

## **The Evolution of Prayer In and Through Human Consciousness**

We live in a relative universe of duality, materiality, space and time. One aspect of this relative universe is it is undergoing constant change. Our universe and everything in it is evolving into something new and different.

Human consciousness or our soul, although not part of the relative universe, is also evolving and changing. A part of our soul growth is an evolution in understanding of the nature of God. The premise here is that as our understanding or concept of God evolves, so too does our approach to prayer. There appears to be four distinct levels or stages of this evolution. Perhaps more will follow as we continue our soul growth.

	<b>God Concept</b>	<b>Approach to Prayer</b>
Stage 1 Intercession:	God of the Old Testament; ruler, judge  supernatural being, loving but also punishing and vengeful. A god of form.	Prayer of  pleading, begging, bargaining.
Stage 2	God of the New Testament; loving parent giving, caring, compassionate, but still a god of form.	Prayer of Petition: asking, claiming, believing, trusting.
Stage 3	God of the new thought movement, mental science, transcendentalism. God is Mind, Principle, First Cause, Creator. No longer a god of form, somewhat impersonal, but totally dependable.	Consciousness expanding prayer; use of affirmations, visualizations, but based on human need
As we move beyond Stage 3, a fundamental shift in consciousness takes place. In Stage 4, we leave our human needs and wants “outside” and seek only to experience God as Presence.		
Stage 4	God of the mystic, a loving presence to be experienced from within as universal consciousness, infinite energy, the life force, and omnipresent spirit.	Non-directed prayer of silence, w/o words or thoughts, w/o need or wants, except to commune with the Infinite, with God.