

Notes on Prayer

There seems to be confusion by some people on how to pray. These people are sometimes unsure what to say, what to ask, and unsure why their prayers seem to go unanswered.

There are some basic guiding principles on how to pray.

Who to Pray To

This is perhaps one thing most people are confused about. Should we pray to God (Father, Son and Spirit) as one? Or to Jesus? Or to the Holy Spirit? Or to Mary and the saints?

Well, Jesus's disciples asked that question 2000 years ago. This was His reply.

Matthew

006:009 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

006:010 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

006:011 Give us this day our daily bread.

006:012 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

006:013 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

006:014 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

006:015 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Notice especially verse 9 above. Jesus said we should pray to our Father in heaven. Another passage expands on this thought.

John

016:023 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

016:024 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

So here again, Jesus says we should ask the Father. Later in this write up it will explain what is meant by 'Whatsoever ye shall ask'.

Pray for peace.

1 Timothy

002:001 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

002:002 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

002:003 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

Should People Pray To Mary?

Well, the previous section shows passages that we should pray to our heavenly Father. But what about praying to Mary or asking her to intercede for us? After all, is she not “God’s mother”?

There are 2 places in the bible where Jesus addresses Mary. The first one is below.

John

002:001 And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:

002:002 And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

002:003 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.

002:004 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.

It is interesting that Jesus addresses her as “woman”. If I would have ever said that to my mother, I would have been punished.

The following is the second passage.

John

019:026 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!

019:027 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

Once again, Jesus addressed Mary as “woman”.

Jesus further distanced Himself from Mary in the following passages.

Matthew

012:047 Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.

012:048 But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?

012:049 And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!

012:050 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Mark

003:032 And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee.

003:033 And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren?

003:034 And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!

003:035 For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.

Jesus in these passages places others as equals in the family.

So how did Mary refer to herself? What did she say about herself? Notice 2 of the important passages in the following. First, Mary calls herself the handmaiden of God – not “mother of God”. She was God’s servant. Second, she says, “God my Savior”. A holy person does not need a savior. And she does not call herself the mother of God – she calls herself the handmaiden of God. She was a vessel by which Jesus came into the world. Yes, she gave birth to Him. But she is not ‘the mother of God’ because that implies something much more.

Luke

001:026 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

001:027 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

001:028 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

001:029 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

001:030 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

001:031 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

001:032 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

001:033 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

001:034 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

001:035 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

001:036 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

001:037 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

001:038 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

001:039 And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda;

001:040 And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth.

001:041 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:

001:042 And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

001:043 And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

001:044 For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.

001:045 And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.

001:046 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,

001:047 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

001:048 For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

001:049 For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.

001:050 And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.

001:051 He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

001:052 He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.

001:053 He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.

001:054 He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy;

001:055 As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.

001:056 And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house.

Pray According To God's Will

One reason people sometimes do not receive what they request is because it is not part of God's will. Notice that we are told we should ask for things that God wants us to have.

1 John

005:014 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing **according to his will**, he heareth us:

005:015 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

The following verse expresses this a little differently. Notice it says, "supplication in the Spirit". If we are born again, Jesus is 'one' with us. That is, we have a special union or communion with Him. And we can pray as we are led by the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians

006:018 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Jude

001:020 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

John

016:023 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

016:024 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

Notice the following passage which tells us when we pray for things we lust for, things not in God's will but our own desires, we receive not.

James

004:001 From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?

004:002 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

004:003 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

I'd like to give an analogy. But remember, no analogy is perfect. At best, this one only gives a feel for the topic... Think of a family... A child asks a parent for a candy bar as a snack. The parent may say no. And there may be no candy bar in the house. But if the child asks for a snack without being specific, the parent may offer what is available and according to what the parent thinks is best for the child. And if the child does not ask at all, they get nothing. Prayer can be like that – sort of.

What to Pray For

So how do we know what God wants for us? We can search the bible for those things. For example, read again the Lord's prayer. These are some of the things that God wants for us.

Luke

011:001 And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

011:002 And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

011:003 Give us day by day our daily bread.

011:004 And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

1 Timothy

002:001 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

002:002 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

002:003 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

002:004 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

002:005 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

002:006 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

James

001:005 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

001:006 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.

001:007 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

001:008 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

Matthew

005:044 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

James

005:016 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

1 Thessalonians

005:018 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

1 Timothy

002:001 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

002:002 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

002:003 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

002:004 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

James

004:001 From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?

004:002 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

004:003 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

The following passage comes after when Jesus was speaking of the end of the Great Tribulation Period. Verse 8 makes this clear so it sounds like these prayers are only for the Great Tribulation Period. But it is a great principle that is for any age. We are instructed to overcome evil with good. But we should also pray for justice when persecuted by governments or individuals.

Luke

018:001 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

018:002 Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:

018:003 And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.

018:004 And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man;

018:005 Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

018:006 And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.

