



### **Locations/Zoom Links & Prayer Call Instructions**

Conference Call Instructions: Dial 605-313-4493 Enter Access Code 868913

T-Mobile users only: Dial 206-451-6106 Enter 605-313-4493 Enter Access Code 868913

#### **Northern Tribes – Rev. Hampton Room 302 (Red)**

Dan (S-T); Asher (U-V); Naphtali (W-Z)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86548871071?pwd=bmo2RFJDdIVlaTQyWUMyMzh4VmZxQT09>

Meeting ID: 865 4887 1071 Passcode: 257879 One tap mobile

+13462487799,,86548871071#,,\*257879# US (Houston)

**Prayer Conference Call: Mondays April 15, 22, 29 at 6:00 am**

#### **Southern Tribes – Dr. Ingram Room 301 (Orange)**

Rueben (G-H); Simeon (K-L); Gad (I-J)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87927418517>

Meeting ID: 879 2741 8517 One tap mobile +13462487799,,87927418517# US (Houston)

**Prayer Conference Call: Thursday April 4,11,18, 25 @ 7:00 am**

#### **Eastern Tribes – Rev. McMillan/Rev. Watkins Room 102 (Yellow)**

Judah (A-B); Issachar (C-D); Zebulun (E-F)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88928230042?pwd=aEN2ME5xY2llc2ZWazBPYVNXdzJOQT09>

Meeting ID: 889 2823 0042 Passcode: 909201

+13462487799,,889 2823 0042#,,\*909201# US (Houston)

**Prayer Conference Call Mondays April 15, 22, 29 at 5:00 pm**

#### **Western Tribes – Rev. Johnson Room 101 (Green)**

Ephraim (M-N); Manasseh (O-P); Benjamin (Q-R)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81926589373?pwd=ebZbvWIR7zKY2D9h3w4jSl9yjsbBGN.1>

Meeting ID: 819 2658 9373 Passcode: 280580

+13462487799,,819 2658 9373#,,\*280580# US (Houston)

**Prayer Conference Call: Call Thursdays April 4,11,18, 25 @ 7:00pm**

## Confession: Responding to God's Holiness

### Scripture-Memory Verse

"Through Him [Jesus] let us continually offer up to God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of our lips that confess His name" ([Hebrews 13:15](#)).

God is holy. He is separate, pure, and righteous. God reveals His *holiness*<sup>1</sup> because He wants you to be holy as He is holy: "It is written, 'Be holy, because I am holy'" ([1 Peter 1:16](#)). Yet we cannot be holy apart from God's work in us. When God revealed Himself to persons in biblical accounts, one of the first qualities they recognized was His holiness.

### Confession

The Greek word for *confess* means *speaking the same thing or agreeing with*. In one way all prayer is agreeing with God. **Confession** is agreeing with the truth. When you sin, God feels sadness or grief. You tend to feel guilty because of your sin. Satan, as "the accuser of our brothers" ([Revelation 12:10](#)), reminds you of your sin so that you will feel guilty. Your guilt may cause you to run away or hide from God, as Adam and Eve did in the garden of Eden.

God is more interested in your agreeing with Him and returning to a love relationship with Him. He prefers that you feel the grief that He feels. When you have a broken heart over your sin, you will want to do something about it: "Godly grief produces a repentance not to be regretted and leading to salvation" ([2 Corinthians 7:10](#)). Confession is agreeing with God about the real you and responding to God's holiness. Prayers of confession include seeking God's cleansing and forgiveness.

## Praise: Responding to God's Attributes

### Today's Prayer Promise

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

One way to prepare to enter the throne room of heaven in prayer is confession. Through confession you receive cleansing and are restored to a right relationship with God. Confession is agreeing with God about the real you. You may object, "You don't know the real me. I don't want to be like the real me." Just one minute! The world tells you that you are a product of your past. If you agree with the world, that is the limit of the kind of person you will be—and that may not be very good. Christianity, however, teaches that you are a product of your future—what you are becoming. God is molding you into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ. As a Christian, you are becoming like Him. You are growing toward what you will be in eternity. Think of yourself in terms of eternity. This is the self about whom you want to agree with God in prayer.

## Worship: Responding to God's Glory

### Today's Prayer Promise

"Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it" (Psalm 81:10).

