

# Answered Prayer



## GOD WANTS YOU TO PRAY

### LUKE 18:1

"Pray always and don't lose heart"

### I THESSALONIANS 5:18

"Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the Will of God in Jesus for you."

### MATTHEW 21:13

"It is written, my house shall be called a house of prayer."

### JOHN 14:21

"He who loves me will be loved by my Father."

### JOB 22:27

"You will pray to Him, and He will hear you."

### MATTHEW 7:7-8

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened."

God has given us prerequisites to meet before He answers our prayers

## What God's Word says about prayer

### Preface

This is a study of what God's Word says about Christian prayer. God wants us to pray. God promises to answer our prayers. So if you aren't receiving answers to your prayers don't be discouraged. Prayer is a learned skill, or as James said, "*You ask & do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions*" (James 4:3).

Prayer is more than asking God for help. We are already overflowing with gifts from God, from the air we breathe to the life He gave us and the gift of His Son who saved us. God loves us and continues to show us that love endlessly. What He wants is for us to enter into his presence in a one-to-one personal relationship each and every day, where we bring our thanks, our concerns and our love to share with Him. In exchange He responds with the plans He has for our lives and the special gifts and knowledge we need to help Him manifest His Will in the world.

Our prayers then concern our relationship with God and His will. Many say they want to be like Jesus. Well, Jesus prayed often and alone, without distractions, focused on His Father in Heaven and the assignment He was sent to accomplish. He continued until he was able to say, "*I am in the Father and the Father is in me*" (John 14:11). He ended with "*if it be your will*" (Matt 25:39)

the Followers of Christ are

### The Children of God

A follower of Christ becomes sanctified (set apart for sacred use, cleansed and made holy) through believing and obeying the Word of God. He has accepted forgiveness through Christ's sacrificial death. But daily application of God's Word has a purifying effect on our minds and hearts. Scripture points out sin, motivates us to confess, renews our relationship with Christ and guides us back to the right path. This is accomplished through prayer, study and service.

It is normal to hear "*Ask and it will be given to you*" (Matthew 7:7) and do just that, assuming that is what Christ told us about prayer. The problem is we need to find the other complementary verses and let the Spirit help to understand the complete message God is giving us about prayer. For example, "*If we ask anything according to His will He hears us*" (1 John 5:14) limits what we can ask God for. All of a sudden this isn't about what we want, and James 4:3 is right, it is about what God wants. But without studying God's Word, how will we know what His Will is?

About 20 years ago an out of the way Canadian pastor wrote Experiencing God, which quickly found its way into more than 100 countries, a best seller. In it he describes prayer as a love relationship between the Christian praying and God.



**Henry Blackaby**

### **Experiencing God**

*"Many people have grown up in the church, hearing about God all their lives, but do not have a personal, dynamic, growing relationship with God. They never hear His voice. They have no idea what His will is. They do not encounter His love firsthand. They have no sense of divine purpose for their lives. They may know a lot about God, but don't really know Him."*

Some of those people don't want to be told they can't pray anyway they want. So I must add, this study assumes that the Word of God is truth; that God loves us, is alive and well and ready for us to pray. I found over 240 verses in my bible about prayer, and I doubt I found them all. But so far I have concluded that God is waiting for us to pray, to build our faith by giving us

assignments to implement His will, and answer our prayers in a manner visible to those around us, to build their faith and mine as I share His answers.

If Blackaby is right and our Holy Father invited us to enter in a love relationship with Him, to begin living in His presence now, how can we ignore it? What is on our daily calendar with a higher priority?

