

Advice on praying

Matthew 6:7

When you pray, don't babble on and on as people of other religions do. They think their prayers are answered only by repeating their words again and again.

John 15:7

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want, and it will be done for you.

James 1:5-6

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. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

Romans 8:26-27

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

Mark 11:24-25

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.

Assurance that God hears and answers prayer

1 John 5:14

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

Luke 11:9

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.

Psalm 91:15

*He will call upon me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and honor him.*

Successful prayer requires:

A humble heart

2 Chronicles 7:14

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Wholeheartedness

Jeremiah 29:13

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Obedience

1 John 3:22

And we will receive whatever we request because we obey him and do the things that please him.

“Whatever” does not apply unless you are praying in accordance with God’s will and in obedience to His commandments. See John 15:7 cited above in **Advice on praying**.

Faith

1 John 5:14-15

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

Righteousness

Psalm 34:17

*The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them;
he delivers them from all their troubles.*

The righteous are those who live according to God’s will—which sounds a lot like people who “practice these principles” in all their affairs.

Love of God

Psalm 91:14-16

*"Because he loves me," says the LORD,
"I will rescue him; I will protect him,
for he acknowledges my name.*

He will call upon me,

and I will answer him;

I will be with him in trouble,

I will deliver him and honor him.

With long life will I satisfy him

and show him my salvation."

The word “love” signifies a deep longing or desire for the Lord, specifically, longing for His redemption in one’s life.

When are prayers *not* pleasing to God?

Long-term, chronic rejection of God can bring judgment

Proverbs 1:23-28

"If you had responded to my rebuke, I would have poured out my heart to you and made my thoughts known to you. Since you rejected me when I called and no one gave heed when I stretched out my hand, since you ignored all my advice and would not accept my rebuke, I in turn will laugh at your disaster; I will mock when calamity overtakes you—when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind, when distress and trouble overwhelm you. Then they will call to me but I will not answer; they will look for me but will not find me."

Disobedience

Deuteronomy 1:45

You came back and wept before the LORD, but he paid no attention to your weeping and turned a deaf ear to you.

1 Samuel 14:37

So Saul asked God, "Shall I go down after the Philistines? Will you give them into Israel's hand?" But God did not answer him that day.

Holding on to sin

Psalms 66:18

*If I had cherished sin in my heart,
the Lord would not have listened;*

Neglect of mercy

Proverbs 21:13

*If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor,
he too will cry out and not be answered.*

Despising the law

Proverbs 28:9

If anyone turns a deaf ear to the law, even his prayers are detestable

Evil deeds unrepented

Micah 3:4

Then they will cry out to the LORD, but he will not answer them. At that time he will hide his face from them because of the evil they have done.

Isaiah 1:15

*When you spread out your hands in prayer,
I will hide my eyes from you;
even if you offer many prayers,
I will not listen.
Your hands are full of blood;*

Instability or doubt

James 1:6-8

But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

Not heeding God's call

Zechariah 7:13

"When I called, they did not listen; so when they called, I would not listen," says the LORD Almighty."

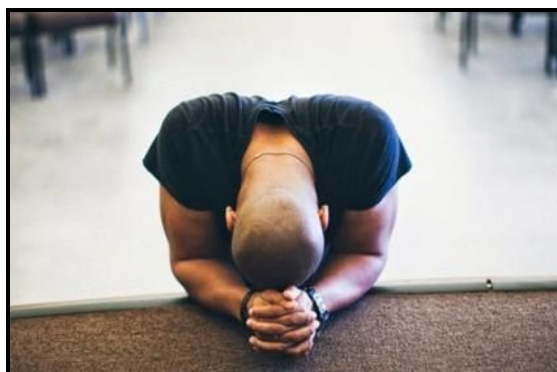
Selfish motives

James 4:3

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

How effective are your prayers?

Do you feel like maybe you're not getting through?



Do you feel like God's not listening to you?

Maybe He's not.

***Biblical advice on prayer,
including times when
God says He will not listen
to our prayers.***

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