



Who Gets Their Prayers Answered?

Lamentations 3:37: *Who is there who speaks and it comes to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it?*



Many, many people pray. Are all those prayers answered or are most unheeded? Is there a prescribed formula for prayer? When should we pray? What should we pray about? Does the "universe" help seekers find? Are there right ways to pray that will get you an "in" and are there wrong ways to pray that will get you ignored? Stay with us as we tackle what promises to be a massive, important and life-changing topic!

How should we approach prayer?

James 5:16-18: (NASB) ¹⁶*Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.* ¹⁷*Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months.* ¹⁸*Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.*

Prayer and brain activity, *Science of Prayer, CNN*

- *(Dr Newberg) Prayer activates many different parts of the brain. It affects our emotional parts of the brain, the logical parts of the brain, the parts that help us feel connected to our universe and to our God, and is therefore a buzz of activity that makes us feel energized, which is why I think it is such a powerful experience for people.*

So prayer, according to Scripture and according to science, is a deep and personal experience. It seems to indicate that we are "wired" to pray. How then should we approach this? Are all prayers appropriate?

You pray to you, *askteal@thespiritualcatalyst.com*

- *What are you praying to when you ask? You are praying to you. You are praying to the the source self that still exists, which is the larger, more expansive part of you. When you have an idea of God being outside of you, prayer becomes this movement of prostration.*
- *It's asking in such a way that you are giving the power over to something else, and there is the possibility that the "something else" might decide you are worthy enough to give it to you. That is not the way that real prayer works. When real prayer is done properly, you acknowledge the fact that you are the creator. You focus in such a pure way that you are allowing that god-force energy that is you to affect the fabric of your own reality.*

The Lord's Prayer is a template to teach us how to pray. Its purpose is not for us to repeat verbatim over and over again. Let's discuss what our "Prayer Priorities" should be when we review Jesus' example of prayer.



We are to revere Him, which is contrary to the last audio clip we heard.

Romans 8:15: (NRSV) *For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!"*

Isaiah 64:8: (ASV) *But now, O Jehovah, Thou art our Father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of Thy hand.*

Humility is a huge part of this. Setting our attitude in this God-honoring way helps put our prayer into context.

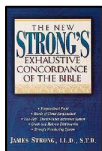
 I declare and decree, Dr. Cindy Trimm

- *I declare that the anointing of God breaks every yoke, opens every portal and assigns angels to reinforce me as I advance into new levels, new dimensions, new realms and territories. Let there be a breakthrough in the heavens. I tap into apostolic and prophetic veins. I shatter glass ceilings... I declare a breakthrough atmosphere is established... and decree that every bit of lukewarmness must be replaced with the fire and the zeal of God. Baptize me...let there be fire in my mouth as I advance in this prayer.*

What is the source for "decreeing" and "declaring?" Is that a scriptural approach to prayer?

Most sources point to the following text, spoken by one of Job's comforters:

Job 22:28: (KJV) Thou shalt also **decree <1504>** a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways.



Decree: Strong's #1504: A primitive root; to cut down or off; (figuratively) to destroy, divide, exclude or decide:—cut down (off), decree, divide, snatch.

Should our prayers be where we "decree and declare" to God?

Jesus took a forceful approach:

Matthew 17:20: (NASB) *And he said to them, Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, move from here to there, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.*



