

Power In Prayer

What it is not:

Getting some miraculous response from God. How to get God to say “yes” to all your prayers.

What it is:

Intimacy with the Father, pouring our hearts out to lighten burdens, confessing sin and exposing roots, sanctification, gaining Godly wisdom, obtaining peace in trying times, strengthening our faith, and so much more.

Thus, in order for prayer to be powerful:

We must understand how to pray and understand it is not just shooting a bunch of requests up to God.

Using the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13), we can see how we should pray:

The “Formula” – A.C.T.S.

Adoration – Praise, honor, and exaltation of God for His character and who He is, as Creator and Savior.

Confession – Admission of sin with true repentance, and asking for God’s forgiveness.

Thanksgiving – Reflecting on all God has done for you, through the cross and in your life specifically.

Supplication – Humbly bringing your requests to God.

- Having the right heart posture – “Your will be done” (i.e. praying according to God’s will)
 - **1 John 5:14-15** says “*This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.*”
 - **John 15:7** says: “*If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*”
 - **John 14:13-14** says: “*And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.*”

Three examples to look upon for supplication:

EXAMPLE 1: God answering “yes” to those pleading for something outside His will.

They said to him, “You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have.” But when they said, “Give us a king to lead us,” this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. And the Lord told him: “Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. ...

... But the people refused to listen to Samuel. “No!” they said. “We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.” When Samuel heard all that the people said, he repeated it before the Lord. The Lord answered, “Listen to them and give them a king.”

EXAMPLE 2: God answering prayer differently than hoped for, but met with a humble response

...in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

- 2 Corinthians 12:7b-9a

EXAMPLE 3: A plea that ultimately was submissive to God's will, which God answered with a "no."

Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

- Mark 14:35-36

In these examples, we see that:

1. God gave Israel a king, which was not what He wanted for them, as He was to be their king.
 - a. Just because God answers with a "yes," doesn't mean it was what He wanted for us.
 - b. We must be careful not to plead with God without humbly submitting to His will, as we may get what we ask for, despite it not being God's will.
2. God answered Paul's prayer, but not in the way Paul had asked.
 - a. Prayer takes surrender to God and trusting Him.
 - b. We need to listen for God's response, not simply wait for him to do what we ask.
3. God answered "no" to Jesus, who knew everything was possible for God, yet He did not demand from God. He humbly asked, but ultimately submitted His prayer to the will of the Father.
 - a. We should pray for God's will to be done, regardless of our wants.
 - b. Prayer isn't about getting what we want, but the will of the Father being done.

Praying God's will means:

- (1) We can still pray for our desires, but need to be open to God's "no."
- (2) We can still pray for God to show up in an impossible situation, but understand He may show up differently than we expected.
- (3) Praying for the things we know are part of God's will, as stated in Scripture.
 - a. Give you a thankful heart, in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)
 - b. That you do good, in order to silence those coming against you (1 Peter 2:15)
 - c. Sanctification (1 Thessalonians 4:3a)
 - d. Unity in Christ and that you be one that promotes that kind of unity (Ephesians 1:8b-10)
 - e. Everyone come to know Him (1 Timothy 2:3-4)
 - i. Including our enemies (Matthew 5:44 & Luke 6:28)

In conclusion:

Power in prayer is not having your prayers answered with a "yes," but rather yielding all of your prayers to God's will.