

## “CAN ANYONE PRAY?”

Certainly, this is a probing question worthy of consideration. The short biblical answer to the question, “*Can Anyone Pray*” is “NO..,” although many are not aware of this biblical conclusion and reality.

### Let’s examine a few facts:

- #1) Prayer is privileged, two-way spiritual communication between man and God, in which (under the New Covenant) a Christian speaks to his heavenly Father on the basis of his relationship with God through His Son and Holy Spirit.
- #2) Prayer is addressed to the Father as Jesus taught His disciples when “...*one of His disciples said to Him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.’ So He said to them, ‘When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven...’*” - Luke 11:1-2
- #3) Prayer is one of the ways Christians come to the Father, through Jesus – “*Jesus said to him. ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’*” – John 14:6
- #4) Prayer is a spiritual blessing and privilege belonging to Christians because all spiritual blessings are in Christ – “*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every **spiritual blessing** in the heavenly places in Christ.*” – Ephesians 1:3
- #5) The **righteous** are Christians. “*For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*” – II Corinthians 5:21
  - God hears the prayers of the righteous. “*For the eyes of the Lord are on the **righteous**, and His ears are open to their prayers...*” – I Peter 3:12 / John 9:31
- #6) God’s Holy Spirit makes intercession through prayer for the saints: “*Now He who searches the hearts know what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes **intercession for the saints** according to the will of God.*” – Romans 8:26
  - Christians are saints – I Cor 1:2 / I Cor 14:33 / I Cor 16:1 / Eph 1:1
- #7) **To Pray by becoming a true Christian, one must do all the bible declares relative to **Salvation****, culminating with baptism into Christ, in which at the same time one puts on Christ: “*For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*” – Gal 3:27 / the prerequisite process to salvation, culminating with baptism involves: **Hearing** the Gospel (Rom 10:17 / I Cor 15:1-4), **Believing** that Jesus is the Son of God (Jn 8:24), **Repenting** of sins (Acts 17:30), **Confessing** Jesus to be Lord (Rom 10:9-10) and being **Baptized** (Acts 2:38). One is saved by grace, through faith when obedient to the gospel (Eph 2:8 / Romans 16:25-26).