

What do you want?

1 John 5:13-15

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. 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.

“It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.” C. S. Lewis

Intimate prayer to God is a taste of eternal life. Three gifts of eternal life?

1. God welcomes us.
2. God hears us.
3. God answers us.

Mark 11:24. Jesus answered, “Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

Mark 10:35-52 tells two stories where Jesus asks, “What do you want?”

1. When God doesn’t answer prayer...

“It is by prayer that we seek God’s will, embrace it and align ourselves with it. Every true prayer is a variation of the theme ‘your will be done.’” John Stott

1 John 5:14 “...if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.”

--We desire the seen world more than the unseen world

--We aren’t focused on the seen world bringing glory to God

God always answers your prayers in precisely the way you want them to be answered if you knew everything he knew. Tim Keller

Are you right with God?

We don’t have to be perfect to pray or receive answers, but God’s children live a life of regular confession, repentance, and prayer

James 5:16— Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

Things the Bible says will keep your prayers from being heard

- A. Unrepented disobedience (1 John 3:21-23)
- B. Lifestyle of sin (Psalm 66:18)

- C. Unforgiveness in relationships (Mark 11:25)
- D. Disrespect in relationships (1 Peter 3:7)
- E. Wrong motives (James 4:3)
- F. Pride (Luke 18:10-14)
- G. Unjust living (Isaiah 58:6-8)

When thinking on sin, never forget 1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

2. When God does answer prayer...

The right prayers prayed by right people.

A. Characteristics of the right prayers?

--We desire the unseen world more than the seen world

Psalm 27:4

"Desire gives fervor to prayer...Strong desires make strong prayers...The neglect of prayer is the fearful token of dead spiritual desires...There can be no true praying without desire." E.

M. Bounds

--We are focused on the seen world bringing glory to God

John 9:3

B. Characteristics of the right people?

Faith in Christ

Mark 10:47, 52

Confidence in God's loving care

Mark 10:48

Sacrificial Discipleship

Mark 10:50

Radical Trust

Mark 10:51

Abide in Christ

Mark 10:52

John 15:5-8