



There is little more frustrating in life than calling a number looking for help – and getting a recorded voice on the other end

- What can even be more frustrating is when you are in the middle of a conversation on the phone – talking away – and halfway through the conversation you realize that you have lost connection

Unless you have real issues – none of us would pick up the phone and start talking unless we were convinced and certain that there was someone else on the other end of the line

- There is no point to a conversation unless you know that someone is on the other end listening to what you have to say
- Your heavenly Father wants the same certainty and clarity when it comes to your prayer life

Everything God does is with certainty – precision and clarity

- He is very on purpose and intentional about Who He is and all that He does
- That is the way He desires us to live our lives – with certainty – clarity and precision

1 John 5:13

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may [continue to] believe in the name of the Son of God.

Romans 8:16

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

Your relationship with God is not based on uncertainty and shallow hope...It is based on the fact that Jesus Christ is the Son of God

1 John 5:11-12

And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

It is with this same certainty and clarity that God desires you to conduct your prayer life

- Our prayer life – our communion with God – needs to be very intentional and on purpose
- There needs to be no doubt about the effectiveness of our prayer life

Prayer is the life source to spiritual success

- It is the life source to our church reaching its potential in God
- You will not survive – let alone thrive – until you know how to pray

Key #1: The Position from Which You Pray

1 John 5:14

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

You should pray from a position of boldness and not timidity

The meaning of the word confidence: freedom in speaking, unreservedness in speech, openly, frankly and without ambiguity

- When you pray – God wants you to be open and free about what you say and how you say it
- God does not want you speaking in riddles or using language merely to impress Him

Luke 18:11-14

The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men--extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.'

And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise [his] eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified [rather] than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Some have not received from God because you have not been specific enough in your asking

James 4:2

yet ye have not, because ye ask not

- You might be afraid that God is not going to answer
- You might be afraid of what people will think of you if you do pray
- You might be so burdened down – you don't even have the strength to offer up a prayer

Matthew 7:7-11

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? 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 good things to those who ask Him!

If God didn't want you asking – He would not have told you to ask

There is a certain level of boldness with which God wants you to approach Him

- Not arrogance – confidence and boldness does not equate arrogance
- Arrogance is when you try to manipulate God into doing what you want Him to do
- You cannot manipulate God – neither can you change Him

Prayer does not change God – but prayer does change you

Malachi 3:6

For I [am] the LORD, I change not...

Prayer is not my opportunity to tell God what I think – it is my opportunity for God to tell me what He thinks because He knows more about me than I do myself because He is my Creator.

Prayer is not a monologue – prayer is a dialogue

Effective praying is when you not only tell God what you have on your mind but you allow God to tell you what He has on His mind

- There is a level of boldness with which God desires and even commands us to approach His throne

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.

- God does not want you coming to Him with a limp wristed prayer of unbelief
- He wants you to come praying with a level of boldness and confidence in the fact that God has heard you when you pray – because He has heard you – you know that He is faithful to do that which you have asked of Him

The only way for you to pray with boldness is to pray under the divine unction of the Holy Ghost

- The Spirit of God induces life into our prayers and churches
- He brings us into a state of intimacy with God that cannot be achieved unless it be done through the Holy Spirit
- Because God is a Spirit – Jesus said they that worship Him must worship in Spirit and in truth

We can never substitute institution for intimacy

- There are some who have more confidence in a pastor or other people than they do God
- There are some whose entire spiritual life revolves around a church or ministry
- Institutions do not bring life – but intimacy does
- When you get intimate with God – there is new life that is conceived in your spirit

We have become so institutionalized that we have not given birth to anything new in the spiritual realm

- We have new ideas – we have new programs – we have new philosophies
- But we have not given birth to anything in the spiritual

That is why throughout the New Testament we are commanded to have our prayer life and language clothed in and dominated by the Holy Ghost

Romans 8:26

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Jude 1:20

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

Ephesians 5:18

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit

The Spirit of God knows the mind of God better than I do

Romans 8:27

And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what [is] the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to [the will of] God.

- Therefore when we allow Him to dictate – dominate and direct our prayer life – He will lead us to pray according to the mind of God

Principle #2: The Premise from Which We Pray

1 John 5:14

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

Definition of the word according:

In agreement or harmony; harmonious

- In a symphony orchestra – the string section must be in harmony with the brass section – the brass section must be in harmony with the wind section and the wind section must be in harmony with the percussion section
- Anytime that one of these sections begins to play its own music or play according to its own rhythm and diverts from what is written on the page – the result is a discombobulated mess that nobody wants to listen to
- If a symphony is going to be beautiful – it must be played in perfect harmony

If my prayer is going to be effective - my prayer must be harmonious with the will of God

- My desires must be synchronized with the desires of God
- The rhythm of my life cannot differ from the rhythm and direction of God

There are some people who do not receive answers to prayer because they never ask

James 4:2

...ye have not, because ye ask not.

There are some people who are asking but still not receiving an answer to prayer because they are asking outside of the will of God

James 4:3

Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume [it] upon your lusts.

The word lust simply means desire

- If you are praying for God to fulfill a desire in your life that does not line up with the revealed will of God – which is His Word – don't expect God to answer
- God can only answer according to His Word
- He will not – He cannot divert from His revealed will because He is a God of truth – He is bound to keep that which He has written

Numbers 23:19

God [is] not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do [it]? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Start praying: I know it is your will to heal my body because your Word says:

Isaiah 53:5

But he [was] wounded for our transgressions, [he was] bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace [was] upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

I know that it is your will to make sure my bills are paid because your Word says:

Philippians 4:19

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

I know it is your will to deliver me from these anxiety attacks because your Word says:

Philippians 4:7

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

One of the most powerful things you can do is to start praying the Word of God

Romans 10:17

So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

When you hear yourself speaking the Word of God – your faith suddenly increases giving you more confidence in your praying

- As you speak God's Word – you are speaking His will into existence in your life
- At the end of the day – it is the will of God that matters most

Matthew 6:10

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as [it is] in heaven.

- In heaven – the will of God is automatically done
- It is the will of God that dictates and determines everything that happens in heaven
- If it is happening in heaven – it needs to happen on the earth

I cannot make any life changing decision without first seeking the will of God

- I should not buy a house without seeking the will of God
- I should not change my job without seeking the will of God
- I should not date or marry someone without seeking the will of God

Psalms 37:23

The steps of a [good] man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

From the moment of your conception – God has your life planned out according to His perfect will

- He determined everything about you – what He desired from you – where He desired you to live – who He desired you to marry
- When you are walking in the will of God – nothing happens by accident – there are no arbitrary meetings or circumstances
- But God allows everything to happen in order for His will to be done

I don't have time to stumble through life

- I don't have time to walk down paths that will lead me away from the will of God
- I cannot live another moment outside of the perfect plan of God

Principle #3: The Promise from our Praying

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.

God has heard you!

Isaiah 59:1

Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

Take heart: your prayer has been heard.

- If God heard you – know that He will answer you