HOW PRAYER WORKS
THE PROPER USE OF PRAYER

"I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting."

- 1 Timothy 2:8

1. There is a right way and a wrong way to pray
   a. Every religion prays. It is not religiously correct to say "you're doing it wrong"
   b. There many books and instruction manuals, what makes us different? A: The Mystery
   c. A gardener must follow certain rules to reap: when, where, what to plant
   d. We don't know what to pray for, but we can know how to pray - Romans 8:26

2. Proper prayer requires maturity – Eph 3:20, 1 Cor 14:20
   a. God is real and he doesn't need anything from you – Acts 17:22-26
   b. Prayer is not a formula, it is not rote, or mystical – John 14:13-14, Mark 12:40
   c. Prayer is a request, but it is not something you deserve – John 15:7, Psalm 37:4
   d. Prayer is not a substitute for action, it is not magic – Gal 6:7
   e. Prayer works on you, not your circumstances – Rom 5:2-3, Col 4:3 / 1 Cor 16:9

3. Prayer requires an understanding of the word of God
   a. If understanding is the seed, then people are tilling with no seed. They get mocked.
   b. It is not the act of prayer; it's the word of God in you that works. 1Tim 2:1-4,1Thes 2:13
   c. Paul says to pray with understanding – 1 Cor 14:15
   d. Prayer is doctrinal; we must understand what God is doing – Mat 21:22, Psalm 109
   e. Grace believers tend to know what not to pray, but don't have any positive words
   f. Prayer reflects your understanding of God – Rom 1:18

4. We must pray
   a. We are instructed to pray – Rom 1:9, Rom 12:12, Rom 15:30
   b. Is this the seed on stony ground? → We need to till.
   c. Those who have understanding seem not to pray at all. Why?
   d. They don't know how it works, it passes their understanding – Phil 4:7, Eph 3:20
   e. The irreligious atheists also don't pray; because they are afraid it will work.
   f. Prayer is a thermometer of the word of God working effectually in you.

5. You must pray continually
   a. Paul says to pray without ceasing - 1 Thess 5:17, Col 4:2, 2 Cor 9:6, Gal 6:9
   b. The gardener must continually maintain to reap a good crop.
   c. Prayer produces peace of God in our care full lives – Phil 4:6-7
   d. It motivates us to minister as the Lord instructs – Eph 6:19
   e. It brings every thought captive – 2 Cor 10:5-6
   f. It gives spiritual strength – Eph 3:12-16
   g. It ministers grace living – 1 Tim 2:8