek' 'knock'

Proverbs 25:2

"It is the glory of God to conceal a thing, but the honour of kings to search out a matter."

Jeremiah 29:13

"when ye shall seek me with all your heart"

Matthew 15:27

"yet the dogs eat of the crumbs"

Luke 11:5

"lend me three loaves"

Matthew 9:20

"touched the hem of his garment"

God does not throw pearls before swine – he feeds the hungry soul. God wants to give – but how badly do we want to receive. Matthew 13:10-16.

## **2 Growth in Christ**

Ask for fish, bread – inner working

Luke 11:13 – Luke speaks of giving Holy Spirit

Speak of revelation, truth, power, gifts etc – spirit growth

"Lord I want revelation" "I want to change, understanding

Jacob – Genesis 32:24-30 - wrestled with God

Daniel – Daniel 10: 21 day delay, enemy hindered – fasted and mourned, desperate for God's blessing

## **3 Combined with will of God, total faith**

In the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 21:22 – Believing

John 15:7 – Abiding

Ephesians 3:20 – Power in us

1 John 5:14, 15 – According to will of God

"Not by might but by spirit" "I can do all things through Christ"

"With God all things are possible"

"Thru' God we shall do valiantly"

The issue of our being in the will of God is a matter of bringing ourselves into harmony with Him. That is why God will answer these prayers.

- 1 Sincerity
- 2 Spiritual Growth
- 3 Agreement with God's will
- 4 Those things that will glorify Him

Matthew 6:6-8

Repetition not necessary, God knew all the time. It's a question of us getting the message. When we say "Lord we need this" he says "wonderful, you've got the message, now we can move on."

- Requests in Agreement
- Not a 'sugar daddy' (some people disappointed with God)
- God wants to bless at His initiative  
"God blessed me!!" "Did He really??"

#### **4 Those things that will glorify God**

John 14:12,13 Works to glorify the Father  
John 15:16 – Works – Fruitfulness

Motive for prayer – God is vitally interested in our lives but he will not spoil us with wants.

James 4:2,3

“Ye lust and have not, yet ye have not because ye ask not, ye ask and receive not because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.”

Ask amiss – girlfriends, houses, money etc – not after God’s will.

Own wants – not combined with God

If own glorification, own gratification, own promotion – forget it!

Wrong motivation will rob you. Matthew 6:25-33 , Philipians 4:19, 1 John 5:14, Proverbs 15:29, Psalm 34:15-17

“The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry”

1 Peter 1:16 “be ye holy for I am holy”

Insincerity, unbelief, wrong motivation, sin, all rob answered prayer.

Don’t forget effectual, fervent, righteous –

# PRAYER FOUR

## **INTERCESSION PRAYER**

Note: Rev 1: 6 “ we are Kings and Priests...” these are our prayer responsibility.  
Intercession and Warfare.

### Intercession

1 Timothy 2:1- 4

“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks be made for all men..”

2 Chronicles 7:14

Prayer on behalf of someone else ‘to seek an audience with the king on behalf of someone else’ I see two types of intercession.

#### **1 Conversational Intercession**

Interceding to support someone else. No real urgent problem necessarily, just blessing someone else.

John 17 Christ prays to the Father

Luke 23:32 Jesus prays for Peter

Philippians 1:4

1 Thessalonians 1:2

Colossians 1:3

Job 1:5

Parents/children Fathers/Family Leaders/congregation etc Priestly responsibility

#### **2 Deliberate Intercession**

Time to set aside to pray – someone brings a deliberate need before God for his mercy to be extended.

Firstly, it is fundamental for us to understand we are coming before the King of Kings. A sense of coming to plead for a person or community before the highest authority available.

We must understand God’s wrath upon all disobedience.

2 Kings 22:13 Wrath of God

John 3:36

Romans 2:5-8

Ephesians 5:5,6

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10

Deuteronomy 28 Blessing & Cursing

So when we come before Him we must come humbly – seeking His favour and identifying with the sin of the people

For example : Ezra 9:6, 13-15, 10:1, Nehemiah 1:6, 9: 1-38, Daniel 9:3-19

Note: 1Jn 1:5 “ God is light.....”

We have access through our own relationship – but we are petitioning God’s mercy for others. Standing on their behalf..

Ezekiel 22:29-31 “ who will stand for the people ?”

Gen 6:5-8 We see God about to destroy mankind but he was able to find Noah to be our intercessor.

But in Isaiah 59 we see another time of Judgement on the ways of man. ( Also Rom 3: 10-23 )

This time there was no intercessor. It is over for the World, none righteous and no intercessor.

But .....

Isaiah 59:1-4 , 16-19 – Isaiah prophesies the greatest act of intercession . God came himself.

Luke 22:34 “Father forgive them for they know not what they do”

Isaiah 53:4-12 Jesus at the cross

“He stood in the GAP for us” - when there was no-one else to do it.

Jesus ( God himself ) became our intercessor and continues that work today.

Hebrews 7:24,25 “..seeing he ever lives to make intercession for them.