**E. M. Bounds**

### **Better Prayer**

*"Unanswered prayers are training schools for unbelief. Answered prayers are the only sure way we have to know we prayed aright. A proper prayer moves the arm that moves the universe. All things from God are given in answer to prayer. If you didn't get an answer perhaps it is because you didn't ask for one; perhaps your faith is so small you don't*

### **THE BLIND BEGGAR**

*"A blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me! And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, Son of David, have mercy on me! And Jesus stopped and said, Call him. And they called the blind man, saying to him, Take heart. Get up; he is calling you. And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. And Jesus said to him, what do you want me to do for you? And the blind man said to him, Rabbi, let me recover my sight. And Jesus said to him, Go your way; your faith has made you well. And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way" (Mark 10:46-52 ESV)*

*believe His promises. Without proper prayer, nothing good will happen – so it is our job, our duty, our pleasure, and our gift to pray properly and often."*

Bounds suggests that we prepare our petitions carefully, so when we receive the promised answer it will be recognized as God's response.

Jesus has a similar response to the blind man in the story above who called out "Have mercy on me". Jesus made him be more specific, for if he simply forgave his sins it wouldn't build the faith of those watching. He said, "What do you want me to do?" And, despite the obvious answer, the blind man wisely complied with "Rabbi, restore my sight". Then Jesus gave us the object lesson, ask for something specific, in faith, and your prayer will be answered.



*"You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions" (James 4:3)*

## But NOT all of them!

God answers prayers aligned with His Will. He has a plan for men, and is looking for His children to implement them. The bible is a history of God's way with men. Those He favored were doing His work, not their own. He didn't ask Moses what kind of a job he might like, or what color camel he'd like to drive to work. Even God's own Son had to pray daily to discover the next step, to be updated on His Father's Will, regardless of how hard it might be to do.

So we have to prepare ourselves to join God's team; those who are actively implementing His plan. This isn't about earning salvation with "works", our salvation was a gift, unearned, granted when Christ became our mediator. We come before God "faultless", not "blameless" or without sin.

Those who volunteer to serve God are fulfilling an age old tradition called "Sanctification". They aren't sitting in safety on their laurels, unearned. And what they must do is logical.

1. **Study** the bible for God's Will. Find out what His plan for men is. Get on the same page as He is, so when you enter his presence, you know something about His plans. It will save you from asking for Cadillac, when what He wants you to do is save souls.

2. **Obey** His commandments. No, we're not going back to a list of rules. But Jesus told us none of the rules had been changed. Just the scoring system. He simplified it for us,

but also said, *"Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father"* (John 14:21). We will fail and repent. To pretend we didn't sin would make God a liar. We are entering into God's presence now, in this life, through prayer. He is Holy, we must attempt to keep Him in our thoughts all the time, to become holy too.

3. **Forgive** his children when they hurt you and ask their forgiveness when you hurt them. When? Before you pray. If you can't do that, then God won't forgive you. If that sounds harsh, *"And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses"* (Mark 11:25-26).

4. **Believe** that God will keep His promises, or don't bother praying. We don't test God, He tests us. *"I tell you whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours"* (Mark 11:24). Faith is the product of belief, trusting in the promises of something as simple as the medical system, the highway system, and God. But unless you believe God can and will deliver, why bother pretending.

5. **Pray.** God is waiting for you to ask. Why pass up the invitation to enter into His presence now and forever?

6. **Serve.** When you receive your answer, make sure it aligns with God's Word. He doesn't change, but He often requires you to change, to adjust your life to serve His plan. Then you'll know why you are living.

## PRAYERS OF: THANKSGIVING

are both private and public, and hopefully precede the receiving of all of God's good gifts, given to us with every breath - to remind us that most of our prayers have already been answered, even if unasked - a debt we owe God.

## INTERCESSION

are private or public, are made on behalf of another. All that is required is compassion and faith that God's will be done. The only difficulty comes when God chooses a different outcome than we ask for, or delays longer than we want. But when God answers them in the affirmative, on time, we call it a miracle. Yet, God has fulfilled our needs since day one.