A third kind of responding prayer is worship. In the New Testament the Greek word for **worship** derives from root words meaning to *kiss toward*. It is an act of obeisance, homage, reverence, or love.

God is not like any other. He reveals to us His beauty, brightness, and splendor—His glory—as He shows His attributes. God's actions reveal His glory. The Bible indicates that the heavens and the earth declare God's glory. Creation is the evidence of God's great creative power, His beauty, His wisdom, and much more.

When God reveals His glory, you recognize His worth—His surpassing value. You want to fall down and worship Him, love Him, and adore Him. You long to be with Him. You respond to God's glory through prayers of worship. You worship by expressing your reverence, honor, love, and adoration for God.

**You respond to God's glory through prayers of worship.**

Prayers of worship and praise go together. As you pray, you will find yourself focusing on God's attributes and praising Him. When you reflect on who God is and how He has revealed Himself, you will worship and adore Him. Worship begins with reverence for God.

### **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 due Him.
5. Bless the Lord.
6. Glorify the Lord.

## **Thanksgiving: Responding to God's Riches**

Every good gift comes from God. He has blessed you with all spiritual blessings. God has chosen and adopted you as a child, has forgiven your sins, has given you wisdom and understanding, has revealed His will, and has given you an inheritance.

When God reveals Himself by giving blessings to you, thanksgiving to Him is a natural response. Thanksgiving is not just an act or a statement. It is an attitude of gratitude. Thanksgiving indicates a relationship between God as source and you as receiver. Prayers of thanksgiving indicate one of the most important characteristics of your relationship with God. Your relationship can grow only when you properly acknowledge that you are the receiver and God is the Giver.

# Asking Prayers

## Praying for Yourself and Others

### Scripture-Memory Verse

"Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" ([Philippians 4:6](#)).

We have studied four types of responding prayers. In confession, praise, worship, and thanksgiving you identify with God by becoming like Him. Now we will focus on asking prayers: petition and intercession. In asking prayers you identify with God by working with Him in His kingdom.

### Reasons God Answers Prayer

**1. The prayer seeks to uphold God's honor.** God's honor means His good name, reputation, or integrity. In some prayers you may seek to maintain the integrity of God's character and His name. After the faithless report of the spies who were sent into the promised land, God threatened to slay the Israelites. Moses prayed on behalf of God's honor, expressing a desire to protect God's reputation among the surrounding nations (see [Numbers 14:15-16](#) below).

#### God's Honor

"If You kill this people with a single blow, the nations that have heard of Your fame will declare, 'Since the LORD wasn't able to bring this people into the land He swore to give them, He has slaughtered them in the wilderness'" ([Numbers 14:15-16](#)).

**2. The prayer appeals for God's glory.** God's glory invites worshipful praise. His glory is His magnificence, His great beauty or splendor, or the evidence of His attributes. In some prayers you may ask that God reveal or receive His glory. We dare not give His glory to another or take it for ourselves. The men and women of the Bible were always diligent to ensure that divine work was recognized as truly from God—they gave God the glory. Jesus prayed for His Father's glory (see [John 12:27-28](#) below) instead of seeking His own desires.

#### God's Glory

"My soul is troubled. What should I say—Father, save Me from this hour? But that is why I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name!" ([John 12:27-28](#)).

**3. The prayer appeals to God's character.** God's character refers to His traits, qualities, or nature. You can agree with God about His nature in prayer. You can also ask Him to act according to His nature. Moses made a request based on God's character, identifying several of His qualities (see [Numbers 14:17-19](#) below). Because God is merciful, forgiving, and longsuffering, Moses asked God to pardon and forgive the people.

#### God's Character

"Just as You have spoken: The LORD is slow to anger and rich in faithful love, forgiving wrongdoing and rebellion. ... Please pardon the wrongdoing of this people in keeping with the greatness of Your faithful love, just as You have forgiven them from Egypt until now" ([Numbers 14:17-19](#)).

**4. The prayer acknowledges God's sovereignty.** God's sovereignty means His supreme power, rank, or authority over all. He is Ruler over all. As Sennacherib gathered his Assyrian army against Judah, King Hezekiah acknowledged God's sovereignty over all kingdoms of the earth. He realized that a positive answer to his request would cause all of the kingdoms to recognize that truth as well (see [2 Kings 19:15, 19](#) below).

#### God's Sovereignty

"LORD God of Israel who is enthroned above the cherubim, You are God—You alone—of all the kingdoms of the earth. You made the heavens and the earth. Now, LORD our God, please save us from his hand so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the LORD God—You alone" ([2 Kings 19:15, 19](#)).

**5. Jesus prays for you.** Have you ever asked a godly person to pray for you, thinking that God would surely hear? You have an even better reason for God to answer your request: Jesus Himself prays for you! Paul tells us, "Christ Jesus ... is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us" ([Romans 8:34](#)). Because Jesus is interested in you, He supports you in every appropriate prayer you utter and seeks God's very best for you.

**6. The Holy Spirit prays with and for you according to God's will.** Your greatest weakness in prayer may be that you do not know what or how to ask. But here's good news: "The Spirit also joins to help in our weakness, because we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us ... according to the will of God" ([Romans 8:26-27](#)). The Holy Spirit knows God's will and guides you to pray according to God's will.

**7. Your Father wants to answer the requests of His child.** God answers prayer because of who you are in relation to Him. Jesus commanded you to pray to God as Father: "Our Father in heaven" ([Matthew 6:9](#)). Your relationship as a child of God ought to influence the way you pray. God hears you because you are His child.

**8. Your Master wants to answer the requests of His servant.** You can also pray on the basis of being God's servant. The cause of God cannot be separated from that of His servants. If you are His servant, your prayers touch His work and interest Him. After the dedication of the temple, Solomon prayed as a servant to his Master (see [1 Kings 8:59-60](#) below).

#### Master-Servant

"May my words ... be near the LORD our God day and night, so that He may uphold His servant's cause and ... so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God. There is no other!" ([1 Kings 8:59-60](#)).

## Reasons God Doesn't Answer Prayer

Any sin is serious and hinders prayer. We want to avoid all sin, but we are wise to give special attention to sins the Bible specifically identifies as hindrances to prayer.

① Read the Scriptures below (Psalm 66:18; Isaiah 59:1-2; Hebrews 3:12, 18-19; James 1:5-8; 4:2-3). Underline reasons God doesn't answer prayer or actions that hinder prayer.

"If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened" (NIV).—Psalm 66:18

"The LORD's hand is not too short to save, and His ear is not too deaf to hear. But your iniquities have built barriers between you and your God, and your sins have made Him hide His face from you so that He does not listen."—Isaiah 59:1-2

"Watch out, brothers, so that there won't be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart that departs from the living God. And to whom did He 'swear that they would not enter His rest,' if not those who disobeyed? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief."—Hebrews 3:12, 18-19

"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives to all generously and without criticizing, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith without doubting. For the doubter is like the surging sea, driven and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. An indecisive man is unstable in all his ways."—James 1:5-8

"You desire and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and don't receive because you ask wrongly, so that you may spend it on your desires for pleasure."—James 4:2-3

② Below is a list of sins that are reasons God doesn't answer prayer or says no, followed by a series of Scriptures. Match the sin with the Scripture that mentions it by writing one or more references beside each sin. [Click for answer\(s\)](#)

Anger/wrath: \_\_\_\_\_

Broken relationships: \_\_\_\_\_

Doubting/unbelief: \_\_\_\_\_

Hypocrisy: \_\_\_\_\_

Idolatry: \_\_\_\_\_

Indifference to need: \_\_\_\_\_

Unforgiveness: \_\_\_\_\_

Ezekiel 14:3 • "Son of man, these men have set up idols in their hearts and have put sinful stumbling blocks before their faces. Should I be consulted by them at all?"

Proverbs 21:13 • "The one who shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will himself also call out and not be answered."

Matthew 5:23-24 • "If you are offering your gift on the altar, and there you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift."

Matthew 6:5 • "Whenever you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by people. I assure you: They've got their reward!"

Matthew 6:14-15 • "If you forgive people their wrongdoing, your heavenly Father will forgive you as well. But if you don't forgive people, your Father will not forgive your wrongdoing."

1 Timothy 2:8 • "I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting" (KJV).

1 Peter 3:7 • "Husbands, in the same way, live with your wives with understanding of their weaker nature yet showing them honor as co-heirs of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered."



