

PRINCIPLES OF PRAYER

I. MATTHEW 6:6 - "*But when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.*" Pray so as to be seen by God and rewarded by Him.

II. MATTHEW 7:7 - "*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.*" Asking, seeking and knocking – an increasing desperation in prayer. Keep praying until God answers your prayer. Luke 11:1-13, Luke 18:1-8

III. MARK 11:23-24 - "*I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.*" Pray with faith and expectancy, knowing that God hears you and will answer you.

IV. JOHN 14:13-14 - "*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.*" Ask in Christ's name – according to God's character, His holiness, power, goodness, mercy, love and wisdom. Be praying not so you can be recognized but for God's glory. John 16:23-24, Ps 9:10

V. ACTS 2:42 - "*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to fellowship, to breaking of bread, and to prayer.*" Be devoted to prayer, be faithful in prayer. This is one of the main keys to victory and success as a Christian. Romans 12:12; Acts 1:14, 3:1, 4:23-24

VI. 1 TIMOTHY 2:8 - "*Therefore, I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension.*" The men are to lead out in prayer. They are to pray with holy hands and clean hearts. Psalm 139:16-17, Psalm 66:18-20, Daniel 9:1-20, Acts 13:1-4

VII. PSALM 63:1 - "*O God, you are my God; I shall seek you earnestly.*" We are to seek the Lord, to go after Him, not letting up until He answers our prayers. 1 Kings 18, James 5:16-18

VIII. DANIEL 6:10 - "*Daniel had windows opened toward Jerusalem; and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before His God.*" God gives us examples of how it is good to have set times to pray, and to get alone to pray. Psalm 5:3, Matthew 6:6, Mark 1:35

IX. 1 THESSALONIANS 5:17 - "*Pray without ceasing.*" You are to always be in communion with God, to be abiding in the Lord, always then being ready to pray, and then praying. Note the examples of Nehemiah, David, Jesus, and Paul - Nehemiah 2:4, Psalm 86:3, John, 2 Timothy 1:3.

X. 1 JOHN 3:21-22 - FOUR MORE PRINCIPLES OF PRAYER

A. Not condemning yourself, not believing the lies of the devil about yourself gives you confidence in your relationship with God and is necessary for prayer. 1 John 5:13-15

B. Ask God for "*whatever*" you need. Big things, little things, spiritual things, physical things, personal things, things for others, things for your family, things for the church, and things for your own personal well-being and health. Hebrews 4:16, Matthew 6:11, 3 John 2

C. You are to keep God's commandments, to obey God, to carry out His will. God wants you to obey Him, for obedience is good for you, brings God glory, and is that which will result in God gladly answering your prayers.

D. Have the right motive of wanting to please God, for you should always want to please your heavenly Father. He loves you, and you should want to make Him "*happy*." And when you desire to please God, then God will answer your prayers.

NOW TO HIM WHO IS ABLE TO DO
IMMEASURABLY MORE THAN ALL WE ASK OR IMAGINE,
ACCORDING TO HIS POWER THAT IS AT WORK WITHIN US,
TO HIM BE THE GLORY IN THE CHURCH AND IN CHRIST JESUS
THROUGHOUT ALL GENERATIONS, FOR EVER AND EVER. AMEN.

Ephesians 3:20-21

1. What is the main thing that you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. Why is faith one of the common, underlying themes in these principles of prayer?
3. What two or three principles of prayer do you want to employ more in your own life?
4. What do you think it means to seek the Lord? How can you do this more in your own life?
5. Why is praying in this context of 1 John 3:18-22? Why is this so, so important?
6. Praying is not mechanical - it is heart, it is love, it is passion, it is for God's glory. Explain this.
7. Think about praying with others, and make plans to do this.