

Praying to Get Results

Lesson 1

I. DECIDE WHAT YOU WANT FROM GOD

II. Decide: to make a choice or judgment

- a. The tool God has given us for decision making is our mind. Therefore, before a Godly decision can be made, we must focus on the word of God.

- i. **2 Chronicles 1:10 (NKJV)**

- ¹⁰ Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of Yours?"

- ii. **James 1:5 (NKJV)**

- ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

A. Hebrews 5:12-14 (NKJV) – We Must Become Skillful in Faith

¹² For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

¹³ For everyone who partakes *only* of milk *is* unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.

¹⁴ But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

- a. Many wonder why they are not getting the results they desire.
 - i. Why is it taking so long?
 - ii. It seems like my faith is not working.
- b. The reality may be that you are not properly working your faith.
- c. We can only succeed if we know how to pray and stand according to biblical principles.
- d. When we become more skillful at praying the prayer of faith, we will see clear results.
- e. Just as a person becomes unskilled in the word, they may become skilled.

- i. **2 Timothy 2:15-16 (NKJV)**

- ¹⁵ Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

- ¹⁶ But shun profane *and* idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.

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ii. 2 Timothy 2:15-16 (KJV)

¹⁵ Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

¹⁶ But shun profane *and* vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

- f. We become immature in Christ when we do not exercise our mental and spiritual senses.
- g. It is possible to reach maturity in Christ; a mature Saint of God is one who discerns between good and evil.
- h. A mature Saint of God goes beyond...
 - i. Just attending worship and bible studies
 - ii. Just giving money
 - iii. Just keeping the rituals and ceremonies of religion
- i. The mature Saint does all these and more...
 - i. They study the Word of God
 - ii. They set blocks of time aside every day to pray and worship.
 - iii. They live and move and have there being in prayer;
 - iv. They witness for Christ
 - v. They discern both good and evil, and do the good.
- j. This is what God expects from us. When we give God what He expects, He'll give us what we expect.
 - i. **John 15:7 (NKJV)**

⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.
- k. A person matures in Christ, by exercising their mental and spiritual senses. They must be alert and alive to control and discipline themselves. Exerting energy and effort to concentrate and focus their mind and life upon Jesus and His purpose and mission.
 - i. **Ephesians 4:23 (KJV)**

²³ And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;
 - ii. **Philippians 4:8 (KJV)**

⁸ Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.
 - iii. **2 Corinthians 10:5 (KJV)**

⁵ Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

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iv. Isaiah 26:3 (KJV)

³ Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on thee*: because he trusteth in thee.

III. Faith Shapes Our thinking, therefore our Decisions.

a. In order for our faith to be developed, we must spent time with God and His word.

i. Genesis 5:24 (KJV)

²⁴ And Enoch walked with God: and he *was* not; for God took him.

ii. Hebrews 11:5-6 (NKJV)

⁵ By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "*and was not found, because God had taken him*"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

b. Enoch sought to keep his mind and thoughts on God and on the things that are true and profitable. Enabling him to make wise decisions.

i. Philippians 4:8 (KJV)

⁸ Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.

c. Enoch sought to cast down every imagination and to make every thought captive to God.

i. 2 Corinthians 10:5 (KJV)

⁵ Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

d. Enoch sought to keep his mind on God.

i. Isaiah 26:3 (KJV)

³ Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on thee*: because he trusteth in thee.

e. Enoch sought to walk and live in a spirit of prayer all day long.

i. Luke 18:1 (KJV)

¹ And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

ii. Ephesians 6:18 (KJV)

¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

iii. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (KJV)

¹⁷ Pray without ceasing.

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IV. Spiritual Immaturity will affect our decision-making ability.

a. Wise decision making requires us to move beyond the basic principles of God's word.

- i. Repenting of Your Sins
- ii. Baptism in Jesus Name
- iii. Infilling of the Holy Ghost
- iv. Not forsaking fellowship

b. Often people profess Christ, but never grow.

i. **1 Corinthians 3:1-2 (NKJV)**

¹ And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual *people* but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ.

² I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able *to receive it*, and even now you are still not able;

ii. Ephesians 4:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ **that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,**

iii. 2 Peter 1:5-10 (NKJV)

⁵ **But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,**

⁶ **to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,**

⁷ **to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.**

⁸ **For if these things are yours and abound, *you will be* neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

⁹ **For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.**

¹⁰ **Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;**

V. We must be willing to study, learn and surrender to the righteousness of God, which will result in living a righteous life. Which will enable righteous decisions.

a. Matthew 4:4 (NKJV)

⁴ **But He answered and said, "It is written, '*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.*' "**

b. Acts 20:32 (NKJV)

³² **So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.**

VI. A person becomes Spiritually mature when they exercise their mental and spiritual senses.

a. We can reach full age in our life with Christ. We can grow spiritually until we are fully grown and mature in Christ.

b. A person who is mature in Christ is a person who...

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- i. Discerns between Good and evil
- ii. Lives a Godly life.
- iii. Regularly attends worship
- iv. Observes Communion
- v. Supports their ministry
 - A. Ephesians 4:23 (NKJV)
²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,
 - B. 1 Corinthians 7:35 (NKJV)
³⁵ And this I say for your own profit, not that I may put a leash on you, but for what is proper, and that you may serve the Lord without distraction.
 - C. Romans 8:6 (NKJV)
⁶ For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.
 - D. **Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)**
¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.*
² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
 - E. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NKJV)
¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?
²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.
 - F. **2 Corinthians 6:17-18 (NKJV)**
¹⁷ Therefore "*Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.*"
¹⁸ "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."

B. James 5:16 (NKJV) The Effectual, Fervent Prayer of a Righteous Man Avails Much

¹⁶ Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

- a. NIV "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."
- b. NLT "The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results."
- c. Learning how to pray the prayer of faith is vital to our success.
- d. It an organized process laid out by the word of God.

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i. **Matthew 7:7-8 (NKJV)**

⁷ "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

ii. **Matthew 21:22 (NKJV)**

²² And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

iii. **James 5:17-18 (NKJV)**

¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.

¹⁸ And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

C. Step #1 Decide What You Want From God

a. **Habakkuk 2:2 (NKJV)**

² Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision And make *it* plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it.

b. What are you specifically believing for? Too often we are vague and indefinite in our request. If you are praying for nothing in particular, that is exactly what you will get.

i. **Mark 5:28 (NKJV)**

²⁸ For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well."

ii. **Mark 10:51-52 (NKJV)**

⁵¹ So Jesus answered and said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" The blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, that I may receive my sight."

⁵² Then Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.

c. God will help you to identify exactly what to believe for.

i. **Matthew 6:8 (NKJV)**

⁸ Therefore do not be like them. **For your Father knows the things you have need of** before you ask Him.