

Prayer Lesson Two: The Power of Prayer

I Prayer fads and formulas change as the years go by, but God's word does not change.

Therefore, we should base our prayers on what Scripture says about prayer and not what tradition or experience teaches.

A One of the predominant fads today is that listening is superior to speaking. Teachers in this vein usually advocate for having the right ambience in order to hear from God...such as calming music or a relaxing environment¹. This is NOT a Christian concept. While of course, we are blessed to have the privilege to hear from God and he doesn't care if we put on music while praying, prayer involves speaking. In fact, even the word "meditate" in Scripture means "to mutter"².

II True prayer includes both WORSHIP and ASKING.

The Greek word for "pray" is *proseuchomai*.

Proseuchomai means "to pray to God, that is, to supplicate, to worship"³

A Worship means love and devotion.

John 4:23-24

But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

1 *How blessed we are to have the privilege of prayer⁴. Because of the blood of Jesus we can boldly come before Him at any time to worship and thank Him.*

Hebrews 10:19-22

Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,²¹ and having a High Priest over the house of God,²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

2 *We can receive His love for us and express our love and gratitude to Him 24/7/365.*

Hebrews 13:15

Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

Colossians 4:2

Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving.

¹ Eastern religions put a heavy emphasis on emptying the mind and relaxing the body in order to hear from deities.

² Meditate—*hāgāh*: to murmur; by implication to ponder: - imagine, meditate, mourn, mutter, roar, speak, study, talk, utter

³ Strongs Concordance

⁴ Lesson One focused on the privilege of prayer.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

B Supplicate means to ask or petition.

Most Christians understand the concept of worshipping God and giving Him praise and thanks. What we often get “hung up” about is asking and receiving from God. Prayer IS worshipping God, and we can worship Him as we walk through our day or set special time aside to solely worship Him. However, prayer also means TO ASK. God wants us to ask. When we ask, WE ARE DEMONSTRATING OUR FAITH IN HIS LOVE AND CARE FOR US.

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

- a** The idea is not merely that God exists as a rewarder, but that He will prove Himself to be a rewarder of that person who diligently seeks Him. Wuest's Word Studies in the Greek New Testament.
- b** The words "diligently seek" are literally "seek Him out," Wuest's Word Studies in the Greek New Testament.

*You obviously believe that God is,
but do you believe that He rewards YOU when YOU seek Him?*

C Worship and thanksgiving go hand in hand with supplication.**Philippians 4:6-7**

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

III Prayer involves ASKING and RECEIVING.**A One of the reasons we pray is because prayer brings results.**

→ Why ask if we don't also believe He will ANSWER???

B God actually encourages us to ask and promises that He will give us what we ask.**Matthew 18:19-20**

Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.

Matthew 21:21-22

So Jesus answered and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and **do not doubt**, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ it will be done. ²²And **whatever** things you **ask** in prayer, **believing, you will receive.**”

John 14:13-14

And **whatever** you **ask** in My name, that **I will do**, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you **ask anything** in My name, **I will do it.**

John 15:7

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will **ask** what you **desire**, and **it shall be done for you.**

John 15:16

You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that **whatever** you **ask** the Father in My name **He may give you.**

1 John 3:21-23

Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. ²² And **whatever** we **ask** we **receive**⁵ from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. ²³ **And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.**

1 John 5:14-15

Now this is the **confidence** that we have in Him, that if we **ask anything** according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that He hears us, **whatever** we **ask**, we **know** that we **have** the petitions that we have **asked** of Him.

*Whoever
means me!*

*Whatever
means anything!*

Matthew 7:7-8 (WuestNT)

“Keep on **asking** for something to be given and **it shall be given** you. Keep on **seeking**, and **you shall find**. Keep on reverently **knocking**, and it **shall be opened** to you. **For everyone who keeps on asking for something to be given, keeps on receiving. And he who keeps on seeking, keeps on finding. And to him who keeps on reverently knocking, it shall be opened.**”

Jesus wants us to continue asking, seeking, and knocking so that we will continue to receive, have the doors open, and find. He isn't saying to keep asking until God finally gives in and gives us what we want, but to keep asking Him for everything we want and need.

⁵ Literally in the Greek: whatever “we may be requesting we are obtaining”

Matthew 7:7-8

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

For everyone who asks → receives ←

Not only will it be given to us (vs. 7),
but we will receive^{6,7} it (vs. 8)

c Faith is not as complicated as we make it. God promises/provides. We believe in Him, so we act on our belief (faith) by asking AND receiving.

D God has already provided for us everything we need, so we can ask in faith and receive with confidence. We cannot see these things, but they are real and we receive them when we ask because He has provided them.

a Blessed with every spiritual blessing

Ephesians 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

b Seated with Jesus in the heavenlies

Ephesians 2:4-7

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come⁸ He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

2 Peter 1:3

As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.

1) You are right now in two worlds simultaneously, this physical world, and seated with Him in the spiritual world.

