PRAYER ELEMENTS

Often best to LISTEN to GOD for a moment for any insights/Scriptures to guide you before praying through any of these dimensions of prayer.

PRAISE
- To “praise” God is to “prize” God...declaring divine honor
- JESUS, you are GREATER than __________________ (anything in creation, your life, or you past, present & future)
- Praise takes focus off self... freeing you to focus on GOD... and not on yourself
- China - world's fastest growing church... 80% of prayers are PRAISE... builds faith/boldness/God's greatness in disciples of Jesus
- Use Colossians 1:15-20, Philippians 2:6-10 as springboards for praise

WAITING
- Waiting is not necessarily a time of listening, but rather giving God our attention and honor through silence
- Waiting says softly... I need you Jesus... You are the King of ALL Kings... it is my greatest honor to serve you God
- Give God's Spirit opportunity to testify with your spirit that you are his son/daughter – Rom 8:15-16
- Be STILL and KNOW that I am GOD. I will be EXALTED among the nations... the earth... on campus - Psalm 46:10

CONFESSION
- To AGREE with God... calling it what He calls it... not just saying SORRY, but OWNING it with God & others
- Be a QUICK CONFESSOR with GOD & OTHERS... don't let it build up
- Confessing sin with a trusted brother/sister brings it into the LIGHT and BREAKS the power of it in you – James 5:16
- Declare... JESUS, you are GREATER than __________________ (whatever sin or habitual sin... from past or present)
- Be confident when we confess our sin. God is faithful and just. He forgives and purifies us from all unrighteousness – I John 1:9

READ/MEDITATE ON SCRIPTURE
- As you read Scripture:
  - Ask God's Spirit to help you perceive a fresh word
  - Recognize these as the spectacular Words of God!
    Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. Mark 13:31
  - Be attentive to words or phrases which stand out
  - Hang out there... don't rush on... ask God for insights
  - Ask God how you are to obey, or who to share it with?
  - Read 
  - PRAISE
  - CONFESSION
  - WAITING
  - PRAYING FOR OTHERS
  - INTERCESSION
  - PETITION
  - THANKSGIVING – Ephesians 5:20 & I Thessalonians 5:18

SCRIPTURE PRAYING
- Speak prayers in Scripture back to God... HE LOVES IT... Matt 6:9-13; Eph 1:15-23, 3:14-21; Phil 1:9-11; Heb 13:20-21
- Rephrase... Thank you, God, I am presented holy in your sight, without blemish and free from accusation – Col 1:22
- Put friends’ names in scripture: May the same Spirit that rose Jesus from the grave live and thrive in “________” - Eph 1:19-20

WATCHING
- To watch is to be awake, vigilant, and alert... in order to guard... in order to see how to strategically move forward
- To watch is to open our spiritual eyes to discern by the power of the Spirit:
  - What is God wanting you to see... AROUND you... on CAMPUS... where the KINGDOM ISN'T?
  - What is hiding in the shadows? How is the enemy gaining footholds in you or relationships or campus or elsewhere?
  - What does God want to do THROUGH you?
- By God’s Spirit, we see beyond the surface of a situation: to see the root or what is behind the scenes, and pray for Jesus to penetrate it

INTERCESSION
- Praying for OTHERS who are in need of Almighty God showing himself:
  - this is not done lightly, but w/great confidence in Jesus’ authority
- We are crying out to God... who gives life from the dead and calls things that are not as though they were – Rom 4:17
- As intercessors we must be ready to respond in playing a strategic role for who/what we are interceding for
- We are to pray and not give up – Luke 18:1-8 (Jesus & persistent widow)

PETITION
- Praying for OURSELVES... being confident in our IDENTITY in Jesus... being HONEST... SPECIFIC... THANKFUL... EXPECTANT
- Praying for:
  - God’s gold/silver/precious jewels to abound in us... and the wood, hay & stubble be burned off! I Cor 3:12-13
  - The core teaching of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount to thrive in our attitudes/actions – Matt 5-7
  - For the DNA of Jesus to be in us, being filled with joy as we obediently make other disciples who are filled with joy

THANKSGIVING – Ephesians 5:20 & 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- Gratitude/thankfulness is a discipline which takes intentional development
- Have nothing to do with complaining... cultivate gratefulness in you/others
- Thank God for what you see Him doing in people you are helping move towards Jesus, your own life, on campus, among the nations
- Sprinkle thanksgiving and praise throughout all dimensions of prayer
SINGING
- Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord – Eph 5:19, Col 3:16
- 41 of the Psalms refer to “singing praises” to the Lord – Psalm 96
- Grow in the joy of singing to the Lord apart from Sunday morning
- “I sing the Doxology and dismiss the Devil.” Mary Slessor, missionary to China

LISTENING
- Pause and ask God for any further insights:
  - from the time of prayer
  - about moving the Gospel forward in certain relationships
  - about personal next steps of joyful obedience
  - possibly write down/journal insights and next steps
- If not hearing God now about something, it is totally normal. Simply continue to be attentive to his voice in upcoming days
- As Jesus listened to the Father so we must grow in it as his disciples
  - The Spirit of Truth will guide us into all truth – John 16:13
  - This is essential to keep in step with the Spirit – Gal 5:16
  - To powerfully live out Jesus’ mission as his disciples –Matt 28:18-20
- Only as we hear the Father’s voice… can we dispel the voices of the world
- We must stop living like the voice of the Devil is greater than the voice of the Holy Spirit
- Jesus’ sheep FOLLOW him because they KNOW his voice Jn 10:1-5
- “The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy: I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” John 10:10 (see below to recognize Jesus’ voice vs. the thief’s voice)

JESUS’ VOICE
speaks in present tense – I AM
- how to deal with past | John 1:9
- how to deal w/future Matt 6:34
speaks with peace/assurance Jn 14:27
will be consistent w/Bible
leads you to obey God
about sin – conviction John 16:8
about sin – that is what you were | Cor 6:9-11
to give life to us/othersJohn 10:10
affirms our identity in Jesus Rom 8:14-17
appointed go/bear fruit that lasts Jn 15:16
make disciples of all nations Matt 28:19

THIEF’S VOICE
speaks/keeps you in past – guilt
speaks/keeps you in future – worry
speaks with fear & accusation
avoids Bible or takes out of context
leads you to not obey God
condemnation Rom 8:1
sin is still your identity
to give death to us/others
identity from what always changes
you are not capable of doing that
just for professionals/not your concern

PRAISE
- Praise God for his faithfulness, character and future answers to prayer
- Praise in private prayer…prepares us to conquer foes in our public lives
- Praise God for the privilege of our being his disciples who are actively helping others to become disciples who multiply

ENCOUNTER JESUS THROUGH PRAYER
Starting with praise, you can easily spend one hour in prayer by praying through each section for 5 minutes!