

Praying According to His Will

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James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

1 John 5:14-15 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

- I. One of the effects of believing on the Lord Jesus Christ is having the assurance that our prayers will be answered.
 - A. A saved person believes in prayer.
 - B. A saved person practices prayer.
 - 1. Not as a ritual or religious exercise.
 - 2. Rather as communion with God.
 - C. A saved person knows that God will hear and answer his prayers.
- II. Our prayer must be according to his Will.
 - A. Asking for those things which He has said in his Word that He is willing to grant.
 - 1. Forgiveness

Psalm 86:5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

Isaiah 55:6-7 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall 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.

2. Sanctification

1 Thessalonians 4:3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

3. Comfort

John 14:18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

4. Grace (to help in time of need)

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

5. Wisdom

James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

6. Deliverance from evil

Isaiah 43:2 When thou passest through the waters, I *will be* with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

7. Help in the furtherance of the Gospel

Matthew 28:19-20 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

- B. If we pray according to his will our prayer will be limited by what God knows is best for us – and we are not always the best judge of that.
 - 1. Therefore, we will be willing to take “No” for an answer and trust God with it.
- C. Our petition must not require God to violate any law or principle He has laid down.
 - 1. There is no need for a lazy man to pray for God to give him a good crop when he has done nothing to that end himself.
 - 2. Some have prayed for help to win while gambling – that is not according to his will.
- D. For God to grant our petition it must be what is best for the good of the whole.
 - 1. We cannot ask God to do us a special favor at the expense of someone else.
- E. We must be doing the will of God in our lives – otherwise there is no way we can pray according to his will.

1 John 3:22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

James 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

III. We know that we have the petitions we desired of him.

- A. We have the assurance that God has not disregarded our prayer.
- B. Even if the answer doesn't come immediately.
- C. We know that it will be answered according to what will do the most good for us.

John 14:13-15 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. If ye love me, keep my commandments.

John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Psalm 34:17 The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

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