

So, consider the following questions when you pray:

- ⇒ Is your prayer in line with God's mission in the world?
 - ↳ Seeking and saving the lost
- ⇒ Does your request honor God?
- ⇒ Is it in line with God's eternal perspective?
 - ↳ Character and not comfort
- ⇒ Is your prayer an extension of a life of obedience and holiness?
- ⇒ Do you believe (have faith) in the Lord and that He will answer your prayer as long as it is within His will?
- ⇒ When you pray in Jesus' Name, would you stake the reputation of Jesus on your request?
- ⇒ Do you trust God enough to accept His answer, even if it is not in accordance with your desires?

More material on prayer can be found at:

<http://www.ralphhoweministries.com/content/blogcategory/60/164/>

Prayer Requests for this week...

Ralph's team of apostles ministering in Central and Siberian Russia September 12th to 27th

Open hearts of leaders and people in the many churches and the 45-50 meeting they will be ministering in - teaching the Bible and prophesying over a period of 14 days

For wisdom, guidance, protection for everyone on the team - Ukrainians, Canadians, Russians and South Africans

For the remainder of the finances needed



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Ralph Howe Ministries

"Loving God, Equipping People, Mentoring Leaders, Reaching Nations"

NEW RESOURCES THIS WEEK ON THE WEB

These are free downloads available for you on-line

All of Ralph's teachings taught during the week are placed on-line within 24 hours. This teaching will be on-line tomorrow morning... audio and full text - no cost to you

Each week Ralph writes a number of articles for publication and they are always posted immediately on-line and available to read or download free

Every day Ralph writes a daily blog on the life of the church, the interaction of the church and culture, or something current in the news. You can find them on-line and can also subscribe to receive them in your in-box daily

While overseas ministering there is an extra daily posting on his blogs regarding the current day and any prayer needs that have risen that day

ASK AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN

[Prayer - the Heartbeat of a Disciple - Part Two]

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."

Matthew 7:7-8

A blank cheque - Santa Claus - BUT, does life in the real world back up and confirm this promise of Jesus?

↳ Answer: Apparently no!

Journal entries on prayer...

The problem with this approach to prayer...

↳ A text always has a _____

We need to look at the background behind the verses... and not force the passage into our understanding or definition of prayer

Many people today pray to be healthy, wealthy and wise... happy and successful

Consider the first disciples - example: Peter, James and John... they did not have all these things we pray for regularly and yet...

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was one of the few German pastors in the 1930s to speak out loudly against the Nazis and who himself died a martyr's death, said it best when he said, "***When Jesus calls a man, he bids him 'come and die.'***"

Jesus said: But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses (martyrs)... (Acts 1:8a)

Four things we need to learn:

1> Jesus' promise to "ask-seek-knock" and receive answers focuses on _____ and not material possessions

2> Praying in Jesus' Name is not a _____

3> "Ask and you shall receive" makes sense only when _____ and in sync with _____

4> _____, not positive confession, is what is important

_____ - the context of the (text) promise

The context: a list of things a disciple would be doing if following Jesus - none of which are natural to us as humans and none of which can be done by our own strength and will power

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."

Matthew 7:7-8

Ask-seek-knock asking for God's grace and power to enable you to live the way a new creature in Christ - a born again believer is to live

Not a _____ formula

Biblical prayer: Ask the Father in the Name of Jesus

The Name of Jesus is not the same as "open sesame"

John 14:14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it

Not three magical words that guarantee an answer

A person's name symbolized everything that person was about, valued and stood for

THEREFORE, when you pray "in the Name of Jesus" you are stating that your request – your prayer – is completely in accordance with the person of Jesus Christ and is something that honors His Name

You must be _____ with God

What we ask for must be in line with His plans and His purpose for your life

⇒ His agenda / His will

John 15:7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

There is a big word we overlook - _____

1 John 5:14-15 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.

Not positive confession—but _____

Mark 11:24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

You need faith when you pray - you need to believe

Noun - _____

Verb - _____ (action)

We need to believe—have assurance when we pray and that only comes by praying within God's will

His will is not being kept a secret...

Romans 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.

His will is His plan and His purpose for your life

Read your Bible—when something lights up or jumps off the page; when something speaks to a situation you are facing ... builds _____

Romans 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ

⇒ More than listening to the Bible on CD or DVD to 'hear' it

Hearing the "word" means hearing the Rhema word - Rhema and Logos

Only Rhema builds faith

Faith grows by hearing God's voice through His written word, through a prophetic word, in the stillness of your heart

Matthew 4:4 "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word [_____] that (continuously) comes from the mouth of God.'"

This faith we have is faith in _____

James 1:6-7 But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind; for the doubter, being double-minded and unstable in every way, must not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

And the more faith you have in God – the greater the likelihood that your will is aligned with His will and thus the more likely your prayers will be answered...

James 4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

C.S. Lewis: "If God had granted all of the silly prayers I've made in my life, where should I be now?"

We pray therefore within two boundaries or two bookends...

1> Praying in line with _____ for our life, His Church and the Kingdom

2> _____ - Believing in God and His goodness