

## Effective Praying

**Matthew 6:5-8** *“...your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.”*

- It is very important to know that God already knows what you need before you pray. With this understanding in mind, the most important thing in prayer is not so much focusing on the content of your prayer but more so focusing on the content of your heart when you pray. The condition of your heart has greater impact on your prayer than the words you pray.

**Matthew 7:7-11** *“Ask and it will be give to you; seek and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Of if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him.” [Also read Luke 11:9-13]*

- Key word in this story, is ‘if a son’ shall ask...what does this mean? Are you a son of God is the question. When you are a son, you have the right to ask for what you need because there is a birthright that comes from being a son. The Bible says in Romans 8:14, that those who are led by the Spirit are the sons of God. Key word in all of this is “Spirit”, if you live in the Spirit, then you are a son of God. Now, if you are going to ask God for anything, make sure you ask Him as a son—that is one who is in the spirit.

**Matthew 18:19** *“Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.”*

- Key word in this Scripture is agreement. When you pray, what are you in agreement with? Let me off a couple of suggestions. When you pray, you should be in agreement with the word of God and the Holy Spirit. Secondly, you should find someone who you trust that can come in agreement with you for God to move in your life.

**Matthew 21:21-22** *“Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ it will be done.’ And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”*

- Is it possible to have faith and doubt at the same time? The answer is yes. This is why Jesus says when you pray to only have faith and nothing less. Doubt is the one little thing to stop God from answering your prayer.
- When praying, it is very important to see yourself receiving the very thing you are praying for in faith. The problem that many Christians have is that they pray but they don’t believe that they receive. This is why it is important to pray in faith, in the spirit, and see yourself having what you prayed for, that way you can end your time in prayer with God in thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is basically where you thank God for giving what you asked of him.

**Mark 11:22-23** *“Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.” “Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.”*

**John 14:13-14** *“And whatever you ask in my name that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”*

- The key part of this is, “ask in my name.” Jesus is literally saying to you and I that if we pray in his name and not our own, we can have tremendous power available to us when we pray.



If you think about it, would you rather ask God for something or have Jesus ask God for you? I rather have the only one begotten of the Father, Jesus, praying on my behalf. I am 100% confident that Jesus can do a much better job than I can. This is why praying in Jesus' name is essential for the believer.

**John 15:7** *"If you abide in Me and my words abide in you, you will ask what you desire and it shall be done for you."*

- The key part of this Scripture is "abide." The question is, "what is abiding in your heart?" If you got the wrong stuff abiding in you, then that wrong stuff is going to come out in your prayer life. Most people struggle in their prayer life to see great results and it is due to the fact that they are abiding in the wrong place or they have the wrong stuff abiding in them.
- Listen, you can never go wrong in prayer when you are abiding in the presence of God and you have your heart, mind, and spirit bathed, filled, soaked in the Word of God. This is key to successful prayers that are answered, it is rooted in the Word of God. Ask yourself, do I pray prayers that are aligned with and in harmony with Scripture? Ask yourself, do I pray the Word?

**John 16:23-24** *"And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask and you will receive, that your joy may be full."*

- Are you truly praying in Jesus' name? Listen to me carefully, praying in Jesus' name is not just saying "in Jesus name" after you've finished praying. It more to it than that. Praying in Jesus' name is literally PRAYING THE PRAYERS THAT JESUS PRAYED OR PRAYING WHAT JESUS WOULD PRAY—this is the key to asking anything in his name and seeing God work it out for you.

#### **The Necessity of praying the Word**

**John 1:1-4** *"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men."*

- All things were created and made by "who?" The answer is "Him." Who is Him? The "Him" is the Word and the word is Jesus Christ. So the key to praying prayers that creates things out of nothing is to PRAY THE WORD.

#### **Confidence that he hears us**

**John 11:41** Jesus says openly, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me."

- We got to know without a doubt that God hears us.

**1 John 5:14-15** *"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that He hears us, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him."*

- After it is all said and done, the big thing about prayer is one, knowing that God hears us, and two, knowing that we are praying His will. How do you know what His will is for you, you know it one, by the Holy Spirit, and two, by the Word of God.

#### **God does the work not you**

**John 14:10** *"The words that I speak to you, I do not speak on my own authority; but the Father who dwells in me does the works."*

- Take peace in God and let God do the work. Don't try to do God's job but you just focusing on doing your job and that is getting to a place of faith and agreement with God's word, and then pray that very word you got into agreement with over your life and lastly, see yourself receiving that Word as yours [now] not tomorrow.



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