

Application of Prayer

January 7, 2026

IF YOU KNEW, YOU WOULD ASK

Craig Smith • January 11, 2026 • Application of Prayer

Look on me and answer, O LORD my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death; my enemy will say, "I have overcome him," and my foes will rejoice when I fall. But I trust in your unfailing love... (Psalm 13:3-5)

Some common “toxins” that threaten a healthy prayer life...

- Self-dependence - “...You do not have, because you do not ask God.” (**James 4:2**)
- Self-indulgence - “When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.” (**James 4:3**)
- Distraction - “‘Simon,’ he said to Peter, ‘are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.’” (**Mark 14:37b-38a**)
- Conflict - “Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.” (**1 Peter 3:7**)

Elements that build a healthy, dependent prayer life...

- Confidence - *"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of Him."* (**1 John 5:14-15**)
- Frequency - *"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."* (**Eph. 6:18**)
- Honesty - *"Hear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy."* (**Psalm 86:1**)
- Fervency - *"I appeal to you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf..."* (**Rom. 15:30, RSV**)
- What I need to strive against • What I need to strive for
- Patience - *"I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope."* (*Psalm 130:5*)

The end of all things is near. Therefore, be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. (**1 Peter 4:7**)