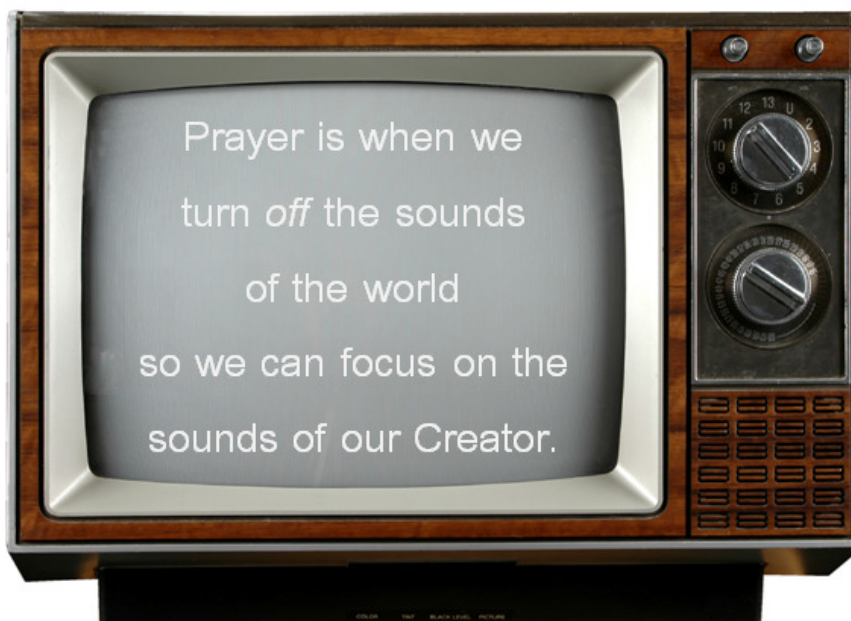
Faith as a mustard seed, *The Atheist Experience* #592

- *Let's talk about the systematic failure of prayer. If there is a God sitting around, maybe He is a little lazy and needs a reminder that things need fixing. People supposedly can pray to God and tell Him about his neglected duties. In fact, the Bible even confirms that. Matthew 17:20 (quoted). Isn't that powerful? Just a little bit of faith and prayer and anything you want will happen!*
- *I haven't heard of any mountains moving, so the conclusion is either no one in the world had faith the size of a grain of a mustard seed, or they just didn't see any mountains that needed moving. (laughing)*

Jesus' lesson here was not to have a teeny bit of faith. Contrarily, it was to have a faith that had enormous growth potential! Figuratively, your faith should be so strong it can move (figurative) mountains.

Matthew 13:31-32: (NASB) ³¹He presented another parable to them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; ³²and this is smaller than all other seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.

Also, Jesus was NOT saying God will give you whatever you want - we need to understand when his words are literal or symbolic.






God has a plan and we are to pray for it to unfold. Does my prayer make God unfold His plan any faster than He planned it to? No. But my prayer makes me aware that He has a plan and keeps me in harmony with Him.

Jeremiah 23:5: Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

Daniel 2:44: And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

So, perspective is important when it comes to proper prayer.

Matthew 18:2-4: (NASB) ²And he called a child to himself and set him before them, ³and said, Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

 **Children's supernatural power, Prayer at the Potter's house, Bishop T.D. Jakes**
(Child yelling out to the congregation)

- I declare and decree God, You granted your children supernatural strength and ability to fight a good fight of faith.
- I decree and declare they are qualified to share in Jesus' inheritance.
- I decree and declare they are firmly rooted, built up and established in the faith.
- I decree and declare they are a steward of good will.
- I decree and declare they are an ambassador for Christ; the light of the world.



Decree and declare? Here is the context of the "decree command" that some use:

Job 22:1-5: (NRSV) ¹Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered: ²Can a mortal be of use to God? Can even the wisest be of service to him? ³Is it any pleasure to the Almighty if you are righteous, or is it gain to him if you make your ways blameless? ⁴Is it for your piety that he reproves you, and enters into judgment with you? ⁵Is not your wickedness great? There is no end to your iniquities.

There was a comforter telling Job that Job was far more evil than he really was. He advised that Job needed to repent of those things.

Another piece to the prayer puzzle - not all prayers are on the same footing!

James 4:1-3: (NRSV) ¹Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

What prompts answers to our prayers?

 **Belief yields answer, askteal@thespiritualcatalyst.com**

- *The way to insure that a prayer offers you up results is to believe that it will. Everything will come according to your beliefs, and so your beliefs must shift if the prayer is to occur. The person - even in their aspect of praying to a god which exists outside of them - the person who trusts so fully that it is going to become (a reality) the minute they ask for it is the one that is going to line up with the results. That's just how it is. If you are praying for something you really believe can't happen, it can't happen. Yet again, not because the universe is not making it happen, but because you can't even put yourself in the vibrational space to receive it.*

Is it really only belief that brings answers?

Proverbs 15:28-29: (NRSV) ²⁸The mind of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil. ²⁹The LORD is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

The modern day concept to "decree and declare" comes from this lesson. However, this was not a command from God, it was the advice of Eliphaz.