2 Kings 6:16-17

So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." ¹⁷Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the LORD opened the servant's eyes

⁶ Lambano "to receive" (what is given); "to gain, get, obtain": absolutely, Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament. Denotes either "to take" or "to receive," Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old Testament and New Testament Words.

⁷ Literally in the Greek: "the one requesting is obtaining" www.scripture4all.org

⁸ "The ages to come" refers to the time after the resurrection; in other words, now.

and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

E The moment we ask, we receive⁹.

- 1 He gives, we ask, but Jesus is saying more than that when we ask He gives. He is saying that not only does God give but that we actually receive whatever we are asking for while we are asking. If we are asking for provision, we immediately receive it, if we are asking for healing, we immediately receive it. The place we receive is in the spiritual realm. Even though it is in the spiritual realm it is more real than in the physical realm. Jesus said, “Everyone who asks receives.”
 - a This is why a sick person can say, “By His stripes I was healed.”
 - b This is how a weak person can say, “I am strong.”
 - c This is how a person who is feeling guilty and worthless can say, “I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.”
 - d This is how a poor person can say, “He meets all my needs.”

*So how do we have in the physical world
what we already have been blessed with in the heavenlies?*

IV FAITH (belief)

- A** Faith is believing in things we cannot see that God assures us exist.

2 Corinthians 5:7

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Hebrews 11:1 AMP

NOW FAITH is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].

- B** To have faith means we believe we have already received whatever we ask for when we ask for it. (This faith is not in our faith, but in Him who promised. Otherwise, faith becomes a work and is no longer faith.)

Mark 11:24 ESV (English Standard Version)

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours¹⁰.

⁹ Or, another way of putting it is, “While we are asking we are obtaining.”

¹⁰ Literally in the Greek: “Be ye believing! that you are obtaining and it shall be to ye.”

a **Our responsibility is to believe that we have received whatever we have requested the moment we prayed (because Jesus said, “Whoever asks receives”).**

C Our faith involves speaking what we believe. Thus spiritual truths become physical realities (we have them)¹¹. God calls those things that are not as though do exist, and they come into existence, but →we call those things that already do exist in the Spirit (the things He has provided/promised) as though they do exist.

Romans 4:17

(As it is written, “I have made you a father of many nations”) in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did. 2

Corinthians 4:13

But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I BELIEVED, THEREFORE I SPOKE,” we also believe, therefore we also speak, ¹⁸while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

D Jesus is the High Priest of our confession.

Hebrews 3:1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession.

Hebrews 4:14

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

1) “to hold fast,” i.e. tropically, “not to discard or let go; to keep carefully and faithfully”: ὀχετετε, εχεις, Revelation 2:25; 3:11; το ονομα μου Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament.

V God delights in answering our prayers.

That’s why God makes asking and receiving so easy. He doesn’t want us all tied up in knots about prayer so that we can spend less time begging Him for this that and the other thing and more time simply fellowshiping with Him. He wants His provisions for His children accessible to all of His children, both studious and not so studious. We are born again by simple faith, and this is also how we receive everything from God: BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH.

Romans 8:32

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

¹¹ By no means are we suggesting that a believer should conjure up things not promised such a gold dust, feathers, or gems. God has not promised to give us metaphysical experiences. This is a common New Age practice and one which has found its way into the body of Christ. This discussion is about spiritual realities...things which God has clearly said in HIS word that are already ours...already provided for us.

Luke 12:32

"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Luke 18:1,8

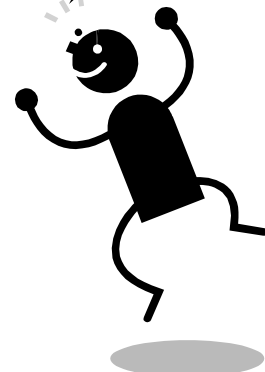
And He told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart... Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

John 16:23-24

Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He WILL give you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in My name.

→ Ask, and you will receive¹², ←

→ that your joy may be full←



*God wants us to ask,
SO THAT we receive (obtain),
SO THAT He can bring us JOY!!!*

*God delights in our prayer requests.
He is not bothered by them.*

He is not pouting wishing you would listen more and talk less.

He wants to answer our prayers because

He wants us to obtain what we ask and to have fullness of joy!

Jesus Himself said, "EVERYONE who asks RECEIVES."

So, go ahead and ASK!!!

Now, for those of us who do not believe a teaching on prayer is complete without an acrostic, please accept the following humble provision especially for you . . .

¹² Literally in the Greek: "Be ye requesting, and ye shall be obtaining"
C.D. Hildebrand

P-Promises and Provision from God

R-Receiving while

A-Asking and

Y-You WILL have it!¹³

E-Exceedingly abundantly beyond what you could ask or think¹⁴

R-Receiving abundance of joy with worship and thanksgiving

¹³ 2 Corinthians 1:20

For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

¹⁴ Ephesians 3:20

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.

C.D. Hildebrand