

THE PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVE PRAYERS

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Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi
Coordinator

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God bless you!

Topic:
The Principles of Effective Prayers
Bible Text: Matthew 7:7-11

Prayer

Father in the name of Jesus, we thank you for your mercy that never fails be thou exalted, Father as we gather at your feet tonight teach us by yourself, as we start we start in the name of the Father of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, in Jesus mighty name we've prayed. AMEN.

Introduction

I welcome you in Jesus Christ's name. We would be exploring the word of life again from another angle, and we would dig deep as the Spirit of God helps us, I know that today's word is for someone here who has lost hope and feels they have come to the end of the road, wait patiently and see what the Lord Jesus Christ has for you.

Bible Text: Matthew 7:7-11

[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.

[9]Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?

[10]Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent?

[11]If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

Study

One of the things that might be difficult to bear is to ask God for something and then it feels as if He does not hear. We need to understand what the Lord said here deeply for us to be able to pray effectively. Looking at the word of the Lord here, we would see that He was talking about prayer since it involves our Father in heaven. God has taken us as His children through the sacrificial death of His beloved Son on the cross of Calvary. As such, He chooses to relate with us as children. The Lord Jesus Christ makes this clear in several portions of the scripture, saying God is our Father.

Matthew 5:16 – “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

Matthew 6:14 – “For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.”

Matthew 6:26 – “Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?”

Matthew 6:32 – “(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.”

We must always approach Him as a child approaches his father, because we are no longer bastards since we have surrendered our lives to Him. God wants us to take some steps in our walk with Him just the way we do with our earthly parents. We have known them so well that we can tell of their characters, and we even behave like them sometimes without us knowing. The Lord does not want us to just fold our hands and say, since I have God, all

my desires will be met. He wants us to speak with Him, and this must not be once in a while but always. Although He knows all we need even before we ask Him, yet He still wants us to ask, because this is part of what would prove our dependence on Him. So the Lord says in **Matthew 7:7**: “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.” Many people think the Lord is just saying that we should ask once and forget about it. Well, this can work just like how it is with our earthly parents. There are times that we ask and they give us immediately, and we would not need to ask them for that same thing again. And there are times that we would ask them, and if we do not continue asking, they may not do anything of such for us.

That is how God is. Therefore, what the Lord Jesus Christ is teaching us, is the act of persistence — asking, seeking, and knocking. So, we can interpret it as, keep asking and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking and you will find. Keep on knocking and the door will be opened. This means that when you are asking God for something which is according to His will and you have not gotten an answer to your request, don't relent. Just keep asking. Persist in asking. Hannah went to Shiloh every year to ask for a child. She kept on asking every year until the year the Lord remembered her and gave her a child. That was when she stopped asking for a child.

1 Samuel 1:20 – “Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the Lord.” One of the strategies of Satan to stop our blessings is to make us get tired of persisting in prayers. He often sends signals into our ears to weigh us down, claiming God does not hear us, whereas it is not true. If we look at the case of Daniel, who had been praying and was fasting until he received an answer to his

prayers, we would see that he kept on persisting in his request and did not stop. **Daniel 10:12-13** – “Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.” Not knowing it was the Prince of Persia that had stopped the answers to his prayers. But when he kept praying, God removed the Prince of Persia from the way.

The reason you are not receiving answers to your prayers might be because you are not persistent enough. Persistence is one of the keys to effective prayers. However, let us consider the case of Jabez. The scriptures did not tell us that he prayed more than once, and God heard him and changed his story. **1 Chronicles 4:10** – “And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.”

Jesus Christ said, **John 16:24** – “Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.” There is nothing that would make God get angry with His children when they keep asking Him, unless it is not according to His will for them. Moses kept telling God that he wanted to enter the promised land, and God warned him not to tell Him that again. This is because God's will was that he should not enter because of his disobedience. **Deuteronomy 3:26** – “But the Lord was wroth with me for your sakes, and would not hear me: and the Lord said unto me, Let it suffice thee; speak no more unto me of this matter.” Are there things that you need? Then ask God. Are

there questions you need answers to? Then keep asking Him. He will give you the answer only if you can persist. There are some who cannot tarry in the place of prayer for long to ask God for their life partner, and they are making mistakes because Satan is the one at work. Do you want to know the true nature of a person? Ask God. He is the only one that knows who is who. Even those closest to us may not really know us the way He knows us. He is the one who can give you accurate information about anyone on earth, even ministers of God, only if you can persist.