Once Eliphaz lectures Job on how evil he *thinks* Job must be, he then instructs Job to repent:

Job 22:21-23, 27-28: (KJV) ²¹Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee. ²²Receive, I pray thee, the law from his mouth, and lay up his words in thine heart. ²³If thou return to the Almighty, thou shalt be built up, thou shalt put away iniquity far from thy tabernacles...²⁷Thou shalt make thy prayer unto him, and he shall hear thee, and thou shalt pay thy vows. ²⁸Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways.

...but was this the correct advice? We will look at how God reacted to this action shortly.



Multiple streams of income, *Prayer at the Potter's house, Bishop T.D. Jakes* (Child yelling out to the congregation)

- *I decree and declare there is a hedge of protection around them!*
- *I decree and declare they will never be broke a day in their lives!*
- *I decree and declare that God will provide for them with wisdom, knowledge and understanding!*
- *I decree and declare that God will bless them with multiple streams of income at a young age!*
- *I decree and declare that God will bless them with multimillion dollar deals, invention and strategies!*

Prayer is not to *tell* God. Prayer is to open our hearts to *listen* to Him. The second part of the Lord's Prayer addresses this: *God's will be done, not our own.*

What was God's reaction to Job when he tried to decree to God?

Job 38:1-4: (NRSV) (See Chapters 38, 39, 40) ¹*Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind: ²Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? (Who gave you this counsel on what to do - they had no knowledge!) ³Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me. ⁴Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding...*

God decrees and we listen. That was God's answer.

After being challenged by God, Job now sees the greatness of God and repents - not of evil living, but of his doubts:

Job 42:1-6: (NRSV) ¹*Then Job answered the LORD: ²I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. ³Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge? Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. ⁴Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you declare to me. ⁵I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; ⁶therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.*

Job heeded the wrong advice of his counselors.

Now God deals with Eliphaz:

Job 42:7: (NASB) *It came about after the LORD had spoken these words to Job, that the LORD said to Eliphaz... My wrath is kindled against you and against your two friends, because you have not spoken of Me what is right as My servant Job has.*

This idea of decreeing to God by trying to admit things to God you hadn't actually done wrong and then proclaiming and announcing your changed heart with a "look at me now - I'm ready to get what's mine" attitude caused God's anger. So the text that declares we decree was in fact an example of what *not* to do!

Here is the attitude of prayer to strive for - humility before God:

Luke 18:9-14: (NRSV) ⁹*He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income. ¹³But the tax*

collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, God, be merciful to me, a sinner! ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.

What should motivate us to pray?



The prayer teaches us to ask for sustenance, but Jesus took it even higher.

Matthew 4:4: (NRSV) But he answered, It is written, One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Jesus taught us to really focus on our spiritual sustenance. It is the word of God that truly feeds us.

1 Timothy 6:8: And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

We are to be content with simple, basic, humble means.

))) No such thing as not, askteal@thespiritualcatalyst.com

- There is no vibrational anti-note in this universe. There is no such thing as "not" or "don't." Anything you are focused on will come into your experience. So in that kind of a circumstance, what you should be focused on, and in pure trust of, is the approved state - the final end state of what you're asking for as if it already is. So if you are praying for a relationship, put yourself in the space while you are praying for receiving that.

This puts us in the center and not God.

A caller suggested:

Romans 8:26: For we do not know how to pray as we ought but the Spirit itself intercedes for us with groanings that cannot be uttered.