Jesus, our High Priest, will continue this work until the Earthly ministry is finished and we are all united with God in the Resurrection

John 10 “ ... I am the DOOR ...”

John 14 “.....I am the WAY ....”

# PRAAYER FIVE

## **INTERCESSION &** **WARFARE PRAYER**

### Intercession/Warfare

2 Corinthians 4:4

“In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not”

Is 60:1-4

“.... great darkness the people....”

Ephesians 6:12

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, and against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

2 Corinthians 10:4

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds”

c/f Luke 9:1-2 , Luke 10 : 19 , 1 Jn 3:8, Math 16:19, Math 28:18

**Natural** (when God is exalted in a community, His Blessing is evident on the people )

Proverbs 21:22

“A wise man scales the city of the mighty and casts down the strength of the confidence of the wicked”

Proverbs 11:10,11

“When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices”

Proverbs 14:34

Righteousness exalts a nation

### **Spiritual**

Matthew 16:18

“I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” “ ..bind on earth ...”

Isaiah 43:5,6

“I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west.”

Isaiah 60:1-5

“Arise shine for thy light is come.....”

2 Peter 3:9

“not willing that any should perish”

Math 19:26 “....with God all things are possible”

Ezekial 22:29-31

Intercession – standing in the GAP as we seek an audience with the king on behalf (to plead for, to petition for) someone else. We who are made righteous by the blood of Jesus come boldly before the Father in holy respect and reverent fear of his authority to plead for his favour upon an individual or a situation.

“And I sought a man among them, that should make up the **hedge** and stand in the **gap**”

### Consider Hedges

Matthew 21:33, Mark 12:1-2 – Hedged Vineyards

Job 1:10 – Hedge about his life

Ezekial 13:3-5 - “Woe to the Prophets” Nations hedged up but they not protecting (Note again Rev 1:6)

C/f Proverbs 25:28, Is 5: 4-5

But the hedges are broken, individuals, nations, cities etc

Jer 15:19-21

Isaiah 60:18

“but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation and thy gates Praise”

Is 15 : 19-21 Gods desire to restore.

Father’s heart torn between wrath and love.

Who will stand in the GAP? Thanksgiving, praise and worship will bridge the GAP. Sweet incense of Praise and Thanksgiving brings favour of God back into a situation. “He inhabits the praises of His people”

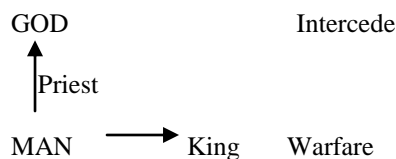
2 Chronicles 7:14

“If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven.”

Our intercession and praise on behalf of others, our petition for forgiveness re-establishes the Hedge of Salvation and allows God’s favour to be released into a situation.

### Now two-fold operation

- Favour of God
- War against the enemy



Now we go to war for souls, cities, nations

2 Corinthians 10:4

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God”

Ephesians 6:10-12

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood”

Luke 10:19

“I give unto you power to tread on serpents”

Matthew 16:18

“I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail”

Verse 19

“and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven”

Let’s look at scriptures showing Intercession & Warfare working together.

**1 Moses - Exodus 17:8**

- A Prayer & Intercession on Mountain
- B Warfare in Valley

Aaron and Hur – Corporate Prayer – Supportive

**2 Israel went to Battle**

Singer & Musicians went first, Joshua 6 – Jericho, 2 Chronicles 20:21 – Worship & Praise as act of Intercession before the Lord.

**3 Nehemiah 4:17,18**

Building wall/gates with work (worship) in one hand and sword in other hand.

**4 David & Goliath – 1 Samuel 17:44-49**

**5 Submit to God – Resist the Devil, James 4:7**

**6 With the High Praises of God – Psalm 149:6-9**

Each time the principle of petitioning God's favour then warfare on behalf of situation; eg as we stand in the gap for individual – city – nation our worship as sweet incense unto the Lord – **favour** restored, **hedge** restored, **gates** restored now we can go into battle led by Jesus, empowered by Holy Ghost to see Father's heart established in the world.

**Please Note : All intercessory prayer meetings must have a purpose and a leader That leader will determine the agenda for the intercession and also direct the prayer and warfare as the meeting progresses That leader will also determine when the battle is won and the meeting can conclude All prayer must be under the guidance of the leader**

**A typical intercessory prayer meeting will have the following outline : 1) Discuss purpose of meeting and identify targets of prayer These targets will have been identified through Prayer walks and spiritual mapping of the target area or some other source of information But it will be specific Should include a white board with details ,maps, issues etc for prayer Also names of people being prayed for.**

- 2) Begin with Worship for personal edification and gathering**
- 3) At the direction of the leader begin to worship and intercede for the people in the target area**
- 4) As the Holy Spirit leads and at the direction of the leader begin to target enemy areas of concentration through spiritual warfare**
- 5) As the sense of war subsides and at the direction of the leader ask for any specific thoughts from the prayer warriors**
- 6) Pray through those concerns**
- 7) Close with thanksgiving worship and prayer and a song of victory**

**Praise the Lord**

