

Prepare To Pray

5 Keys to a Successful Prayer Life

1. Dependence: Have confidence in God's Character.

Have faith: In Hebrews 11:1-3 faith is described in three different ways:

- The confidence of things hoped for
 - o The future and the promises made by God
- The convictions of things not seen
 - o Even though you cannot see the Lord, or Satan, you know they are there.
- Trusting the character of His Word
 - o We trust the promise and the one who made the promise

"It shall be done to you according to your faith." Matthew 9:29

"Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you." Mark 11:24

2. Direction: Be committed to the will of God

1 John 5:14-15

- When we pray according to His will, He hears us
 - o You must desire the will of God and hear from Him

"Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. "If you ask me anything in My name, I will do it. John 14:13-14

3. Devotion: Be free from sin

Isaiah 59:1-2

- Sin separates us from God. The further we fall into sin, the harder it is to hear His voice.

Barriers between you and God

- Unbelief (Hebrews 3:19)
- Having the wrong relationships (Romans 13:8)
- A lack of forgiveness toward others (Matthew 6:14-15)
- Coveting what you have and having a lack of generosity towards others in your heart (Proverbs 11:25)
- Wrong motives (James 4:3)
- Not wanting to hear from God and respond to His word (Proverbs 28:9)

4. Desire: Cry out to God

Have desperation and a passion for God and what you are praying for.

- Shows humility

- Builds your faith
- Reveals your heart

“Evening and morning and at noon, I will complain and murmur, and He will hear my voice.” Psalm 55:17

5. Determination: Be persistent and continuously bring your prayers to the throne of God.

James 1:2-4

Romans 5:3-5

“For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.” Hebrews 10:36

Requirements for Successful Prayer

A Humble Heart (2 Chronicles 7:14)

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Wholeheartedness (Jeremiah 29:13)

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Faith (Mark 11:24)

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

Righteousness (James 5:16)

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

Obedience (1 John 3:22)

And we will receive whatever we request because we obey him and do the things that please him.

There is power in prayer; it has no boundaries or borders, but many of us aren't sure how to get started or what to say. Prayer is simply having a conversation with God. This sounds intimidating, but it doesn't have to be. Having the right ingredients or elements in your prayers are much more important than whether they sound fancy or elegant. In fact, you can talk to God just like you would talk to a parent or best friend. So forget about how you say it, and focus on what you want and need to say.

The Bible talks about "petitioning" God in prayer - this means to earnestly plea or implore. To "present your requests" to God is simply to tell Him specifically what you need. Praying about each worry or need in your life shuts out worry because it invites God to be involved in every area of your life, and when He is engaged in each aspect of your life, there is nothing to fear.