



PRAYER THAT MOVES GOD

What Place Does Prayer Have in Your Life?

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 KJV

[16] Rejoice evermore. [17] Pray without ceasing. [18] In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

What does it mean to pray without ceasing? It doesn't just mean to pray in a marathon session, to pray without ceasing means recurring. Often, over and over.

Prayer is a gift from God. He gave us many promises regarding prayer, that he hears our prayers and will act according to his will and our requests. Is prayer an integral part of our day or is it something you do only when you need or want something? Do you pray only after you've done all the things you've wanted to do? Is prayer something you "fit in" to your schedule or is it a priority that you think about first. Prayer should not be a casual add on to your life. God wants to hear from us, he wants to be a part of every aspect of your life. Prayer shouldn't be a monologue where you do all the talking, it should be a dialogue where you allow God to reply.

When we flip the light switch and the light doesn't turn on, we know there's a problem. We should feel the same way when God doesn't answer our prayers.

Many times when we pray it's for things we desire or for our own expectations, but are we asking God for HIS will to be done instead of ours? Do we keep in mind who God is? That he is the one and only God of this universe? We start off praying to God and acknowledging who he is but the longer we pray, the more our prayer becomes our own thoughts and desires and God gets pushed aside. The more serious we are the more focused we are in our petition to God, the more earnestly we pray. Keep this in mind.

God Answers the Prayers of the Faithful for Peter:

Acts 12:1-19 KJV

[1] Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. [2] And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. [3] And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.) [4] And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people. [5] Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. [6] And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison. [7] And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands. [8] And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me. [9] And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision. [10] When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him. [11] And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews. [12] And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying. [13] And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda. [14] And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate. [15] And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel. [16] But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened the door, and saw him, they were astonished. [17] But he, beckoning unto them with the hand to hold their peace, declared unto them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, Go shew these things unto James, and to the brethren. And he departed, and went into another place. [18] Now as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the soldiers, what was become of Peter. [19] And when Herod had sought for him, and found him not, he examined the keepers, and commanded that they should be put to death. And he went down from Judaea to Caesarea, and there abode.

In order for our prayers to be answered, we have to be aware who we are talking to, **REALLY AWARE** who we are talking to. Keeping focused and not allowing our minds to drift away from the majesty of who we are talking to. God was moved by the prayer of the church because they prayed more fervently, focused, with all their heart, there was an importance behind the prayer. When was the last time we prayed fervently instead of on autopilot, it makes a big difference. Asking of God to perform only the things that God can do because we believe God is who he says he is, the holy God of scripture is a motivating factor for God to act in our life. We all need a prayer partner, someone who prays with us and on our behalf, someone who loves us and is godly. This keeps us humble.



WHEN YOU PRAY, DO YOU BELIEVE THAT GOD HAS ANSWERED YOUR PRAYER ALREADY OR DO YOU WONDER WHETHER GOD WILL HEAR YOU AND ANSWER YOUR PRAYER LEAVING YOU IN A FEELING OF FRUSTRATION.

Six Keys to Answered Prayers:

1. You Must Pray in the Name of Jesus
2. You Must Pray in the Spirit.
3. You Must Pray in Obedience to God.
4. You Must Pray in the Will of God.
5. You Must Pray in Fellowship with Believers.
6. You Must Pray in Faith.

Decisions We Need to Make Before We Can Expect Our Prayers to be Met:

1. ACCEPTING JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR PERSONAL SAVIOR

Sin separates us from God. This includes our prayer.

Isaiah 59:1-2 KJV

[1] Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: [2] But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

1 Timothy 2:3-6 KJV

[3] For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; [4] Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. [5] For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; [6] Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Hebrews 7:25 KJV

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

2. GOD WILL GRANT ME WHAT I REQUEST WHEN THE FOLLOWING 4 THINGS:

1. When my request is according to the WILL of God. It fits his character and nature.
2. When I'm asking in FAITH, believing and expecting him to answer my prayer.

James 1:6 KJV

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

3. When I'm asking in JESUS NAME. Jesus is Holy. When I ask in his name, I would be wise to acknowledge this and not treat it like a mere phrase attached to the end of my prayer.

John 14:13 KJV

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

4. When I'm asking from a PURE HEART. God does not hear us when there is sin in our life. We need to be honest about our thoughts and actions to God, and ask his forgiveness and repent of it.

Psalms 73:1 KJV

Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart.

Matthew 5:8 KJV

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Mistakes We Make in Prayer:

1. WE ASK GOD BUT THEN WE WANT TO HELP HIM

One of the most important aspects of prayer is helplessness. Acknowledging our total dependence on him to fulfill our need.

2. LITTLE THOUGHT OF GOD IN OUR PRAYER

We go on and on in our prayer about ourselves and forget about holy God. What does HE want from us?

3. PRAYING WITHOUT THE WORD OF GOD

The more we pray without the word of God, the less we will end up praying. Using the word of God to acknowledge God's promises and understanding who God is.

Prayer is the Most Important Priority in Your Life:

Luke 18:1-8 KJV

[1] And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; [2] Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: [3] And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. [4] And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; [5] Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. [6] And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. [7] And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? [8] I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?



1. A channel through which you build an intimate relationship to God.
2. You receive courage and confidence when facing life's challenges.
3. The source of your guidance for the decisions you make.
4. It is the source of healing, both emotional and physical.
5. You receive the power of the Holy Spirit for service.
6. How you receive the forgiveness of your sins.
7. Helpful in understanding the Word of God.
8. Strengthens you in times of temptations.
9. Shield you against anxiety and worry.
10. Strengthens you in times of temptations.
11. Through prayer everyone on the globe is within your reach.

When Facing any Issue the First Step is to Pray

Nehemiah 1:1-11 KJV

[1] The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the month Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace, [2] That Hanani, one of my brethren, came, he and certain men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. [3] And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire. [4] And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven, [5] And said, I beseech thee, O Lord God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments: [6] Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned. [7] We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses. [8] Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations: [9] But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there. [10] Now these are thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand. [11] O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king's cupbearer.

NEHEMIAH'S CHALLENGE:

Approach the king with a request to rebuild Jerusalem - Prayer was a big part of Nehemiah's life, in all circumstances he sought out God's will and direction. He was not without fear, overwhelming, and confusion yet he turned to God each time.

On our knees we honor the **SOVEREIGNTY** of God.

On our knees we honor His **HOLINESS**.

On our knees we **REPENT** of our sins.

On our knees we acknowledge our **INADEQUACY**.

On our knees we receive the clearest **VISION** of His will.

On our knees we experience the enabling **POWER** of the Holy Spirit for our task.

On our knees we **TRUST** him to hear and answer prayer.



8 Things to Remember When Facing Any Issue:

1. God is interested in your problem. He is interested in everything about us.
2. God is greater than my problem. Is there anything God cannot do?
3. Our first response should be to seek the lord. Do we seek God's advice daily? He already knows the details of our problems as well as the solution.
4. It may be that God wants to involve other people in our prayer about our problem. Sometimes God is needing to do something in someone else life through your problem.
5. God will give us a solution to our problems. It may not be what we expect, but he will not leave a situation open ended. He delays to get us right, first. Timing is essential to God. God's solution may not make sense to us.
6. Our prayer should be God centered not problem centered. Emphasis should be God's awesomeness, NOT the issue.
7. God's solution usually requires an act of faith.
8. God's solution is always the best. You CANNOT improve on God's way!

