

Five Steps to Answered Prayer

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If we will follow faithfully the following steps in prayer we can be sure of an answer:

- (1) Decide what you want from God and get the Scriptures that definitely promise you these things. Get these promises firmly fixed in the heart and not only in the mind. Be ready to use them against demons who will try to make you doubt God and rob you of what you want.
- (2) Ask God for the things you want and believe that you have got them. Believe God, not Satan; the truth, not a lie. Let every single thought and desire affirm that you have got what you asked. Never permit a mental picture of a failure to be in your mind. Never doubt for one minute that you have the answer. If doubts persist, rebuke them and get your mind on the answer and constantly affirm that the promises are true and that prayer has been answered. Eradicate every suggestion, image, vision, dream, impression, feeling; in fact, extirpate all thoughts that do not contribute to your faith that you have what you have asked.
- (3) Thoughts are governed by observations, associations, and teachings. Guard against every evil thought that comes into the mind. Stay away from all places and things that will not support your affirmation that God has answered prayer. Meditate constantly on the promises upon which you base the answer to your prayer. See yourself with what you have asked for and make plans accordingly as if it were already a reality. Do not forget what you have asked of God and hold on until the full answer materializes.
- (4) Pray constantly and look heavenward. In your waking moments think on the greatness of God and His goodness. Count your blessings and faith will increase. Breathe deeply the life of God in your inner spirit. Lift your heart to God constantly in gratitude and increasing praise for what He has done and for what He is doing for you now. Maintain that all things are possible to the believer.
- (5) Make every prayer relative to what you have asked a statement of faith instead of unbelief. You can say "I do have faith" or "I do believe that I have what I have prayed for" just as easily as you can make statements of unbelief. You can think thoughts of faith as easily as you can think thoughts of doubt and unbelief. Do not accept no as an answer. Do not be denied. It is your family right, your redemptive right, your gospel right, and your creative right to have what God has promised. It will come. It is yours now, so accept it and it will become a reality.

To sum up the keys of prayer we may state briefly the essential elements of prevailing prayer:

1. RIGHT RELATIONSHIP-with both God and man (Matt. 5:23; 6:9, 15; 18:15; 1 John 3:20-22; 5:14-15).
2. ADORATION-worship God and love all men (Matt. 6:9; 1 John 3:18-22; Phil. 4:6; Heb. 13:15).
3. UNSELFISHNESS-put the interests of God and others first (Matt. 6:10).
4. RESTITUTION-where possible (Matt. 5:23; 18:15).
5. FORGIVENESS-be merciful to others (Matt. 6:14-15; 18:21; Eph. 5:32).
6. BOLDNESS-be free from fear and doubt (Heb. 10:19-23).
7. UNMERITORIOUS-base the right to an answer upon the work of Christ only, not upon personal merits (John 14:12-15; 15:7).
8. FAITH-believe in the certainty of answered prayer (Luke 11:9-13).
9. SPIRITUALITY-live in the Spirit (Rom. 8:1-26; Gal. 5:16-26).
10. PERSEVERANCE-don't lose heart (Luke 18:1-8).
11. HUMILITY-realize you are nothing (Luke 18:9-14; Gal. 6:3).
12. UNPRETENTIOUS-make no outward show before others (Matt. 6:5-8; Luke 18:9-14).
13. SACRIFICIAL-deny personal pleasure and feelings and concentrate upon the answer until it comes (1 Cor. 7: 5; Matt. 4:1-11).
14. UNITY-oneness with both God and man (Matt. 18:15-20; Acts 2:1-4, 42-47, 4:23-33, 1 Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4).
15. CONSECRATION-be all and all for God (John 15:7; 2 Cor. 5:17).
16. CONFESSION-acknowledge own faults (James 5:14-16).
17. HOLINESS-have a pure life and motives (Ps. 66:18).
18. INSPIRATION-depend upon the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:26-27).
19. PETITION - make requests known (Phil 4:6; 1 John 5:14-16).
20. WHOLE-HEARTEDNESS-put whole life into worship (Matt. 22:37).
21. EARNESTNESS-be sincere (1 Thess. 3:10; James 5:17).
22. IMPORTUNITY-press claims before God (Luke 11:5-8).
23. STUBBORNNESS-refuse to be denied (Luke 18:1-8; Matt. 15:21-28).
24. CONFIDENCE-never doubt (1 John 3:21-22; 5:14-15).
25. JOY-be happy that you are going to receive (Luke 24:52-53).
26. TRUST-be anxious about nothing (Phil. 4:6).

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