

## Theology Simply Explained — WSC98 “Prayer Is an Offering”

**Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 98—especially explaining how prayer is an offering of worship with the Bible shaping the desires that we offer up, as well as how we view and present ourselves and how we view and address God.**

Q98 What is prayer? *Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to His will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of His mercies.*

**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via [hopewellarp.org](http://hopewellarp.org))**

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Catechism question this week is, What is prayer? The answer is. Prayer is an offering up of our desires under God. For things agreeable to his will in the name of christ. With confession of our sins. And thankful acknowledgment. Of his mercies. And so reminded, first of all, the prayers and active worship.

Because it's offering something up unto god. It's not just making request of god. It is an offering up of our desires unto him. Which means we come and we make an offering of our hearts of our minds. Of desires that have been conformed. To the lords, according to scripture.

If we abide in christ and his words abide in us, He says. Ask whatever. Whatever we wish and it will be granted unto us. It is. If the lord's word is shaping our hearts, That we ask, what is agreeable to his will? So, when we come to pray, And we want to offer our desires as And acceptable form of worship and acceptable form of prayer.

We want to offer up desires that have been corrected and shaped by the bible. This is a right and Appropriate pleasing. Sacrifice unto the lord. And of course, it cannot come in any other way. Except through jesus christ, that's actually kind of redundant, isn't it? What it says, for things agreeable to his will and the name of christ.

If it wasn't in the name of christ, it wouldn't be agreeable to his will even if the content was agreeable. It wouldn't be. Uh, rightly offered to him. Except that it'd be offered. Through christ, in christ's name. So that's the first thing in prayer. That we That we offer up desires that have been made agreeable to his will by being conformed to the bible.

In the name of christ. So we not only offer up than these desires. But we offer up these desires coming through christ and as we come through christ then we recognize who we are and who God is We come through christ. Confessing that we are sinners. Confessing that we have no claim upon god, that we have demerited The good things that we ask for and therefore asking through christ, To not only is the one who puts away our demerits.

And gives us forgiveness that we might. Be able to ask but he also has merited. He is the worthiness. He is the claim that we have. Upon god, according. To god's word. And so we offer up these Bible-shaped desires through jesus which is the bible way of coming to god and recognizing That.

Uh, admitting owning Our sin before god confessing Our sins. But also not just recognizing who we are, but recognizing who goddess? Knowing him to be father, knowing him to know what we need before. We ask knowing him to be more willing to give us a good thing than we are willing to have a good thing.

Knowing him to have more willingly given his son than we come through his son to him. Knowing that christ, more willingly went to the cross. Than we have ever gone to our knees. So great is the mercy of god. And so this right acknowledgment of who we are in prayer, also needs to be joined with a right technology of who he is.

So when we come to worship god by prayer to offer up, these Bible shape desires that come through jesus because of who we are, and who God is We end up encapsulating experiencing expressing. The gospel. Every time we pray, If? We come in the biblical way. That is described here.

And so for you is you think about prayer, If you have a hard time, Praying. Uh, you're not In the right state of mind or maybe aren't as informed as you should be about what it is or just like the wisdom to know what you ought to desire. You can even desire.

You can offer up first. The desire to pray. In the biblical way. Asking god to help you even in your praying. This is. The first part then. Of praying is for offer up bible shaped desires. Then our first desire is that we would pray. In a bible shaped way.

And you can start from there. And resting upon. The help of the spirit. To conform. Your heart and mind to what, you know, from the scripture. To conform your heart and mind to christ. Then you can pray. I hope this is helpful to you. The idea of Or the question of how to pray well, or break correctly as one that.

Has. Uh, stumped. And troubled many believers. But it not me, it need not trouble you. It's not a. That's not a. Difficult thing and we're Blessed to have a.

We're blessed to have. Uh, a catechism with a good simple biblical explanation.