

Supplication in New Testament

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I gave a presentation about supplication in the New Testament. I wanted to share some of the scriptures in this short article.

Stronger style of prayer

Bible students are aware that the King James Version of the Bible uses two Greek words to discuss prayers and praying—the Greek noun *proseuche* (37 times) and the Greek verb *proseuchomai* (87 times).

However, there are two other Greek words that focus on the concept of supplication.

- The Greek word *deesis* (No. 1162 in *Strong’s Concordance*) is used 19 times in the King James Version of the Bible. It is translated as prayer or prayers 12 times, and it is translated as supplication or supplications six times.
- The Greek word *hiketaria* (No. 2428 in *Strong’s Concordance*) is used only one time in the King James Version of the Bible (Hebrews 5:7)—translated as supplications.

Called prayer

Here are the 12 times that the concept of intense “prayer” is used when the word *supplication* might be more enlightening.

- Luke 1:13—praying for a son
- Luke 2:37—fastings and prayers, night and day
- Luke 5:33—fasting and prayers
- Romans 10:1—praying for his genealogy
- 2 Corinthians 1:11—saints praying for Paul
- 2 Corinthians 9:14—saints praying for saints
- Philippians 1:4—Paul praying for saints
- Philippians 1:19—saints praying for Paul
- 2 Timothy 1:3—night and day for Timothy
- Hebrews 5:7—the Son of God had fervent prayers
- James 5:16—effective fervent prayer
- 1 Peter 3:12—the Lord hears their prayers

Called supplication

Here are the six times that the description “supplication” is used. (Ephesians 6:18 used the Greek word twice.)

- Acts 1:14—continued in supplication
- Ephesians 6:18—supplication for all saints
- Philippians 4:6—supplication with thanksgiving
- 1 Timothy 2:1—supplication for all men
- 1 Timothy 5:5—supplication night and day

Supplication for yourself

Notice scriptures about the Son of God practicing supplication for Himself.

In the first example, the word *supplication* is not used. However, notice the example of the supplication.

Luke 22:41-44—“And He was withdrawn from them about a stone’s throw, and He knelt down and prayed, saying, ‘Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.’ Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”

In the second example, notice that both Greek words, *deesis* and *hiketaria*, are used.

Hebrews 5:7—“Who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers [*deesis*] and supplications [*hiketaria*], with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear.”

Supplication for other people

Notice two examples about supplication for other people.

Romans 10:1—“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.”

2 Timothy 1:3—“I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day.”