Prayer is a request or petition to God

There are several different kinds of prayer.

Secret Prayers - Individual

Matthew 6 verse 6

But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

Group Prayers

Matthew 18 verse 20

For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."

Public Prayers - Church wide

Matthew 6 verse 5

"When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. Prayers consist of or can include resisting or attacking satan

Warfare

Ephesians 6 verse 10-11

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

Adoration - Worship

Daniel 4 v 34-35

"But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; for His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom endures from generation to generation.

35 "All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, but He does according to His will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of earth; and no one can ward off His hand or say to Him, 'What have You done?'

Confession

1 John 1 verse 9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Supplication

1 Timothy 2 verse 1-4

First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. 3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Intercession

James 5 verse 14-15

Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; 15 and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.

Thanksgiving

Philippians 4 verse 6

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Declaration

Mark 11 verse 13 -16

13 Seeing at a distance a fig tree in leaf, He went to see if perhaps He would find anything on it; and when He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs.

14 He said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again!" And His disciples were listening. 15 Then they came to Jerusalem. And He entered the temple and began to drive out those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves; 16 and He would not permit anyone to carry merchandise through the temple.

Personal Conditions to Pray Effectively

Purity of Heart

Psalm 66 verse 18 -19

If I regard wickedness in my heart, the Lord will not hear; 19 But certainly God has heard; He has given heed to the voice of my prayer.

Believing in Christ's Name

Matthew 21 verse 22

And Jesus answered and said to them, "Truly I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' it will happen.

22 And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

According to God's Will

1 John 5 verse 14

This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

A Forgiving Heart

Matthew 6 verse 14

For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Having Confident Expectations

Mark 11 verse 24

Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.

Having Tenacity

Luke 18 verse 1-8

Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart, 2 saying, "In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man. 3 There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me legal protection from my opponent.' 4 For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, 5 yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out." 6 And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge said; 7 now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? 8 I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

1 Timothy 6 verse 12

Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Hindrances to Prayers Being Answered

Sin

God cannot hear.

Psalm 66 verse 18-19

If I regard wickedness in my heart, the Lord will not hear; but certainly God has heard; He has given heed to the voice of my prayer.

Selfishness - Wrong Motive

James 4 verse 3

You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

Doubt - Unbelief

James 1 verse 5-8

But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, 8 being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Disobedience - Rebellion

Proverbs 28 verse 9

He who turns away his ear from listening to the law, even his prayer is an abomination.

Pride - Haughtiness

Luke 18 verse 11-12

The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.'