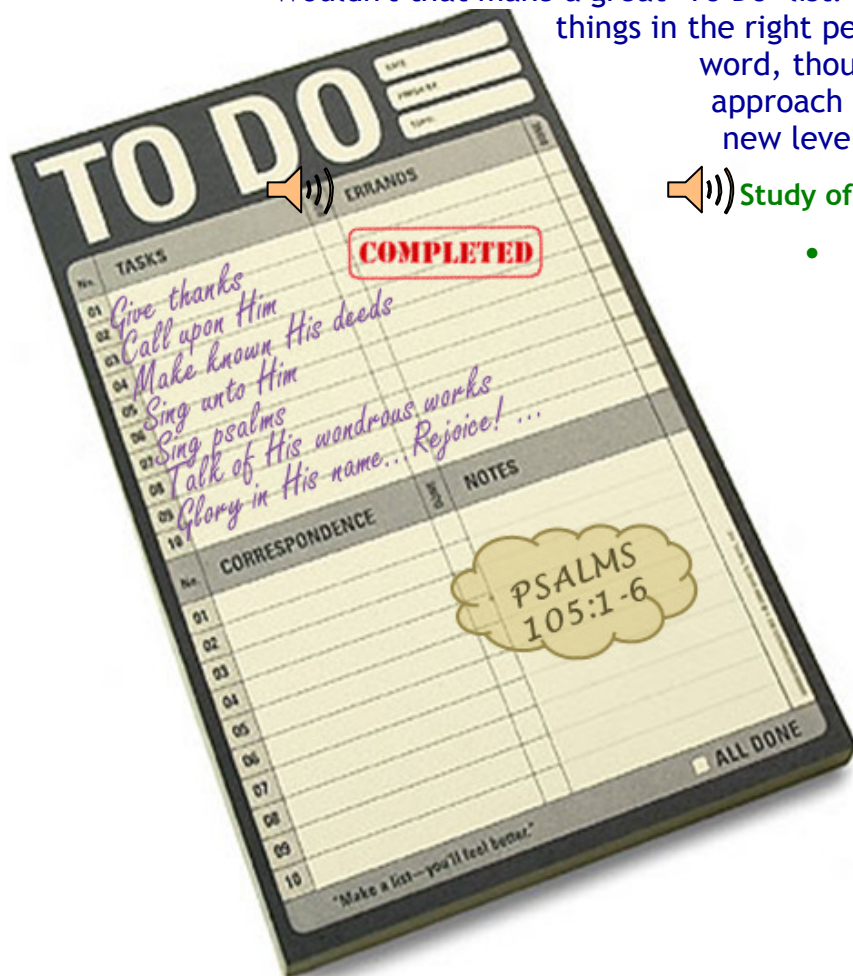
Romans 12:12: *Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer.*

We need to be patient in our tribulation - this does not tell us to pray for the tribulation to be removed.

Prayer affords us the opportunity to give praise:

Psalms 105:1-5: (KJV) ¹O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people. ²Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works. ³Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD. ⁴Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face evermore. ⁵Remember his marvelous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth;

Wouldn't that make a great "To Do" list? Our attitude would change if we put things in the right perspective. Honor and glorify God in word, thought and deed and watch if your approach to the same exact difficulty rises to a new level. That is the power of prayer!



Study of 500 prayers, Science of Prayer, CNN

- Study of 500 prayers in prayer books inside Johns Hopkins Hospital: 1/3 were prayers of thanks and gratitude; 1/3 were petitioning God in some way; 1/3 were both thanking and petitioning. The first important point to realize is there is a lot of thanks and gratitude! The second point to note was when we looked at the petitions we found they weren't asking for specific things. They were often for support, blessings and guidance in a much more general, psychologically supportive way in the requests they were making.

It is not for us to determine the way God moves His hand, but it is for us to determine *how we react* to the way God moves His hand.

Prayer brings us guidance:

Luke 6:12-13: (NRSV) ¹²Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. ¹³And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles:

Prayer brings us deliverance:

Hebrews 4:14-16: (KJV) ¹⁴Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. ¹⁵For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.



Prayer gives us the ability to participate in the lives of others:

Luke 6:28: (NRSV) *bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.*

Philippians 1:2-6: (NRSV) *²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.*

What are the ingredients of acceptable prayer?

 **I war in the name of Jesus, Dr. Cindy Trimm**

- I war in the name of Jesus, and by his shed blood, which is the shed blood of the lamb, the lamb that was slain before the foundations of the world. By him, hallelujah, evil must be destroyed. For this reason was the son of God made manifest that he would destroy the works of the darkness. I decree and declare the works of darkness is destroyed. I decree and declare every curse over my life is reversed. I break through prevailing and sustaining powers of darkness over this region in the name of Jesus.*

There is a continual use of the pronoun "I" in this prayer. It demands and declares but does not ask.