018:007 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

018:008 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

Many of the Psalms are great prayers too. For example, Psalm 51 is used in many churches to pray for forgiveness. It reads:

051:001 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

051:002 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

051:003 For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

051:004 Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

051:005 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

051:006 Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

051:007 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

051:008 Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

051:009 Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

051:010 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

051:011 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

051:012 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

051:013 Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

051:014 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.

051:015 O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

051:016 For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering.

051:017 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

051:018 Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem.

051:019 Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.

Pray When Not Know How to Pray

Often, we need help from God but we do not know exactly how to pray. Or we may feel something is wrong and do not know how to pray, or what to pray for. But God does. Notice the following teaching

Romans

008:026 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

008:027 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

If there is something that is troubling you, a simple prayer may be best. Just pray to God for His help and let the Holy Spirit make intercession for us. Let God choose the solution.

In short, the best prayer is the Holy Spirit praying in us thru Jesus to the Father.

Intercession

So should we ask Mary or the saints to intercede for us? Notice the following passage. If Jesus Himself intercedes for us when we sin, what more can be added???

1 John

002:001 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

1 Timothy

002:005 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

002:006 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Romans

008:033 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

008:034 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Hebrews

007:022 By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.

007:023 And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death:

007:024 But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.

007:025 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.

And the Holy Spirit can lead us in prayer if we let Him.

Romans

008:026 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

008:027 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

How is this? Sometimes the simplest prayer, such as, “God please help me” can be the best because we are not limiting God in how to respond. And we let the Holy Spirit intercede according to the will of God.

Option C

This follows along the same thought. Sometimes people pray something like, “Dear Father, please give me A or B” when in fact what God will’s for us is option C. So sometimes it is best just to ask God for His help according to His will.

Unbelief

Another reason why people sometimes do not get a positive response from a prayer is because they do not believe or doubt that God will provide. Notice the following passage about Jesus’s miracles.

Mark

006:001 And he went out from thence, and came into his own country; and his disciples follow him.

006:002 And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands?

006:003 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.

006:004 But Jesus, said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.

006:005 And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them.

006:006 And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.

James

001:005 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

001:006 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.

001:007 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

001:008 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

The above is another reason why it *can be* (but not always) best to be general in prayer, asking God for help rather than a specific solution.

Pray in Jesus Name

John

014:010 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

014:011 Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.

014:012 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

014:013 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

014:014 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

014:015 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

John

015:016 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

John

015:004 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

015:005 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

015:006 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

015:007 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Believe

1 Timothy

002:008 I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

Matthew

021:018 Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered.

021:019 And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away.

021:020 And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away!

021:021 Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.

021:022 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Another point is this: God will hear the prayer of non-believers who turn toward Him, and from sin. But that is the only prayer God will hear. God hears the prayers of those who believe in Him. But God does not hear the requests of non-believers (non-Christians), except a prayer of repentance and turning towards Him. See below passages.

Jeremiah

029:012 Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.

029:013 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Mark

011:021 And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away.

011:022 And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.

011:023 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

011:024 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

011:025 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

011:026 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

God Does Not Listen To Unbelievers

John

009:031 Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

Psalms

018:040 Thou hast also given me the necks of mine enemies; that I might destroy them that hate me.

018:041 They cried, but there was none to save them: even unto the LORD, but he answered them not.

Psalms

034:015 The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.

034:016 The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

034:017 The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

Psalms

066:018 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

Proverbs

015:029 The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.

Proverbs

028:009 He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.

Micah

003:004 Then shall they cry unto the LORD, but he will not hear them: he will even hide his face from them at that time, as they have behaved themselves ill in their doings.

Zechariah

- 007:009 Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother:
- 007:010 And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart.
- 007:011 But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear.
- 007:012 Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts.
- 007:013 Therefore it is come to pass, that as he cried, and they would not hear; so they cried, and I would not hear, saith the LORD of hosts:

Be Humble

Luke

- 018:009 And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:
- 018:010 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.
- 018:011 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.
- 018:012 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.
- 018:013 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.
- 018:014 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

God Gives Good Things

Luke

- 011:005 And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves;
- 011:006 For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?
- 011:007 And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee.
- 011:008 I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.
- 011:009 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.
- 011:010 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.
- 011:011 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?
- 011:012 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

011:013 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

Other

The following verse sometime confuses people. How can one pray without ceasing? If we are really close to God, He will remain in our thoughts – kind of like when a person is in love, they are always conscience of that person.

1 Thessalonians

005:017 Pray without ceasing.

Several lessons can be drawn out of the following passage. One is that answer to prayer is sometimes long in coming.

Luke

018:001 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

018:002 Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:

018:003 And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.

018:004 And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man;

018:005 Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

018:006 And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.

018:007 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

018:008 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

Pray in secret.

Matthew

006:005 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

006:006 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

006:007 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

006:008 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.