## SUPPLICATION

are the one-on-one, alone time interviews between you and God that we yearn for, and train for. The pattern Jesus gave us is:

*Prepare for the interview by focusing on the magnitude of the one you are about to address.*

*Honor God, then confess your sins and ask for His mercy.*

*Present a brief, bold petition, avoiding vain repetition; then listen for God's Will.*

## 1. Study God's Word for God's Will

*"This is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him" (1 John 5:14 ESV).*

*"Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will" (Mark 14:36).*

*"The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things" (John 14:26).*

*"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us" (1 Peter 3:12).*

*"We have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God" (Col 1:9,10).*

*"Be filled with the knowledge of God's will" (Col 1:9)*

*"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (Matt 7:7).*

*"If we ask anything according to His will He hears us" (1 John 5:14).*

*"For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21).*

*"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God" (James 1:5).*

## 2. Obey God's Commandments

The obedient child of God is working on his or her Sanctification, i.e., becoming closer to God, more perfect than the day before, making mistakes to be sure, but few or none on purpose, and repentant rather than remorseful, eager to change rather than simply sorry for continued failure to change. Since the Old Testament began it is said that God doesn't listen to sinners – but we know that is can't be literally true, because we are all sinners, and we are forgiven. So we are righteous, it was a gift, unearned, that we now desire to give God reason to be happy he trusted us in the first place. Jesus speaks of God pruning believers until they produce the fruit of their faith; James says, "Faith without works is dead". Since we were baptized we have tried to be less self centered, more humble and serving, and deserving of God's love.

*"For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer..." (1 Peter 3:12).*

*"We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him" (John 9:31 ESV).*

*"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you" (1 Pet 5:6-7 ESV).*

*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful to forgive us our sins & cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us" (1 John 1:9-10 ESV)*

*"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin..." (2 Chronicles 7:14)*

*"...Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matt 20:26-28).*

*"Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working" (James 5:16).*

*"Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you doubters" (James 4:7).*

*"Whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments" (1 John 3:22).*

*"Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord" (Col 1:9).*

*"Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. Turn away from evil and do good; so shall you dwell forever" (Psalm 37:5,6,27).*

*"Be holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16 ESV).*

*"Repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15*

*"The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead" (Acts 17:30-31 ESV).*

### 3. Forgive His Children

*"Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them" (Matthew 18:19 ESV).*

*"Bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you" (Luke 6:28 ESV).*

*"Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working" (James 5:16 ESV).*

*"I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling" (1 Tim 2:8 ESV).*

*"Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered" (1 Peter 3:7 ESV).*

*"Beloved let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love" (1Jn 4:7-8).*

*"And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses" (Mark 11:25-26 ESV).*

### 4. Believe (Trust/Believe/Faith)

*To draw near to God must believe that he exists and rewards those who seek him" (Heb 11:6)*

*"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; (John 14:12 ESV).*

*"My father will give you anything you ask in my name" (John 16:23 ESV).*

*"Whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith" (Matt 21:22 ESV).*

*"And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have" (Matthew 21:22 ESV).*

*I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours" (Mark 11:24).*

*"And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers" (1Thess 2:13 ESV).*

### 5. Pray & Listen

*He was praying alone..." Luke 9:18*

*"Rising early in the morning, while still dark, He departed and went out to a desolate place, and prayed." Mark 1:35*

*"When you pray, go into your room, shut the door and pray to your Father in secret" (Matt 6:6)*

*"When you pray, don't say meaningless things" (Matt 6:7).*

*Jesus asks, "What do you want me to do for you" (Mk 10:51).*

*"I chose you and appointed you to go and bare fruit – fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name" (John 15:16).*

*Cornelius said, "Four days ago I was praying in my house and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God.' (Acts 10:30).*

*"Paul and Silas were praying ...suddenly there was a great earthquake ... immediately all the doors were opened..." (Acts 16:25-26)*

*"The Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you..." (Ex 33:17).*

*"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert" (Eph 6:18).*

*"Saul is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight" (Acts 9:11).*

*"You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many" (2Cor 1:11).*

*"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us" (Eph 3:20).*

*An angel appeared to Zechariah to tell him his prayers had been heard. "Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John (the Baptist)... He will be great before the Lord... filled with the Holy Spirit ... "How shall I know this?" The angel said, "I was sent to bring you this good news" (Luke 1:11-14).*

