

Dear God, it's me...

Unlocking the Power of Prayer

PRAYER IS AN EARTHLY REQUEST FOR HEAVEN TO INTERVENE ON OUR BEHALF

Prayer is not just a momentary event but a continuous lifestyle. It's our communion with our Father through Jesus Christ. As Scripture says, "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Just like teachers, lawyers, and waiters have a role; we are prayers— people who pray. As prayer warriors, we are called to engage in constant communication with God and to intercede for others and ourselves.

PRAYER IS A POSTURE AND A POSITION

It's not only about the words we speak but the heart and position from which we pray.

Why Our Prayers Go Unanswered:

1. Praying Amiss: This occurs when we pray ignorantly or emotionally. We might not fully understand God's Word or align our prayers with His will. Hosea 4:6 reminds us, "My people perish for a lack of knowledge." To bring heaven's reality into our lives, we need to align our prayers with God's Word.
 - Praying Ignorant Prayers: We may not know enough of God's Word to pray His will. "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" means it's already done in heaven. Our prayers must seek to align with this heavenly reality.
 - Praying Emotional Prayers: Sometimes, our prayers are driven by feelings rather than faith and God's Word. God is not moved by our emotions, tears, or tantrums; He is moved by His Word. Psalm 119:89 says, "Forever, O Lord, Thy Word is settled in heaven." Our prayers must be rooted in God's promises, not just our fluctuating emotions.
2. Impure Motives: What's behind your request? The motive must glorify the Father. John 14:13 says, "Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son." If our motives are selfish or prideful, God might delay or deny the request. Jeremiah 17:9 warns us, "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure."
3. Disobedience/Sin: Unconfessed or unrepented sin can block our prayers. Isaiah 59:2 tells us that sin creates a separation between us and God. Our actions and words give the enemy legal ground to accuse us, so it's vital to keep our hearts and lives clean.
4. Lack of Faith: Sometimes, our faith diminishes due to delays or doubts. Hebrews 11:6 teaches that "without faith it is impossible to please Him." We must believe not only in God but also that He will act on our behalf.



Dear God, it's me...

Unlocking the Power of Prayer cont.

Principles of Prayer - The P.R.A.Y. Acronym

1. P - Proclaim

- o Proclaim who God is. It's through the names of God that the nature of God is revealed to us. Isaiah 9:6 gives us a glimpse into God's multifaceted character, describing Him as "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace." Each name reveals a different aspect of His nature and the relationship He desires with us. As we declare His names and attributes, we recognize His greatness and approach Him in prayer with reverence and trust. Check out my list of the names of God to deepen your understanding as you enter His presence in prayer.

2. R - Repent

- o Repentance involves a change of heart and mind. It's crucial to turn away from sin and seek forgiveness. Isaiah 59:2 highlights how sin can block our prayers by creating a separation between us and God. Repentance means more than just confessing our sins; it's about a sincere transformation in our hearts and actions. Ask God to search your heart and renew your spirit, allowing Him to cleanse you from all unrighteousness. This posture of humility and openness to God's correction ensures that your prayers are not hindered by unconfessed sin.

3. A - Ask with Authority

- o Pray the Word of God with authority. With your Bible open, declare what is written. 1 Timothy 4:2-5 urges us to proclaim the Word of God boldly. Ask in Jesus' name, knowing that His authority and promises back your request. John 15:7 and 1 John 5:14-15 emphasize aligning your prayers with God's will and standing firm in faith. Ask with conviction, knowing that Jesus, the Anointed One, is your only access to the Father.

4. Y - Yield

- o Yielding is about surrendering to God's will. Like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in Daniel 3:17-18, we must have faith that God will deliver us, but even if He doesn't, we will still trust Him. Yielding involves putting God's will above our desires and trusting that He will work all things together for good.

As you continue to develop your prayer life, remember that effective prayer is grounded in understanding God's Word, pure motives, repentance, and unwavering faith. Let's stay ignited and committed to a powerful prayer life!

