

Effective Prayer - A Great Opportunity



I. The Opportunity of Prayer

Acts 16:25 (NIV®)

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.

Jonah 2:1-2 (NIV®)

¹ From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. ² He said: "In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From the depths of the grave I called for help, and you listened to my cry."

II. Fundamentals of Answered Prayer

A. Begin with Reverent Submission

Hebrews 5:7 (NIV®)

⁷ During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

Matthew 26:39, 42 (NIV®)

³⁹ Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." . . . ⁴² He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."

Renouncing your will and embracing God's will---remember;

1. God loves you
2. God understands you
3. God wants only the best for you

Ephesians 3:20 (NIV®)

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.

B. Pray in the name of Jesus

John 16:23 (NIV®)

²³ In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

1. What Jesus has done for us
2. Who Jesus is, not who we are

Hebrews 10:19, 21-22 (NIV®)

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, . . . ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

1 John 2:1 (NIV®)

¹ My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

3. The relationship we have with God through Jesus

Ephesians 1:3-6 (NIV®)

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-- ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

C. Approach God with Confidence

Hebrews 4:16 (NASB®)

¹⁶ Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 10:19-22 (NASB®)

¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, . . . ²² let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

1. Without Condemnation

1 John 1:8-9 (NIV®)

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

“forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us”

Daily exercise: repent & forgive

Romans 8:1 (NIV®)

¹ Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

2. Persecution NOT Judgement

Luke 21:36 (NASB®)

³⁶ "But keep on the alert at all times, **praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place**, and to stand before the Son of Man."

2 Timothy 3:12 (NIV®)

¹² In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

Matthew 26:41 (NIV®)

⁴¹ **"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.** The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

D. Right Motives

James 4:2-3 (NASB®)

You do not have because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.

1. Glorify God

John 14:13 (NASB®)

¹³ **"Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.**

Romans 3:23 (NIV®)

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 1:21 (NIV®)

²¹ For although they knew God, **they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him**, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

2. Love Truth

Proverbs 6:16-19 (NIV®)

¹⁶ There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: ¹⁷ haughty eyes, **a lying tongue**, hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, ¹⁹ **a false witness who pours out lies** and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.

Proverbs 23:23 (NIV®)

²³ Buy the truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and understanding.

John 8:44 (NIV®)

⁴⁴ You belong to your father, the devil, . . . for he is a liar and the father of lies.

John 16:13 (NIV®)

¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, teach me to pray. I desire truth in my heart. I submit myself to Your will and Your way. Help me to order my days so that my life may be pleasing to You. Give me strength to complete the course for which I was created. Remove every barrier and grant me victory over all that stands in opposition to Your purposes for me. I rejoice in the majesty of my Lord and redeemer, in Jesus' name, amen.

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