*"If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him" (John 14:22).*

*"You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many" (2 Cor 1:11).*

## The Example of Jesus

When the disciples asked Jesus how to pray he prayed out loud, beginning with two exhortations and a short prayer:

*"When you pray, go into your room, shut the door and pray to your Father in secret" (Matt 6:6).*

*"And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases ... your Father knows what you need before you ask him" (Matt 6:7 ESV).*

### "The Lord's Prayer" (KJ)

1. *"Our Father which art in heaven,*
2. *Hallowed is thy name.*
3. *Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth,*
4. *as it is in heaven.*
5. *Give us this day our daily bread.*
6. *And forgive us our debts,*
7. *as we forgive our debtors.*
8. *And lead us not into temptation,*
9. *but deliver us from evil:*
10. *For Thine is the kingdom,*
11. *and the power,*
12. *and the glory, forever. Amen"*

This is a daily prayer. God provides, has always provided, but if He stopped, it wouldn't take a day for us to notice, because even the air we breath is a gift from Him. So we pray for our needs, and pray to thank Him for all we have received, each and every day. Much of the time God is answering our unsaid prayers, if only we didn't take so much for granted.

Please notice the structure. This prayer is about God, not us. It is short, to the point, full of thanksgiving, aware of God's Will and ultimate plan, to bring heaven to earth. Jesus Christ will lead the charge supported by His angels and sanctified followers, which is what answered prayer is teaching us.

**Lines 1 & 2:** We are entering the presence of our Holy Father, and repeat his attributes not only as thanks, but to remind us as to what thoughts and petitions are appropriate.

**Line 3 & 4:** It is His Will that is going to happen. It is His plan that will be implemented. It is His servants that will do the work. What will you bring to the table?

**Line 5:** We acknowledge that we need His help each and every day of our lives. Why bread? Because Christ taught us that we do not live by bread alone. We need food for the body and the soul.

## GOD ANSWERS THE PRAYERS OF HIS CHILDREN WHO:

1. Study God's Word
2. Obey the commandments
3. Forgive and live in peace
4. Trust God, Believe He will answer prayer and have Faith that God is in control
5. Pray for His Will and Listen for His answer
6. Serve the servants of God

**Line 6 & 7:** God forgives, if we forgive first. Simple, yet so few do it. How much closer would we be to heaven on earth if we obeyed this simple command?

**Line 8 & 9:** God does not tempt us. He is holy. If we were holy, the temptation would die. This is after we have forgiven, after we have praised, after we have sought nourishment for body and soul, we ask for help from being ourselves. We were born looking out for number one. We are tempted at every turn by the world. The internet, social media and advertising only make it harder to hide. Only God can deliver us. If we keep God forever in our thoughts, if He is always with us, it is much harder to lust, lie, cheat, steal or kill. God will help us, but we go to Him often.

**Line 10-12:** This is God's world, He made everything in it, including people. We've failed Him every time so far, with a few notable exceptions. Yet still, he has extended an invitation to live in his presence during prayer, and train to be on the team that implements His Will. Like forgiveness it is an act of love, and the highest priority in our lives.



## 6. Serve

Unless the answer you perceive aligns with His Will as expressed in His Word, it isn't from Him.

*"How can a person with a dead faith that produces no works be in God's Kingdom, since he would be failing to do the very thing for which God is creating him in Christ? (Eph 2:10).*

*"The Holy Spirit is within you, whom you have from God. You are no longer your own" (1Cor 6:19).*

*"You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many" (2 Cor 1:11).*

*"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us" (Eph 3:20).*

*"The gifts of the Spirit are: prophecy, teaching, exhortation, generosity, leadership, mercy, and cheerfulness" (Romans 12:6).*

*"The fruits of the Spirit are: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (Gal 5:22).*

*"The Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you..." (Ex 33:17).*

*"Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God...suddenly there was a great earthquake...immediately all the doors were opened..." (Acts 16:25-26).*

