

Essential Equipment

Praying the Word of God, 1 John 5:14-15

The Importance of Prayer

- Prayer is a command of God
- Prayer is the God-ordained and God-approved means of communication for believers to receive what God has for us
- What breathing is to us *naturally*, prayer is to us *spiritually*
- What is the importance and value of prayer?
 1. Prayer makes us more like Jesus
 - a. Prayer was an important element of Jesus' life
 - b. Jesus taught us to pray and He modeled prayer
 2. Prayer reveals the heart of God
 - a. Prayer is our way of getting to know God better
 - b. Through prayer, we discover what God requires of us
 3. Prayer reveals the wisdom of God
 - a. Oftentimes when we pray, God gives us His wisdom, guidance about a matter
 4. Prayer is an act of faith
 - a. When we pray, we *trust* God for the answer
 - b. When we pray, we *believe* that God has the answer
 - c. When we pray, we *expect* God to answer
 5. Prayer is an act of dependence
 - a. We need God's help
 6. Prayer strengthens our relationship with God
 - a. Prayer becomes a constant practice in the life of a believer

Praying the Word of God

1 John 5:14-15 (KJV) ¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: ¹⁵ And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

- When we know the importance and value of prayer, we pray with confidence
- When we pray with confidence there is no delay, fear, doubt, or anything that would stop you from praying
- How do we pray?
- We *ask*
 - Asking shows our dependence of God
- We *ask anything*
 - God wants us to ask anything in prayer
 - Asking *anything* suggests that we should pray about everything ***Philippians 4:6 (KJV) 6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.***
- We *ask according to His will*
 - We ask according to God's will, not our own
 - We see and discern God's will through his Word

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- God's Word is His will
- When we ask anything according to His will, *He hears us*
 - When we pray according to His will, God hears us, He's listening for His Word
 - When we pray God's will, we are giving God His words back
 - You and God are on the same page spiritually
- If we know God hears us when we ask anything, we know will have the petitions made to God
- When we are walking in fellowship with Him, when we are following God, we can have the confidence that He will hear what we ask and answer our prayer
- We are responsible for the *praying*, God is responsible for the *answer*, *how* He answers, and *when* He answers

Hindrances to Answered Prayer

James 4:2-3 (KJV) ² 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. ³ Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

- We don't ask
- We ask amiss - To ask amiss is to miss the target
 - It is doing the right thing the wrong way
 - Because the prayer is missing the mark, we give God nothing to work with
- Doubt and Unbelief
 - Doubt is a result of ignorance of the word of God about the matter you're facing
 - Unbelief is knowing what the word of God says about your situation, but you don't have evidence
- Worry – The issues of our lives have us so worked up and stressed out that we don't even bother praying
- Fear – the situation itself causes you to fear and causes you to be afraid of the problem more than you have faith in power and promises of God
- Unconfessed sin – We have a legitimate prayer need, but we have not dealt with the unconfessed sins in our lives
- Unforgiveness – We're trying to pray and believe God for the needs in our lives but there are people we haven't forgiven yet
- Your past failures – We allow our past failures to make us feel "disqualified" to receive anything from God
- We pray the "problem" and not the "answer" – We give all our attention to the problem and not the problem solver

How to Pray the Word of God

- Find the scripture that relates to your situation, sickness, need, etc.

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- Give God praise before you ask for anything **Matthew 6:9 (KJV)**⁹ *After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.*
- Repent
- Read the Word out loud
- Personalize the Word
- Rely on the Holy Spirit to help you pray **Romans 8:26 (KJV)**²⁶ *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.*
- Pray in faith **James 1:6 (KJV)**⁶ *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.*
- Believe you receive **Mark 11:24 (KJV)**²⁴ *Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*
- Keep confessing the Word **Hebrews 10:23 (KJV)**²³ *Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)*
- Praise God **for** the answer **before** the answer **Philippians 4:6 (KJV)**⁶ *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

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Praying the Scriptures

Health and Healing

Isaiah 53:4-5 (KJV) ⁴ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, *he* was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Psalms 91:1 (KJV) ¹ He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Romans 8:2 (KJV) ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Psalms 91:10 (KJV) ¹⁰ There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

Psalms 112:7 (KJV) ⁷ He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD.

Marriage

Matthew 19:6 (KJV) ⁶ Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Philippians 2:2 (KJV) ² Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.

Genesis 2:24-25 (KJV) ²⁴ Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. ²⁵ And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Philippians 2:13 (KJV) ¹³ For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

1 Peter 3:7 (KJV) ⁷ Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with *them* according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

Our Children:

Psalms 127:3-5 (KJV) ³ Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. ⁴ As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. ⁵ Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

Jeremiah 1:12 (KJV) ¹² Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it. Jeremiah 29:11,

Psalms 112:2 (NLT2) ² Their children will be successful everywhere; an entire generation of godly people will be blessed.

Isaiah 49:25 (KJV) ²⁵ But thus saith the LORD, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children.

Wisdom:

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James 1:5 (KJV) 5 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.

Joshua 1:8 (KJV) 8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

John 16:13 (KJV) 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Proverbs 16:13 (NLT2) 13 The king is pleased with words from righteous lips; he loves those who speak honestly.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV) 5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Financial Matters

Matthew 6:33 (KJV) 33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

3 John 1:2 (KJV) 2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

Luke 6:38 (KJV) 38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.,

Hebrews 13:5-6 (KJV) 5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

2 Corinthians 9:6 (KJV) 6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

Philippians 4:19 (KJV) 19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Job and Career Concerns

Proverbs 3:3-5 (NLT2) 3 Never let loyalty and kindness leave you! Tie them around your neck as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart. 4 Then you will find favor with both God and people, and you will earn a good reputation. 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.

Psalms 51:12 (KJV) 12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

Romans 13:8 (KJV) 8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

Philippians 4:6-7 (KJV) 6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And

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the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 9:8 (KJV) 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 (KJV) 11 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; 12 That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.