

TWELVE POINTS FOR EFFECTIVE PRAYER

1. **PRAY IN JESUS' NAME** - John 14:13-14 & John 16:23-24 "...truly, truly I say to you, whatsoever you ASK THE FATHER IN MY NAME, He will give you. Until now, you have asked nothing in My name: ask, and YOU SHALL RECEIVE, that your joy may be full."
2. **ASK ACCORDING TO HIS WILL** - I 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 in whatever we ask, we know that we HAVE the petitions that we have asked of Him." How do we know His will? His WORD is His will, so if you don't know His word very well, you won't know how to pray effectively.
3. **PRAY WITHOUT CEASING** - I Thess. 5:17 Always be in an attitude of prayer - talking to the Lord as you drive your car, as you work, etc., but be sure to set aside a time for concentrated prayer everyday. Don't worry if you don't get answers as soon as you would like. Daniel prayed for 21 days before he got an answer (see Daniel 10:13). Don't get discouraged. Pray until you get the answer - this is called "Praying Through."
4. **PRAY AUDIBLY** - Psalm 34:17 "The righteous cry, and the LORD HEARS, and DELIVERS them out of all their troubles." Use simple, natural words. Talk to God in your own language - He understands it. Praying OUT LOUD is for OUR benefit, not God's. God can hear us pray when we pray silently (He can read our thoughts and our heart), but praying out loud helps us, so that our minds do not wander during prayer.
5. **SPEND LESS TIME ASKING FOR THINGS** - Instead, confess that God's blessings are coming upon you. Give Him thanks for the answer you know by faith is coming. Phil. 4:6-7 "Be ANXIOUS for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with THANKSGIVING, let your REQUESTS BE MADE KNOWN TO GOD. And the PEACE OF GOD, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
6. **WORK ON YOUR ATTITUDE** - Ask for the faith and trust to put everything in God's hands and leave the results up to Him. We can put it all in God's hands because He loves us and wants what is best for us. I Peter 5:5-7 "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting ALL your care (worry, anxiety, fear) upon Him, because He cares for you."
7. **FORGIVE AND DON'T HOLD RESENTMENT** - Pray for those who have hurt or mistreated you, or even those who dislike you. Resentment blocks our spiritual power, because it is sin, and it drives a wedge between us and God. Anger, resentment or bitterness GRIEVES and QUENCHES the Holy Spirit, and gives Satan a foothold in our lives. I Thess. 5:19; Eph. 4:26-32; Mark 11:25; Matthew 5:23-24; Luke 6:27-28
8. **PRACTICE THE PRESENCE OF GOD** - Picture God bending down to you and giving you his full attention ("bowing down His ear" - Psalm 4:1 & 3; Psalm 31:1-2; II Kings 19:16; Isa. 37:17). Remember, because the curtain in the temple was torn from top to bottom, God has granted His saints access to Him, to come into His presence through prayer. It is a privilege to be able to come into His very presence. In Isa. 30:15 we read that in "quietness and confidence shall be your strength." In Psalm 46:10-11 we hear God speaking, "Be still, and know that I am God." Also, when we PRAISE Him, we know that we are in His presence, and the "Lord of hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge."

9. **AGREE IN PRAYER WITH ANOTHER BELIEVER** - Share with another Believer your prayer request, and agree together for the answer. Matthew 18:19
10. **PRAY IN FAITH** - We must believe that God has heard us and is answering our prayer. Some say, "My faith is weak." It doesn't take great faith to believe in a God who never fails. Mark 11:22 "Have faith in God." Jeremiah 32:17 & 27 "Ah Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and Your outstretched arm! NOTHING is TOO DIFFICULT for You." "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh; is ANYTHING too DIFFICULT for Me?" Mark 10:27 "But looking at them, Jesus said, 'With men it is impossible, but not with God; for WITH GOD all things are POSSIBLE.'" Luke 1:37 "For with God NOTHING will be impossible." Luke 18:27 "But He said, 'The things which are IMPOSSIBLE with men are POSSIBLE with God.'"

Remember, fear is the opposite of faith. Do not have fear, but have complete trust without doubt, and commit it all into His loving care. Mark 11:23-24; James 1:6-8 "But let him ASK IN FAITH, nothing wavering (doubting). For he that wavers is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. FOR LET NOT THAT MAN THINK THAT HE SHALL RECEIVE ANYTHING of the Lord. A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways."
11. **BE PATIENT** - As were David, Daniel and Job. Remember, man has a free will to choose, so when praying for another person, it takes time, because God is doing His work of drawing, convicting, revealing or chastening, but God will not force His will or your will on another person. Some things take time, because God is working all things together, and waiting for certain things to happen. Romans 4:16-21; Rom. 8:28; Psalm 37:5-7; Hebrews 10:35-36
12. **LIVE A LIFE THAT IS PLEASING TO GOD** - I John 3:22 "And whatsoever WE ASK, WE RECEIVE OF HIM, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are PLEASING IN HIS SIGHT." I Peter 3:12 "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and HIS EARS ARE OPEN unto their PRAYERS; but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." Psalm 66:18 "If I REGARD WICKEDNESS in my heart, the Lord will not hear; but certainly God has heard; He has given heed to the voice of my PRAYER." Read also James 4:1-6. Just TRUST and OBEY, and you will be happy in Jesus.

PRAYER FROM EPHESIANS
(Ephesians 1:17-19 & 3:16-19)

Father God, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I ask that the eyes of MY understanding would be enlightened; that I may know what is the hope of YOUR calling for ME, and what are the riches of the glory of MY inheritance in the saints; and what is the exceeding greatness of YOUR power toward ME, because I believe, according to the working of YOUR mighty power. I ask that You would grant ME, according to the riches of Your glory, to be strengthened with Your might through Your Spirit in MY inner man, that Christ may dwell in MY heart through faith, that I would be rooted and grounded in love, that I may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height, and to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; and that I may be filled with all the fullness of God. I ask You to give ME the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of YOU. Thank You, Lord.