Here is an example of a proper declaration and decree - acceptable prayer is based in proper understanding:

Psalms 2:1-7: (KJV) *¹Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? ²The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, ³Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. ⁴He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. ⁵Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. ⁶Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. ⁷I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.*

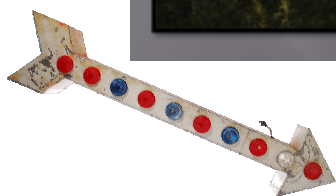
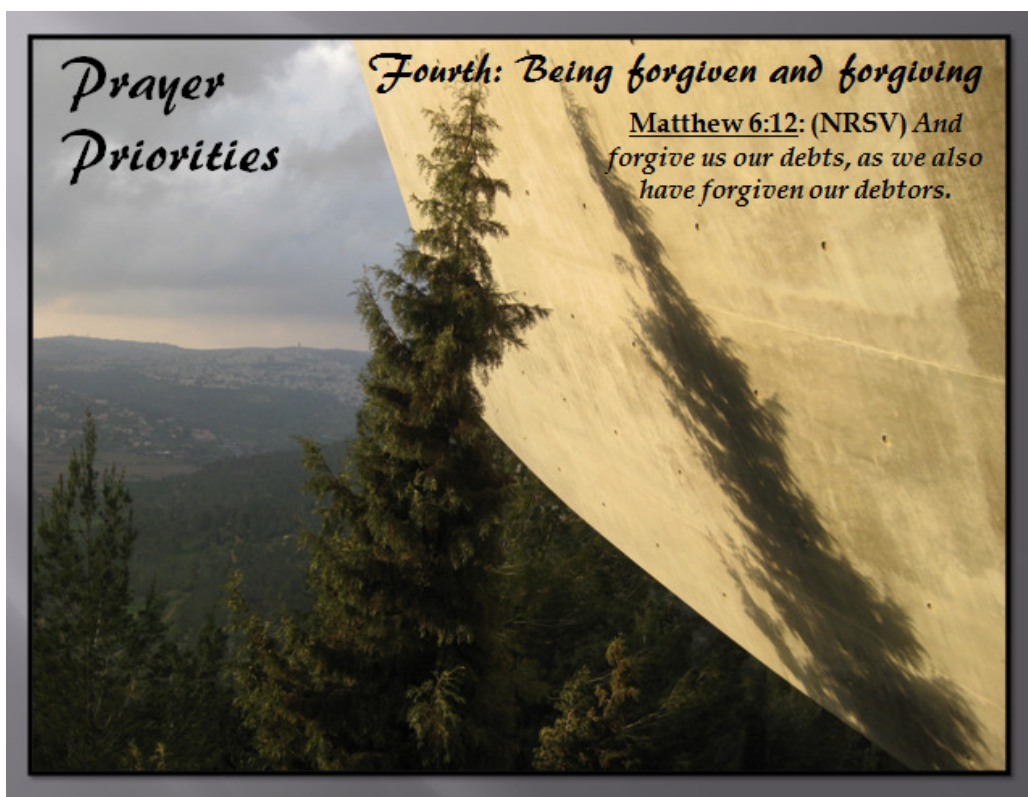
This promise was already given in a prophecy and we shouldn't take credit for it. God's declaration and decree is that Jesus is His son. Remember, there is a difference between commanding and complying.

Lamentations 3:37: *Who is there who speaks and it comes to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it?*

We do have to ask and are told to come boldly to the throne of grace, but we must be bold in our humility.



(Prayers tucked in the Western Wall, Jerusalem. Over a million notes are placed each year. Twice a year they are collected and buried in the Jewish cemetery on the nearby Mount of Olives.)



If I do not have a forgiving heart,
I should not be receiving of forgiveness.

Isaiah 1:18: *Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*

Even if we have been sinful but our heart is turning towards God, God will hear us.

Ephesians 1:7: *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*

We will be accountable to be able to receive from God according to what we are willing to give to others. That's a big responsibility!

Humility as implied throughout our whole discussion is a basic key:

1 Peter 5:6-9: (NASB) *⁶Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, ⁷casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. ⁸Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.*

We are to humble ourselves and not be humble because we are forced to be.



