

EXAMPLES OF PRAISE

INTERCESSION

T.W. Hunt has reported that of the prayers of the Bible answered with a yes.

- Eighty of the answered asking prayers in the Bible were personal petition.
- One hundred thirty one were intercession.

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. (Romans 8:26-27)

Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. (Romans 8:34)

Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. (Hebrews 7:25)

JESUS' EXAMPLE

Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles (Luke 6:12-13)

THE CHURCH'S EXAMPLE

So Peter was kept in prison,
but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. (Acts 12:5)

EPAPHRA'S EXAMPLE

Epaphras ... is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. (Colossians 4:12)

Be exalted, O Lord, in your strength;
we will sing and praise your might. (Psalm 21:13)

I trust in God's unfailing love
for ever and ever.

I will praise you forever for what you have done;
in your name I will hope, for your name is good.
I will praise you in the presence of your saints. (Psalm 52: 8-9)

Because your love is better than life,
my lips will glorify you.
I will praise you as long as I live. (Psalm 63:3-4)

The heavens praise your wonders, O Lord,
your faithfulness too. (Psalm 89:5)

I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart;
I will tell of all your wonders.
I will be glad and rejoice in you;
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. (Psalm 9:1-2)

Like your name, O God,
your praise reaches to the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with righteousness. (Psalm 48:10)

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well. (Psalm 139:14)

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
his greatness no one can fathom.
One generation will commend your works to another;
they will tell of your mighty acts.
They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and I will meditate on your wonderful works. (Psalm 145:3-5)

BIBLICAL WORDS FOR PRAISE AND WORSHIP

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|------------|--------------|-----------|
| • PRAISE | • HALLELUJAH | • BLESS |
| • ALLELUIA | • HOSANNA | • MAGNIFY |
| • REJOICE | • ASCRIBE | • EXALT |
| • WORSHIP | • HONOR | • LAUD |
| • EXALT | • GLORIFY | • ADORE |

WORSHIP

* Ways one might express prayers of worship:

1. **DESCRIBE YOUR HOLY REVERENCE FOR GOD.** Acknowledge and honor His presence. Do not enter God's presence casually or lightly.
2. **MAGNIFY THE LORD.** Make Him bigger. The word magnify indicates perspective. You cannot make God bigger than He is. However, when you decrease yourself and magnify Him, He increases. That is what Mary did when she prayed: "My soul doth magnify the Lord, For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden." (Luke 1:46, 48 KJV)
Focus on God's greatness in comparison to who you are.
3. **EXALT THE LORD.** Make Him higher. John said of Jesus, "He must become greater; I must become less." (John 3:30)
4. **ASCRIBE TO THE LORD THE GLORY DUE HIM.** Give God proper credit for what He has done. Do not accept His glory as your own.
5. **BLESS THE LORD.** Speak well of Him.
6. **GLORIFY THE LORD.** Give Him honor and glory in what you say.

EXPRESSING PRAYERS OF WORSHIP

1. Describe your reverence for God.
2. Magnify the Lord.
3. Exalt the Lord.
4. Ascribe to the Lord the glory.
5. Bless the Lord.
6. Glorify the Lord.

WORSHIP COMMENDED

Ascribe to the Lord, O mighty ones,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.
(Psalm 29:1-2)

Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. (Psalm 95:6)

Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs. (Psalm 100:2)

PRAYING FOR THE CHURCH

The early church in the New Testament prayed for boldness in witnessing, Christian fruit, the infilling of the Spirit, conduct worthy of the Lord, spiritual enlightenment and understanding, deliverance from evil or preservation, the sick, church leaders, missionaries, and persons in authority.

EXAMPLES OF PAUL'S INTERCESSION FOR THE CHURCHES

"Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved." (Romans 10:1)

"I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:16-19)

"We have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. (Colossians 1:9-12)

INTERCESSION FOR THOSE IN AUTHORITY

"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." (1 Timothy 2:1-2)