

Encounter Church Sunday September 21, 2025

Ancient Prayers Effective Prayer

INTRODUCTION: We've discovered that we pray to an all-powerful, all-knowing, ever-present God.

We've discovered that He's our Shepherd. Our Provider! Our Peace. Our Healer! He' is our Righteousness. Our Sanctifier. Our Constant Companion and our Victory!

KNOWING ALL THIS:

Ephesians 6:18- (NLT) "Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion...."

WE ARE PEOPLE OF PRAYER!

James 5:16- (NKJV)- "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

WHAT ARE SOME KEYS TO EFFECTIVE PRAYING?

1. **Pray when there's Pressure**

Some of the most effective prayers you'll pray is when there's pressure in your life!

Anybody got any pressure in your life?

Pressure or pain will prompt you to pray!

Acts 12:1-5 (NLT)- "About that time King Herod Agrippa began to persecute some believers in the church. He had the apostle James (John's brother) killed with a sword. When Herod saw how much this pleased the Jewish people, he also arrested Peter. (This took place during the Passover celebration.) Then he imprisoned him, placing him under the guard of four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring Peter out for public trial after the Passover. But while Peter was in prison, the church prayed very earnestly for him."

Pressure prompted them to pray earnestly.

Psalms 18:6- "But in my distress I cried out to the Lord; yes, I prayed to my God for help. He heard me from his sanctuary; my cry to him reached his ears."

2. Pray with Passion

Ephesians 6:18-(TPT) “Pray passionately in the Spirit, as you constantly intercede with every form of prayer at all times. Pray the blessings of God upon all his believers.”

Passion-intense human feeling or emotions.

Hebrews 5:7-(NIV)- “During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.”

3. Pray with Persistence

James 5:16- (AMP)- “Therefore, confess your sins to one another [your false steps, your offenses], and pray for one another, that you may be healed and restored. The heartfelt and persistent prayer of a righteous man (believer) is able to accomplish much [when put into action and made effective by God—it is dynamic and can have tremendous power].”

In the Bible, being persistent means continuing firmly in a course of action, faith, or prayer despite difficulties, opposition, or failure.

Persistence is being steadfast and unyielding. It’s refusing to quit!

Luke 18:1-(NLT) “One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up.”

4. Pray in Partnership with Others

Matthew 18:19-20- (NLT)- “I also tell you this: If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.”

Acts 1:14- (NLT)“They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus.”

Acts 4:23-24- (NLT)“As soon as they were freed, Peter and John returned to the other believers and told them what the leading priests and elders had said. When they heard the report, all the believers lifted their voices together in prayer to God:....”

Acts 4:31-(NLT) “After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.”

5. Pray focused on the Person of Jesus Christ

Philippians 2:9-11-(NLT)- “Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

John 14:13-14- (NLT) “You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. 14Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!”

CONCLUSION:

WHAT IS ANOTHER REASON IT'S IMPORTANT TO PRAY FOCUSED ON THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST?

Hebrews 4:14-16 (MSG)- “Now that we know what we have—Jesus, this great High Priest with ready access to God—let’s not let it slip through our fingers. We don’t have a priest who is out of touch with our reality. He’s been through weakness and testing, experienced it all—all but the sin. So let’s walk right up to him and get what he is so ready to give. Take the mercy, accept the help.”

WHAT DO YOU NEED FROM JESUS CHRIST TODAY?

REMEMBER THAT WE BEGIN 10 DAYS OF PRAYER TOMORROW

Mark 11:17-(ESV) “And he was teaching them and saying to them, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations’?”