

Praying Through

August 29, 2010

What is Prayer?

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. - Matthew 6:10

The Doctrine of Answered Prayer

God has promised and He cannot lie

Ask, and it shall be given you . . . - Matthew 7:7

And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. - Matthew 21:22

But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee. - John 11:22

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. - John 14:13

If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. - John 14:14

. . . whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. - John 15:16

. . . Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. - John 16:23

Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. - John 16:24

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. - James 1:5

The Six Things that Hinder Prayers

1. **Born of Flesh**

Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume [it] upon your lusts. - Jam 4:3 KJV

2. **Errant - not in alignment with God's nature, will, and purpose on Earth**

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: - 1 John 5:14

3. **Wavering, Unsure**

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. - James 1:6-7

4. **Living in Disobedience and Impurity**

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

And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood. - Isaiah 1:15

5. **Lack of Heavenly Honor**

Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with [them] according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered. - 1Pe 3:7 KJV

6. **Lack of Abiding**

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

The Recipe for the “Impossible-For-God-Not-to-Answer” Prayer

Ingredient #1 - Praying God Prayers

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

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: - 1 John 5:14

Ingredient #2 - Praying with Faith

And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. - Matthew 21:22

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. - James 1:6-7

Ingredient #3 - Praying with Persistence

Praying Through

six illustrations of persistence

Effectual Fervent praying

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. - Jam 5:16b

Go Again!

. . . Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees, And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times. And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not. And it came to pass in the mean while, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain . . . - 1 Kings 18:42-45

Wrestling Until the Breaking of Day

And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day . . . And (the man) said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And (Jacob) said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. - Genesis 32:24,26

Always to Pray, Not to Faint

And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow

troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth? - Luke 18:1-8

Importunity

And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. - Luke 11:5-10

Unwavering Pursuit

Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour. - Matthew 15:21-28

Exceedingly Abundantly Above

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, - Ephesians 3:20