

Choose to Pray – Part 3

1 John 5:14 (NLT) - And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him.

- **1 John 5:14 (NLV)** - We are sure that if we ask anything that He wants us to have, He will hear us.

We are commanded by Jesus to pray (**Luke 18:1 Jesus told them a picture-story to show that men should always pray and not give up**)

Jesus Himself prayed, in fact He did it so much that eventually the disciples asked “teach us how to pray”

- Prayer is a weapon
 - Prayer, when mixed with faith in God is a powerful tool, weapon
 - **James 5:16-18 (NLV)** - Tell your sins to each other. And pray for each other so you may be healed. The prayer from the heart of a man right with God has much power. **Elijah was a man as we are. He prayed that it might not rain. It did not rain on the earth for three and one-half years. Then he prayed again** that it would rain. It rained much and the fields of the earth gave fruit.

What does principle mean?

- A law
- A truth (Gravity, what goes up must come down)

1. **Faith is required** (just as this can be a hindrance, faith is a principle)
 - a. Whenever you ask or pray you must
 - i. Believe that He hears
 - ii. Believe that what you have asked for has been received
 - A. This is a faith that says “it’s mine when in the natural realm it is not yet yours”
 - B. **Mark 11:24 (HCSB)** - Therefore I tell you, all the things you pray and ask for—believe that you have received them, and you will have them.
 - C. **Mark 11:22-26 (AMP)** - 22 And Jesus, replying, said to them, Have faith in God [constantly]. 23 Truly I tell you, whoever says to this mountain, Be lifted up and thrown into the sea! and does not doubt at all in his heart but believes that what he says will take place, it will be done for him. 24 For this reason I am telling you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe (trust and be confident) that it is granted to you, and you will [get it]. 25 And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him and let it drop (leave it, let it go), in order

that your Father Who is in heaven may also forgive you your [own] failings and shortcomings and let them drop. 26 But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your failings and shortcomings.

2. **Have a focus, a target**

- a. **Matthew 6:5-7 (HCSB)** - “Whenever you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by people. I assure you: They’ve got their reward! But when you pray, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. When you pray, **don’t babble like the idolaters**, since they imagine they’ll be heard for their many words.

i. **Babble – Vain Repetitions**

A. To stammer

B. To repeat the same things over and over, to use many idle words

Charles Spurgeon Message mid to late 1800’s

- “What is thy petition and what is thy request, and it shall be done unto thee?” Imagine an archer shooting with his bow, and not knowing where the mark is! Would he be likely to have success? Conceive a ship on a voyage of discovery, putting to sea without the captain having any idea of what he was looking for! Would you expect that he would come back heavily laden either with the discoveries of science, or with treasures of gold?
- Be simple and direct in your pleadings with God. When you pray to Him, tell Him what you want. If you have not money enough, if you are in poverty, if you are in straits, state the case. Use no mock-modesty with God. Come at once to the point; speak honestly with Him. He needs no beautiful peniphrasis such as men will constantly use when they don’t like to say right out what they mean.
- Pray in your own words. Speak plainly to God; ask at once for what you want. Name persons, name things, and make a straight aim at the object of your supplications,

3. **Persistent, a never give up attitude**

- a. **Relentless; steady & persistent; unyielding in severity or strictness (Daniel)**

- b. **Luke 18:1-8 (HCSB)** - He then told them a parable on the need for them to pray always and not become discouraged: “There was a judge in a certain town who didn’t fear God or respect man. And a widow in that town kept coming to him, saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ “For a while he was unwilling, but later he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or respect man, **yet because this widow keeps pestering me**, I will give her justice, so she doesn’t wear me out by her persistent coming.’” Then the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. Will not God grant justice to His elect who cry out to Him day and night? Will He delay to help them? I tell you that He will swiftly grant them justice. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find that faith on earth?”

Thanksgiving is the voice of faith that thanks God for the answer before it comes.