*"But Peter put them all outside, and knelt down and prayed; and turning to the body he said, 'Tabitha, arise'" (Acts 9:40).*

*Cornelius said, "Four days ago I was praying in my house and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing and said, Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been*

*remembered before God" (Acts 10:30).*

*"Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God...suddenly there was a great earthquake...immediately all the doors were opened..." (Acts 16:25-26).*

*"He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion" (Philippians 1:6).*

*"To whom much is given, much is required." (Luke 12:48).*

*"...Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matt 20:26-28*

*"What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, Go in peace, be warmed and filled, without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead" (James 2:14-17)*

*"But someone will say, you have faith and I have works. Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness—and he was called a friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone" (James 2:18-24).*

## Faith or Works?

King David committed the one of the worst sins possible when he killed Bathsheba's husband so he could satisfy his lust for her.

Still, God favored and loved David. Why? Because David repented, and flooded God with his cries for mercy. David was contrite and humble. God heard David's prayers, punished him, and accepted his repentant, humble, and chastised self.

Peter committed the heinous offense of denying Christ three times. The Catholic church calls this the one unforgivable sin. Yet when the risen Christ came to the shore where Peter was fishing, Peter jumped out of the boat and came running through the surf to greet Christ, who forgave Peter. *"The guarantee that we have forgiveness is our very desire for it" (David Morsey, Harvester Mission, Study on Romans).*

Christ will forgive our sins without ignoring them. He presents us to God as "faultless" not "sinless". It is this forgiveness that causes us to cling to Christ. It is difficult, sometimes impossible, to forgive ourselves of our mistakes. We say *"I just can't forgive myself"* to which Morsey responds, *"Who gave you the right to forgive yourself?"* Only Christ can forgive, when you humble yourself & ask.

The works you may be given to accomplish in response to your prayers of supplication do not pay a price for your sins. Forgiveness and everything else we have is a gift from our loving God.

The believer attempting to sanctify his walk with Christ is learning the discipline necessary to suppress his own desires of the flesh. His private prayers with God contain his respect, his love, repentant for his mistakes, his cries for Mercy and Grace - but most of all, his willingness to dedicate his life for the Will of God, to express His love in anyway he can.



## GOD ANSWERS THE PRAYERS OF HIS CHILDREN WHO:

1. Study God's Word
2. Obey the commandments
3. Forgive and live in peace
4. Trust God, Believe He will answer prayer and have Faith that God is in control
5. Pray for His Will and Listen for His answer
6. Serve the servants of God

### Martin Luther's "Of Prayer-A Perpetual Exercise of Faith"

The Daily Benefits Derived from it. Translated by Henry Beveridge, 1845

**Prayer defined.** – Man is devoid of good; devoid of any means of procuring his own salvation. Thus, to obtain succor he must go beyond himself and procure it in some other quarter. Christ offered himself as that source, so we may turn to God's Son with the full expectation of our reward. This is a secret philosophy that cannot be learned by syllogisms; only understood by those whose eyes God has opened (Ps. 36:9). Prayer is intercourse between God and man that declares our only safety is calling upon His name to invoke His presence and providence to watch over our interests, to sustain us when weak, and receive us with favor though loaded with sin.

**Reverence to God.** - We pray to God who already knows our needs to awaken our own faith, our own ardent desire to seek, love and serve him; to accustom ourselves to have God as our sacred anchor in every necessity; to have no desires or longings which we are ashamed to make him the witness; to place all our wishes in his sight; to receive all his benefits with gratitude and thanksgiving. Then having obtained what we asked, we are persuaded that he has answered our prayers and strengthened us by our understanding that his promises never fail us. "The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry" (Ps 34:15). So despite your worldly troubles, rise above them long enough to remember that you are entering into converse with God. Lay aside your carnal wants and cares and as far as possible, be borne closer to Him.

**A sense of want.** - We must ask for what we truly need, not out of duty or habit.

**Suppression of pride.** - He who comes into the presence of God must discard all self-confidence, humbly giving God the whole glory, in complete submission.