The Lord says, keep asking. When we seek God, we will find Him. But that seeking is not a one-time thing; it requires constant seeking. Do you want a good relationship with God? Do you want to speak on earth and your words should carry weight in heaven? Do you want to bind and loose without any power daring to oppose your words? Then you must persistently seek God. You cannot choose to be a fair-weather child of God who only comes to Him when you need something. That is the character of some people. You must constantly seek Him. The same with knocking. When you keep knocking on heaven's gate and the door is not opened, we must continue knocking on it until it is opened.

There are doors in the spirit realm, and these doors must be opened through constant and persistent prayers. There are doors of breakthrough, doors of favor, doors of mercy, doors of promotion, doors of upliftment, etc. All these doors can be opened to us if we keep knocking on them. The Lord made a profound statement here in **Matthew 7:8** – “**For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.**” He said, everyone who keeps knocking, everyone who keeps asking, seeking, and knocking will receive, find, and have the door opened to them. What good door has been closed against your life? *I command the door to be opened now by fire in the name of Jesus Christ.*

However, we need to understand that word, everyone, well. It implies everyone of God's children, not just everyone on earth, both the saved and the unsaved. It is only those who are saved that has God as their Father, not the unsaved who are outcasts. This means that in your asking, seeking, and knocking, you must first ascertain that you are a child of God. Because without that, God will not answer you, and you would only be wasting your time. We must understand that if we have taken God as our Father, just as the Lord Jesus Christ has said, it means that we are walking according to His ways and doing His will. For is there a child that does not obey his father, and the father can be pleased with him? There is none. This is why you must then examine yourself if your ways are right with the Lord.

You must check if you esteem the commandments of God, if the laws of God are written in your heart, and if you walk according to His precepts. These are the things that will tell if your prayers will be answered. So there are many who have been praying and it seems as if the Lord is not hearing their prayers or answering their prayers. It is simply because their ways do not please the Lord. They do things which the Lord hates, and yet they expect the Lord to step into their situation.

So you must begin to check yourself at this time to see if you are still on the way. God might have given His good promises in the scriptures to us all but when a man makes Him angry constantly, such a man should not expect to receive anything from Him. **Numbers 23:19** – “God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?” He requires holiness. He wants you to be holy. He wants you to be righteous. Therefore, if you would be a bonafide child of His, you must thoroughly love and practice holiness and righteousness

and ask for grace to walk in it in true obedience. And by so doing, you will be able to receive from Him. If you look into the scriptures, the people who sought God, who sought His face, were those who had given themselves over to Him totally. Not those who still want to have a part of the world and a part of Him. Not those who want to mingle with the world. Not those who want to add the clean with the unclean. They were those people who consecrated and committed themselves only to Him. This is why you must also focus on Him and follow His commandments. Do what pleases Him, and He will hear you. **1**

Peter 3:12 – “For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.”

Matthew 7:9-11 – “Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?” If we humans, by our sinful nature, can give good things to our children, how much more God, whom we have as our Heavenly Father, shall not give us the good and advantageous things we ask of Him? God is waiting for you and I to come to Him and relate with Him in good terms.

God is not a God that seeks to rule or operate like a dictator, although He is autocratic in nature. He is loving and desires a close relationship with us, only if we would draw near to Him.

James 4:8 – “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.” If you are a child of God and it seems as if you are alone, change your perspective about God and do as you have learned in this study. And if you are yet to be a child, you can become one by surrendering your life to Jesus Christ. His arms are wide open

to receive you. Just tell Him to come into your heart, and forsake all your wicked ways, and build a relationship with Him daily as you persist in prayers. And as you do so, may the Lord give immediate answers to your long-term requests according to His will and testimonies will follow your prayers in the name of Jesus Christ.

We have come to the end of this today.

Invitation

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven, please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

"Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today, and I make a decision to obey and follow You. Come into my life now and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen."

Congratulations, now you are saved. If you prayed this short prayer, please WhatsApp **+2347067511039** and let me know that you have just been saved. I want to have a word with you. God bless you!

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