

Worshiping God through Prayer

Read [Genesis 3:1–24](#)

Jesus' plan for knowing God through prayer starts with worship.

Let's answer three questions about worshiping God through prayer:

- 1) What does it mean to worship?
- 2) How do I worship God through prayer?
- 3) What will it do for me?

HOW DO I WORSHIP GOD THROUGH PRAYER?

The first way is through giving thanks. When we thank God, we are acknowledging **his worth**, because we are expressing our belief that he is the Source of the good things in our life. This is one aspect about worship that helps us keep our vision for life, because it reminds us of all the blessings that surround us.

This is why the Bible says to “*give thanks **in** all circumstances (**in** everything), for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus” ([1 Thessalonians 5:18](#)). Notice it doesn't say to give thanks **for** all circumstances, but “**in** all circumstances”. In other words, no matter what you are going through, there is always *something* to give thanks for. This is one of the ways we worship God, and one of the ways we keep our vision clear and positive.*

Have you ever just spent time thanking God in prayer? If not, I encourage you to. It's a great way to start your prayer time. And it's true worship.

The second way we worship God through prayer is with praise. Praise is closely related to giving thanks, but it is also different. I thank my wife for a birthday gift, but I praise her for what a great job she's done raising our children, for how well she leads worship in the church, and for how pretty she is!

To praise God is to say something good about him: something good about what he's done (“Lord, that was a beautiful sunset tonight”), or to say something good about who he is (“Lord, it's awesome to think of how wise you are”). Jesus once praised God for his mysterious and surprising ways:

²⁵ “**At that time Jesus said, “I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants.”**

²⁶ “**Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight.”**

[MATTHEW 11:25–26](#)

Do you spend time praising God? Just telling him why you love him, and how wonderful he is? It's a sure-fire way to brighten your day, and it is worship.

The third way we worship God through prayer is through adoration.

This is the part of worship that is reserved for God alone—*worship-proper*, if you will. This is that place we come to where we acknowledge God's ultimate worth, and understand how far above us he is, and all we can do is bow before him and, well, *adore* him. Marvel at him. Be amazed, humbled, and overjoyed all at once. This is the purest worship, when we're just appreciating God for who he is. This will be our greatest joy in heaven.

We worship God through prayer by giving thanks, by praise, and by adoration. Let's look at the third question about worshiping God through prayer: