

# The Art of Jewish Prayer

Meyerland Minyan  
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## Outline

- 1) Prayer is fundamental to Judaism. Why?
- 2) Barriers to Prayer
- 3) Historical Perspective
- 4) Standardized Prayer
- 5) Relating to Prayer
- 6) Conclusion

## Sources

1. And the Lord God said to the serpent, Because you have done this, you are cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon your belly shall you go, and dust shall you eat all the days of your life (Genesis: 3:14)
2. R. Simon b. Yohai was asked by his disciples: Why did not the manna come down unto Israel once annually? He replied: I shall give a parable: This thing may be compared to a king of flesh and blood who had one son, whom he provided with maintenance once a year, so that he would visit his father once a year only. Thereupon he provided for his maintenance every day, so that he called on him every day. The same with Israel. (Talmud Yoma 76a)
3. And it shall come to pass, if you shall give heed diligently to my commandments which I command you this day, to love the Lord your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul (Deuteronomy 11:13, Nefesh Chaim)
4. It has been taught: To love the Lord your God and to serve Him with all your heart. What is Service of Heart? You must need say, Prayer. (Talmud Taanit 2a)

5. Take with you words, and turn to the Lord; say to him: Forgive all iniquity, and receive us graciously; so will we offer the words of our lips instead of calves. (Hosea 14:3)
6. And Adam knew Eve his wife; (Genesis 4:1)
7. The Lord is near to all those who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth. (Psalms 145:18)
8. Bar Kappara expounded: What short text is there upon which all the essential principles of the Torah depend? In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He will direct thy paths. (Talmud Berachot 63a)
9. It has been stated: R. Jose son of R. Hanina said: The Tefillahs were instituted by the Patriarchs. R. Joshua b. Levi says: The Tefillahs were instituted to replace the daily sacrifices. It has been taught in accordance with R. Jose b. Hanina, and it has been taught in accordance with R. Joshua b. Levi. It has been taught in accordance with R. Jose b. Hanina: Abraham instituted the morning Tefillah, as it says, And Abraham got up early in the morning to the place where he had stood (Genesis 19:27), and 'standing' means only prayer, as it says, Then stood up Phineas and prayed. Isaac instituted the afternoon Tefillah, as it says, And Isaac went out to meditate in the field (Genesis 24:63), and 'meditation' means only prayer, as it says, A prayer of the afflicted when he fainteth and poureth out his meditation before the Lord. Jacob instituted the evening prayer, as it says, And he lighted upon the place (Genesis 28:11), and 'pegi'ah' means only prayer. (Talmud Berachot 26b)
10. ***Dear God  
Give me the courage to let go,  
And let you in.  
I know you love me.  
And with your help,  
I will find all the purpose, joy, and happiness  
You want me to have. (Leibel Randolph from Aish.com)***

## **Unanswered Prayers** **(Garth Brooks -Fences)**

Just the other night a hometown football game  
My wife and I ran into my old high school flame  
And as I introduced them the past came back to me  
And I couldn't help but think of the way things used to be.

She was the one that I'd wanted for all times  
And each night I'd spend praying that God would make her mine  
And if he'd only grant me this wish I wished back then  
I'd never ask for anything again.

(chorus)

Sometimes I thank God for unanswered prayers  
Remember when you're talking to the man upstairs  
That just because he doesn't answer doesn't mean he don't care  
Some of gods greatest gifts are unanswered prayers.

She wasn't quite the angel that I remembered in my dreams  
And I could tell that time had changed me  
In her eyes, too, it seemed  
We tried to talk about the old days  
There wasn't much we could recall  
I guess the lord knows what he's doing after all.

And as she walked away and I looked at my wife.