

Principles of Prayer

Luke 11:1-13, James 4:4

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”

*He said to them, “When you pray, say: “ ‘Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. **Luke 11:2-3***

*Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.’ ” **Luke 11:4***

*Then he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.’ **Luke 11:5-6***

*“Then the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man’s boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs. **Luke 11:7-8***

*“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. **Luke 11:9-10***

*“Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? **Luke 11:11-12***

*If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” **Luke 11:13***

Principles of Prayer

1. Prayer begins with a sense of _____

***Make prayer more effective in your life.
Plead the promises of God.***

“Lord, I need wisdom, and You said...”

*If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. **James 1:5***

“Lord, I need patience”

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23

“Lord, fill me with Your Spirit’s power.”

If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” Luke 11:13

“O God, I need forgiveness”

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

When we plead the promises of God, we know that we're walking in God's will,

because these promises are in His _____.

Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. Proverbs 16:18

2. Prayer is based on a good _____ with God.

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The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16

For prayer to be effective, we have to maintain a friendship with God.

If we live contrary to God's will, we _____ the power of prayer in our lives.

S_____ short-circuits the communication with God.

If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened Psalm 66:18

You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

James 4:4

Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” James 4:5-6

The Lord is far from the wicked but he hears the prayer of the righteous. Proverbs 15:29

We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will. John 9:31

3. Sometimes prayer can be a very _____ experience.

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How long, O Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Habakkuk 1:2

Bible characters who received a “no”

- Abraham pleaded for Sodom
- Moses to go into the Promised Land
- David prayed for his little baby to live
- Paul’s “thorn in the flesh”

Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

2 Corinthians 12:8-9

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

Matthew 26:39

Three basic reasons God says “no”

1. We ask for the wrong _____
2. We ask with the wrong _____

When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. James 4:3

3. We ask with the wrong _____

4. Effective prayer requires _____.

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How much more will a perfect, loving, generous Heavenly Father respond to the honest request of His children?

Two attributes to effective prayer

- Effective prayer is persistent
- Effective prayer is _____

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us **Ephesians 3:20**

5. Effective prayer is ultimately productive.

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Two positive effects of persistent prayer

- Sometimes God changes the events
- We are changed by prayer

The more we pray, the closer we get to the _____ of God.

Three simple words that make prayer more powerful in our lives.

1. Alone—**Have a place where every day at the same time you meet God.**
But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.
Matthew 6:6

2. A _____

3. A _____

If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” **Luke 11:13**

Key: inadequacy, Word, relationship, negate, Sin, frustrating, things, motives, timing, persistence, bold, will, Aloud, Aloud