

How do I Pray?

After the last devotion "[Prayer for a Nation](#)" I was asked "How do you pray and get what you are praying for?"

We too often try to complicate prayer, then try to analysis why we didn't get what we asked for and make many assumptions which often are not correct.

So in short, the essence of prayer is ask, believe, then receive.

[John 14:12-14](#) *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. 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."*

[1 John 5:14](#) *"This is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:"*

[1 John 3:22](#) *"Whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight."*

If you didn't receive, there could be a few areas in your life that are preventing the answer from coming. In my experience the main reasons for not receiving are doubt, unforgiveness, and iniquity. So, let's look at some of the reason why your prayer might not be answered.

Doubt (unbelief) – God will not force a blessing, nor healing on us.

[James 1:6-7](#) *"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."*

[Mark 11:23](#) *"For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and **shall not doubt in his heart**, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith."*

Unforgiveness - When we have unforgiveness in our hearts our prayers are blocked by our wrong heart and we are tormented in many ways. These tormentors are demons which can wreaking havoc on every part of your life.

[Matthew 6:9-15](#) *"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: **but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**"*

[Matthew 18:23-35](#) “Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: shouldst not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? And **his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.**”

Iniquity – When we have sin in our hearts, many times these are hidden sins that others may not see, these sins make us ineligible for receiving an answer. Many of these sins become strongholds for us and we are reluctant to depart from them.

[Psalms 66:18](#) “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.”

[John 9:31](#) “Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.”

[Proverbs 28:9](#) “He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.”

[Isaiah 1:15](#) “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.”

[Micah 3:4](#) “Then shall they cry unto the LORD, but he will not hear them: he will even hide his face from them at that time, as they have behaved themselves ill in their doings.”

Asking Amiss – When you ask for something to consume it on the lusts of your heart or flesh. You will not receive the answer you want because your heart is not pure.

[James 4:3](#) “Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.”

[Proverbs 21:27](#) “The sacrifice of the wicked is abomination: how much more, when he bringeth it with a wicked mind?”

Dishonoring your wife - God holds the husband, the leader of the home, accountable if he does not honor his wife and it puts a barrier between the husband and God.

[1 Peter 3:7](#) “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.”

[Colossians 3:19](#) “Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.”

[Ephesians 5:33](#) “Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.”

[Ephesians 5:25-28](#) “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.”

[Malachi 2:14-16](#) “Yet ye say, wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant. And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth. For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.”

Ignoring those in Need – God has mandated that we help those in need. We cannot simply turn the other way hoping someone else will help them, when it is within our ability to help.

[Proverbs 21:13](#) “Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.”

[Proverbs 28:27](#) “He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.”

[James 2:13-16](#) “For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment. What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?”

[Zachariah 7:9-13](#) “Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother: and oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart. But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear. Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should

hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts. Therefore it is come to pass, that as he cried, and they would not hear; so they cried, and I would not hear, saith the LORD of hosts:"

No – Sometimes the answer is No. God knows better than we do what is best for us.

The answer is never no, to healing.

If you are not getting what you ask for, ask God to reveal to you where you are out of line with HIM. In every case I've seen where the answer seems to be no, one of the above applied. And when that is corrected they can ask with a pure heart.

Oh Father, help us to see the simplicity of you and how easy an answer of "Yes" is. Open our hearts to your truth and throw away all beliefs that are traditions of man. Your WORD is truth and we must simply trust and obey. Lead us LORD, into your truths. Amen.

Other Messages on Faith

[Yes & Amen](#)

[Are We Raising a Shield Faith or a Shield of Doubt](#)

[Are We Limited Our Faith](#)

[The Body and the Blood](#)

[Boldness of Faith](#)

[By the Faith of the Son of God](#)

[Deliverance the BIG If](#)

[Domine Dunamis](#)

[Faith is the Victory](#)

[Faith](#)

[Faith from Dry Bones to New Life](#)

[Faith the Comes from God](#)

There are so many more on our [website](#).

Please note that this devotion touches only on the basis of a person praying for themselves. Touching on the effects of demonic influence or another with faith praying for you, is to large of a scope to address in a short devotion.