

## CONFIDENT PRAYING

1 John 5:14-15

6/6/04

Soda Springs (Inkom, Preston, Downey, Arbon, Rexburg, Rigby, etc.)

God desires to answer our prayers.

**John 16:24** "Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.

Prayer is the privilege of asking God for what we desire.

God has graciously invited us to come and ask.

God is not obligated to us, but He graciously and generously answers our prayers.

### 1. We Can Have Confidence That God Will Hear And Answer All Prayers That Are Consistent With His Will. 5:14

*confidence-* assurance

*hears-* to listen and respond to

#### a. Conditions for answered prayer

##### 1. According to His will v. 14

- ◆ Consistent with His moral character
- ◆ Consistent with His eternal purposes
  - ◇ We need an eternal rather than a temporal view of life.
- ◆ *How often do you and I try to determine what God's will might be when we pray?*
  - ◇ Too often it is the furthest thing from our minds.
  - ◇ "God, help me to do good today and help things to go well. Help us to have a fun day. Amen."
- ◆ *When you pray, do you pray for God's purposes to be fulfilled in your life?*

- ◇ Too many simply for happiness, prosperity, fun, and success?
- ◆ *What if God wants things to go badly today?*
  - ◇ Butterfly coming out of cocoon illustration.
  - ◇ We need to pray more for spiritual qualities than for physical comforts and earthly success.
- ◆ *Should we pray for rain?*
  - ◇ Yes, but we should recognize that God may have a higher plan.
- ◆ *Should we pray for our personal and financial needs?*
  - ◇ Yes. Matthew 6:11
- ◆ *Should we pray for things that are not basic needs?*
  - ◇ Yes, God delights in answering. (John 6:24)
  - ◇ But check your motives and leave it to God to choose when and how to answer.

## 2. In Jesus' name John 15:7; 16:24

- ◆ **John 15:7** "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.
- ◆ **John 16:24** "Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.
  - ◇ God does not believe in religious diversity.
  - ◇ God does not promise to the answer prayers of those who come to Him apart from Christ.

## 3. Ask in faith - James 1:6-8

- ◆ **James 1:6-8** But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of

the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, 8 *being* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

- ◇ Not doubting God or His ability or answer
- ◇ Not double-minded
- ◆ Faith is seen when we:
  - ◇ Wait for God to answer
  - ◇ Risk stepping out in obedience to God's revealed will.

#### 4. Pray *persistently*. Luke 11:5-13; 18:1-8

- ◆ Demonstrates faith
- ◆ Eliminates half-hearted flippant requests
- ◆ Recognizes our dependence upon God and His provision.

#### 5. With pure *motives* James 4:3; Matthew 6:5-6

- ◆ Unselfishness James 4:3
  - ◇ **James 4:3** You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.
- ◆ Not hypocritical Matthew 6:5-6
  - ◇ **Matthew 6:5-6** "When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. 6 "But you, 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.
  - ◇ cf Luke 18:9-14

**6. With a forgiving spirit. Mark 11:25-26**

- ◆ **Mark 11:25-26** "Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions. 26 {"But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions."}

**7. With sins confronted and confessed. Psalm 66:18; Proverbs 15:29; 28:9,13; Isaiah 1:15; 1 Peter 3:7**

- ◆ **Psalm 66:18**
- ◆ **Proverbs 15:29** The LORD is far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous.
- ◆ **Proverbs 28:9** He who turns away his ear from listening to the law, Even his prayer is an abomination.
- ◆ **Isaiah 1:15** "So when you spread out your hands *in prayer*, I will hide My eyes from you; Yes, even though you multiply prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are covered with blood.
- ◆ **1 Peter 3:7**
- ◆ **Proverbs 28:13**
- ◆ **1 John 1:8**

**b. When God Says, "No!"**

- It is hard to pray when you feel that God has let you down.
- Sometimes the most disturbing experiences involve what God has allowed in the lives of those closest to your heart.
  - ◆ When you assure an ailing friend that you are praying for her recovery, but she doesn't get better.

- ◆ When you pray with a family for a solution to problems that are affecting them only to left waiting for months while God seems to ignore us.
- ◆ When you pray earnestly and often for a loved one who needs spiritual restoration, but they remain cold toward God.
- Biblical Examples Of Those Who Got A No Answer
  - ◆ David
    - ◇ Son's death 2 Samuel 12:15-23
  - ◆ Paul- Thorn in the flesh
    - ◇ **2 Corinthians 12:7-9** Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me -- to keep me from exalting myself!  
8 Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. 9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness."
  - ◆ John Bunyon
  - ◆ 3 young mothers who have died- Nancy Nichols
- God may say **no** for reasons we aren't told and do not understand.
- We must have the same attitude as Christ.
  - ◆ **Luke 22:42** saying, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done."
- **Deuteronomy 29:29** "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.
- **Job 38-41** Job pours out his complaint to God

◆ **Job 42:3b-6** "Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know." 4 'Hear, now, and I will speak; I will ask You, and You instruct me.' 5 "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees You; 6 Therefore I retract, And I repent in dust and ashes."

- **Isaiah 55:8-9**
- **Proverbs 3:5-6**

**2. We Can Be Confident That We Have The Requests Which We Ask From Him. 5:15**

*He hears us*

- God loves to answer our prayers
  - ◆ **Matthew 7:11** "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!"
  - ◆ **John 16:24** "Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full."

*whatever we ask*

- *Within the qualifications.*
- We Can Have Confidence In Prayer Because We Have A Loving Mediator. Hebrews 4:14-16; Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1-2
- We Can Have Confidence In God's Ability To Help Us.
  - ◆ Wise
  - ◆ Powerful
- We Can Have Confidence In Prayer Because We Have A God Who Loves Us.

- We Can Have Confidence In Prayer Because God Is Willing To Forgive An Honest Heart. Psalm 51
- We Can Have Confidence In What God Wants For Us.
  - ◆ Confidence in His wisdom, timing, and goodness.

Most of all God desires your heart.

- 2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.