**FAITH is the confidence we will be heard.** - We come to God overwhelmed with our own sin, yet sure that if repentant and in terror of our deeds, His mercy prevails with Christ as our Mediator.

**Only in the name of Christ.** "The wrath of God lies on those who reject Christ as Mediator, or in those who do not repent, as though they committed no sins. Jesus is our advocate, our salvation before God, through his own righteousness."

### Your journal of Answered PRAYER

Keep a prayer journal for thirty days, writing down your petitions and the answers you receive.

Read the our sample verses again and again, for the Holy Spirit will add to your insight over time. Memorize the key ones.

A sample format is suggested on the next page. Any lined booklet will do, so you can avoid the social media distractions and have a place to keep your conference with God private. The grade you get will be your own, between you and God, as all important things are.

# Q&A

## prayer journal: sample page format

Step One: find a place to pray free from distraction. Don't bring your phone or computer. Some pray in a closet, others where they can see God's creation, a garden, under a tree, etc.

---



---



---



---

Step Two: If nothing is burdening your heart, open your bible and seek the holy spirit. otherwise, list those you need to forgive before praying.

---



---



---



---

Step Three: You need to open your prayer honoring God and thanking Him for all he has given you already. What might you say?

---



---



---



---

Step Four: What will you ask God in your alone time, believing He will hear you and answer your prayer. Be brief. Remember, He has an agenda, a plan, for men and is eagerly awaiting your petition. Have you grown enough in your walk to lay aside your own desires and offer to help His? Are you flexible, and believe enough to change your life to implement His Will?

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---

Step Five: Stay focused, in His presence, now in this life, as it will be forever. Listen. His answer may not be what you asked for. Be alert. Sometimes a "no" is still an answer.

---



---



---



---

Step Six: Validate your answer. God doesn't change, His Word and Will are timeless. He may ask big changes in your life, so make sure it is God talking before you act.

My answer was received on \_\_\_\_\_ . It came as a voice, a bible verse, the intervention of a friend, a note, a \_\_\_\_\_ that said \_\_\_\_\_

---

confirmed by \_\_\_\_\_

Step Seven. ACT! Serve His servants. God will supply directions and resources. You will go back to Him in prayer to get them. But now you know His Will for your life! Grow.

God's plan for my life at this moment is \_\_\_\_\_

---

The changes I'll have to make are \_\_\_\_\_

---

# Q&A

**Date** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ **prayer journal of**

Step One: find a place to pray free from distraction. Don't bring your phone or computer. Some pray in a closet, others where they can see God's creation, a garden, under a tree, etc.

---

---

---

---

---

Step Two: If nothing is burdening your heart, open your bible and seek the holy spirit. otherwise, list those you need to forgive before praying.

---

---

---

---

---

Step Three: You need to open your prayer honoring God and thanking Him for all he has given you already. What might you say?

---

---

---

---

---

Step Four: What will you ask God in your alone time, believing He will hear you and answer your prayer. Be brief. Remember, He has an agenda, a plan, for men and is eagerly awaiting your petition. Have you grown enough in your walk to lay aside your own desires and offer to help His? Are you flexible, and believe enough to change your life to implement His Will?

**Step Five:** Stay focused, in His presence, now in this life, as it will be forever. Listen. His answer may not be what you asked for. Be alert. Sometimes a "no" is still an answer.

---

---

---

---

Step Six: Validate your answer. God doesn't change, His Word and Will are timeless. He may ask big changes in your life, so make sure it is God talking before you act.

My answer was received on \_\_\_\_\_ . It came as a voice, a bible verse, the intervention of a friend, a note, a \_\_\_\_\_ that said \_\_\_\_\_

confirmed by \_\_\_\_\_.

Step Seven. ACT! Serve His servants.  
God will supply directions and resources.  
You will go back to Him in prayer to get  
them. But now you know His Will for your  
life! Grow.

God's plan for my life at this moment is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_