Living faithfully and righteously enables our prayers to be heard:

Psalms 32:1-8: (NRSV) ¹Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ²Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. ³While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah ⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, I will confess my transgressions to the LORD and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah ⁶Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. ⁷You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah ⁸I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

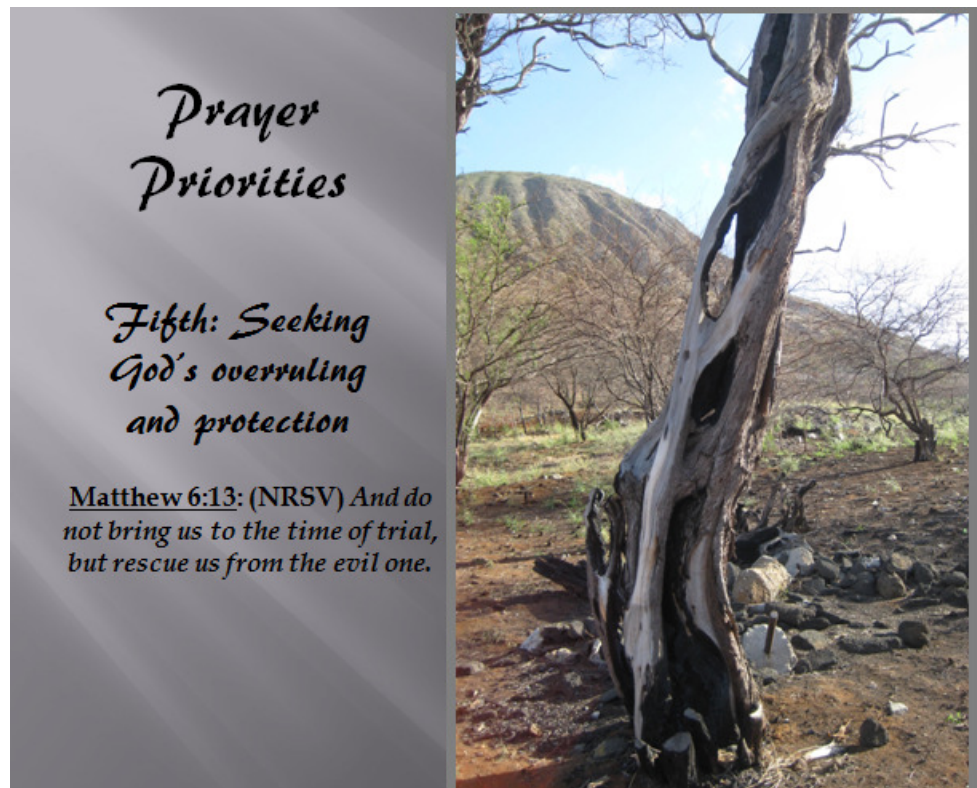
David tells us that while hiding from his sins, he was self-destructing because he was not honest and humble. His guilt was only forgiven once David was willing to lay it before God and "catch up with" his own reality. God already knew of David's sins, but David had to acknowledge what he had done in order to move forward and be forgiven.

Based on humility we submit to God and resist evil:

James 4:7-10: (NRSV) ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Lament and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy into dejection. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you.

Righteous prayers are God-focused and God-honoring and are in accordance with the will of God. There is an absolute privilege to this type of communication.

Can prayer change your life?





2 Peter 2:9: *The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:*

Don't believe they talk to God, *The Atheist Experience* 592

- *Nothing fails like prayer! Nobody seems to be able to talk to God and in fact believers themselves don't really believe they can talk to God. When do you find true believers in hospitals? If they were true believers, they'd go to their minister or they'd go pray and have their disease cured!*

If the whole point of prayer was to get what I want, whenever I want it from the greatest power in the universe, then I could understand this perspective. However, prayer is there not to serve our will, but to change our life!

John 17:8-9: (NASB) ⁸for the words which You gave me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent me. ⁹I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given me; **for they are Yours;**

So if we are God's, then we need to act like it:

James 4:13-17: (NASB) ¹³Come now, you who say, Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit. ¹⁴Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. ¹⁵Instead, you ought to say, If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that. ¹⁶But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. ¹⁷Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

We can have intention in the context of God's will. We are not to command God but are instead to comply with His will.

