

Does God listen to you?

How effective are your prayers? Do you feel confident that God hears you? Or do your petitions seem to carom off the ceiling right back at you? You don't have to raise the roof in order to get your requests to rise higher. You can pray successfully even in your closet.

It doesn't matter so much where we pray. Prevailing in prayer requires that we ask for the right things. Too many of us present God wish lists as if he were a grand Pooh-Bah Santa Claus. Wise parents don't give their children everything they request. Neither does a loving God.

One type of prayer, however, the Lord gladly hears and answers. It's what Solomon requested and received. Pray that God will give you the wisdom that you need to deal with your spouse, children, friends, associates, and parents. If you do that, you can be confident of his response.

Praying for discerning wisdom may also reduce the number of anxious, worry-driven prayers—the types that never get past the ceiling. **“If any of you lacks wisdom . . . ask God, who gives generously to all,” James 1:5.**