

Guide to Conversational Prayer

“Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by My Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in My name, there am I with them.” – Matthew 18:19-20

God desires your fellowship, and you can participate in a new dimension of fellowship and communication with Him through conversational prayer. Conversational prayer is a format that can be used in a group. It is informal prayer where the objective is to speak conversationally with God from our hearts. In conversational prayer, pray briefly aloud several times. Don’t worry about impressing those who hear you. And be less concerned with the form of your prayer or with the specific words than with simply communicating with God.

Here are several guidelines:

1. *Start praying rather than sharing requests.* Much of your valuable prayer time can be taken up in sharing requests rather than praying. Usually the one with the burden for someone or something will be the one to initiate prayer about that person or thing.
2. *Pray about one topic at a time.* It is important to pray topically as much as possible. One person may pray about a sick friend, and the second person can stay on that topic by asking for strength for the family while the sick one recuperates. Then another may pray that the family’s financial needs will be met during this lengthy illness. When there is a pause, someone may change the topic. For example, after a pause, a person may pray for help in having a consistent quiet time. Another may request that his quiet time be more meaningful. Another may pray that he will have the time to meditate on the Scriptures he reads during his quiet time.

You want to keep from skipping around from topic to topic. You don’t want a disjointed time, but a time when you can join in meaningful prayer in which you agree together concerning the requests

at hand. From your heart you want to be praying along with the person who is praying aloud. They will then in turn be inaudibly praying along with you as you pray.

3. *Pray briefly.* You will pray briefly if you pray about only one aspect of a subject. You may wish to leave other aspects of the subject to other people. By each person praying briefly, you each get to pray again sooner than if each person were to pray longer. This keeps each one alert, awake, and involved in what is being prayed.
4. *Pray spontaneously, not in sequence.* Don’t pray around the circle, but let each person pray for that which interests him. For example, if six subjects are prayed over in the conversational prayer time, you may have a vital interest in only three of them. Don’t pray for something about which you are uninformed or not motivated. In conversational prayer there is freedom to pray when you are ready and to pray about items that you believe you should pray for.

Praying spontaneously does not mean praying thoughtlessly. While another is praying on the subject at hand, you have time for the Holy Spirit to confirm in your

Session 7

own heart what you would like to pray.

SUMMARY

1. Don't share – pray
2. One topic at a time
3. Be brief
4. Be spontaneous

As you start praying as a group, there will often be a few moments of silence while people quiet their hearts and focus their attention on the business at hand—that of praying effectively.

Normally the focus of prayer should start with God and move toward requests. Usually in a group it is best to start with *praise and thanksgiving*. Someone may start praising the Lord for His greatness, and another will praise His power. Still another might praise God for His faithful-

ness. Another may thank Him for a neighbor who has trusted Christ recently. Another may thank Him for the abundant life he has in Christ.

You may then pray for *needs within the group*. You will find that your relationships with others in the group will grow more personal as you pray for each other. You will also find that you have an added burden to pray for each other during the week.

Next you might pray for *needs outside the group*. The number of needs is limitless. But it is more important to do a thorough job of praying for a few items than to scatter the prayers ineffectually over too wide a range.

By praying conversationally, you will experience a new excitement about praying in a group. You will find that the time goes much more quickly than you might want. You will also find that it leads to more praying – both in the group and when you are alone.