Prayer and the limbic system, *Science of Prayer*, CNN

- *Prayer also affects the emotional part of the brain, the part of the brain called the limbic system, because these are deeply emotional experiences for people. They have immense joy, immense love and immense compassion and it has a tremendous effect not only for them in the moment, but it exists throughout their entire lives.*

We are also supposed to pray "in faith." However, that is not "decree and declare" type prayers that are emotionally charged but actually void of spirituality.

The following text clearly represents Jesus' example of this "fifth order of business" in our Prayer Priorities, as well as introduces his clear example of the attitude of prayer:

Matthew 26:37-44: (KJV) ³⁷And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. ³⁸Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. ³⁹And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: **nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.** ⁴⁰And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? ⁴¹Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. ⁴²He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. ⁴³And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.



So, with great trial and testing comes - through prayer - great protection and promise!

1 Corinthians 10:13: (NRSV) *No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.*

As prayer permeates our lives, we need to be sure we understand what makes prayer really work to the point where it can literally change our lives. It takes humility, studying to *show thyself approved*, and wanting to do God's will and not our own.

**So who gets their prayers answered?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions,
Think about it...!**

**And now even more to think about...
only in the Full Edition of CQ Rewind!**



Asking God to hear your prayer certainly implies that He may not:

Proverbs 15:28-29: (NRSV) ²⁸*The mind of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil.* ²⁹*The LORD is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous.*

Psalms 102:1-8: (NRSV) ¹*Hear my prayer, O LORD; let my cry come to you.* ²*Do not hide your face from me in the day of my distress. Incline your ear to me; answer me speedily in the day when I call.* ³*For my days pass away like smoke, and my bones burn like a furnace.* ⁴*My heart is stricken and withered like grass; I am too wasted to eat my bread.* ⁵*Because of my loud groaning my bones cling to my skin.* ⁶*I am like an owl of the wilderness, like a little owl of the waste places.* ⁷*I lie awake; I am like a lonely bird on the housetop.* ⁸*All day long my enemies taunt me; those who deride me use my name for a curse.*

Psalms 86:1-6: (NRSV) ¹*Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.* ²*Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you; save your servant who trusts in you. You are my God;* ³*be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all day long.* ⁴*Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.* ⁵*For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.* ⁶*Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; listen to my cry of supplication.*

Daniel 9:17-19: (NRSV) ¹⁷*Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his supplication, and for your own sake, Lord, let your face shine upon your desolated sanctuary.* ¹⁸*Incline your ear, O my God, and hear. Open your eyes and look at our desolation and the city that bears your name. We do not present our supplication before you on the ground of our righteousness, but on the ground of your great mercies.* ¹⁹*O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, listen and act and do not delay! For your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people bear your name!*



Nehemiah 1:4-7: (NRSV) *⁴When I heard these words I sat down and wept, and mourned for days, fasting and praying before the God of heaven. ⁵I said, "O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments; ⁶let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Both I and my family have sinned. ⁷We have offended you deeply, failing to keep the commandments, the statutes, and the ordinances that you commanded your servant Moses.*

Proverbs 15:8: *The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.*

Psalms 17:1: *A Prayer of David. Hear the right, O LORD, attend unto my cry, give ear unto my prayer, that goeth not out of feigned lips.*

Proverbs 15:29: *The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.*

Psalms 102:17: *He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer.*

Proverbs 28:9: *He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.*




Some fascinating statistics from FOX News:

The following table is an article found at:

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,141885,00.html>

"Most Americans Pray (and Floss) Frequently"



	Several Times a Day or Once a Day	Several Times a Week	Several Times a Month or Once a Month	A Few Times a Year or Never	(Not Sure)
Watch television	85%	10	3	2	-
Tell someone that you love them	79%	11	6	3	1
Pray	66%	12	8	13	1
Floss your teeth	59%	18	8	14	1
Read books for entertainment	37%	21	21	21	-
Curse or swear	38%	14	16	31	1
Exercise	32%	33	15	19	1
Think about terrorist attacks	20%	14	28	36	2
Have an alcoholic drink	11%	18	23	48	-

"While these results are interesting, they have to be taken with a grain of salt," comments Opinion Dynamics President John Gorman. "Survey respondents are well known to overstate behaviors they believe are virtuous, like praying and flossing, and understate those, such as drinking, they feel might open them up to criticism."