

haLakhah 2

Prayer

1. Define Prayer

התפלל *hitpalel* to pray (*tefilah*) lit: to judge, differentiate, clarify, decide

שאל *sha'al* to ask.

Rabbi Sha'ul Saul/Paul

2. Rabbinic view of prayer

Man's Essence

Talmud Baba Kamah 3b defines man as "the creature that prays"

Talmud Berachot 5b *Nefesh* (life sustaining soul) is synonymous with prayer

To engage in prayer is the most obvious and the most universal reflection of man's relationship with God. Prayer in its highest form and at its most sincere level is called Avodah she-B'lev (service of the heart), and constitutes one of the many ways by which love of God is expressed. To Be A Jew pg 159

Hebrew is commonly used in organized public prayers, but one may pray to God in any language extemporaneously.

Organized into *Amidah*, or Eighteen Blessings (*Shmoneh Esreh*), is the oldest part of the prayer service and was certainly prayed by Yeshua when He attended prayers:

- ⇒ approach with three steps
- ⇒ said quietly while standing at attention
- ⇒ without interruption
- ⇒ do not face a painting, sculptured work or mirror
- ⇒ face Israel. if in Israel, face Jerusalem. if in Jerusalem, face Temple.
- ⇒ in public worship, said out loud by one person so others may learn the proper pronunciation.
- ⇒ "Know Where You Stand"
- ⇒ take three steps backwards after completion as if departing from the presence of a king.
- ⇒ women not required to recite *Amidah*

Code of Proper Behavior During Prayer

It is forbidden to talk or chatter during prayer.

It is forbidden to introduce distractions during prayer.

It is forbidden to condone levity, playfulness, and similar disrespectful practices.

Saying "Amen" to another's prayer constitutes an endorsement.

Do not "Amen" your own prayer unless it is in the structure of that prayer.

(rabbinic) Do not use God's Name (*Adonai*) except in prayer to avoid using it in vain. Instead, use '*haShem*' (the Name) in daily conversation.

The prayer services correspond to the order of sacrifices (*Korbanot*) at the Temple.

Morning Prayers (until about 10am) *Shachrit*

Amidah & Sh'ma

Afternoon Prayers (12:30pm to sundown) *Mincha*

Amidah only

Evening Prayers (after sundown) *Ma'ariv*

Amidah & *Sh'ma*

Other prayers:

Upon Awakening: *Modeh Ani*

Modeh ani lefaneicha melech chai v'kayam shehechezarta bi nishmati bechemlah – rabbah emunatecha

I gratefully thank you, O living and eternal King, for You have returned my soul within me with compassion – abundant is Your faithfulness!

Washing Hands: *Netilat Yadayim*

Baruch Ata Adonai, Elohenu Melech ha-olam, Asher kidshanu b'mitzotav, v'tzivanu al n'tilat yadayim.

Blessed are You, L-rd, our G-d, Who has sanctified us by Your commandments and commanded us in the washing of hands.

Morning Blessings:

Said before any other activity (such as eating)

3. Messianic view of Prayer

In its simplest definition: a conversation with God. Matityahu (Matthew) 6.9-15

⁹ In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.

¹⁰ Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as *it is* in heaven.

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.

¹³ And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

¹⁴ "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Also includes listening.

Pray first, not last!

Yeshua's rules for prayer: Matityahu 6:5-8

⁵ "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ⁶ But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. ⁷ And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen *do*. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

⁸ "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

Pray to The Father.

See also Romans 8.26-27.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit *is*, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

1 Thessalonians 5.16-18

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

'Practice the Presence'

