

The Importance of Prayer



WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER?



1Peter 5:8 Be sober and alert. Your enemy
the devil, *like a roaring lion*, is on the
prowl looking for someone to devour.
Who wants to devour and defeat you?



1Corinthians 3:3 for you are still influenced by the flesh. For since there is still jealousy and dissension among you, are you not influenced by the flesh and behaving like unregenerate people?

What 4 things are possible in a Christian's life?



Colossians 2:8 Be careful not to allow anyone to captivate you through an empty, deceitful philosophy that is according to human traditions and the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

Of what is a Christian to beware?



Colossians 3:8-9 But now, put off all such things as anger, rage, malice, slander, abusive language from your mouth. (9) Do not lie to one another since you have put off the old man with its practices.

What 6 things are you to avoid in your Christian life?



2 Corinthians 2:11 so that we may not be exploited by Satan (for we are not ignorant of his schemes).

Of what are you not to be ignorant?



When you became a Christian, you also gained a terrible enemy (Satan) who hates you because of his hatred for Christ. Satan tries to use you to hurt the Savior. Prayer is the key to resist Satan. The Lord is always with you, so it is important for you to tell Him about your problems and concerns and leave them so He can work them out.

You have nothing to fear, for Christ was victorious over Satan at the cross and Jesus' victory is your victory! You need not be defeated, down, distressed or discouraged in your daily living when you realize that the Savior will work out all the details of your life if you leave them with Him.



Romans 8:37 No, in all these things we
have complete victory through him who
loved us!

What are you in Christ?



1 Cor 15:57 But thanks be to God, who
gives us the victory through our Lord
Jesus Christ!

What has been given to you?



1 John 4:4 You are from God, little children,
and have conquered them, because the
one who is in you is greater than the one
who is in the world.

Why shouldn't you fear?



Romans 8:26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how we should pray, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with inexpressible groanings.

Who is praying and interceding on your behalf?



Romans 8:34 Who is the one who will condemn? Christ is the one who died (and more than that, he was raised), who is at the right hand of God, and who also is interceding for us.

Who else is praying and interceding on your behalf?



Romans 8:34 Who is the one who will condemn? Christ is the one who died (and more than that, he was raised), who is at the right hand of God, and who also is interceding for us.

Hebrews 7:25 So he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

Who else is praying and interceding on your behalf?



Matthew 26:41 Stay awake and pray that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

What 2 things are necessary so that you will not enter into temptation (sin)?



Hebrews 11:6 Now without faith it is impossible to please him, for the one who approaches God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

What does Hebrews 11:6 teach you about what pleases God?



Matthew 21:21 Jesus answered them, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only will you do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' it will happen.

Mark 11:24 For this reason I tell you, whatever you pray and ask for, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

What is required in order to have your prayer answered?



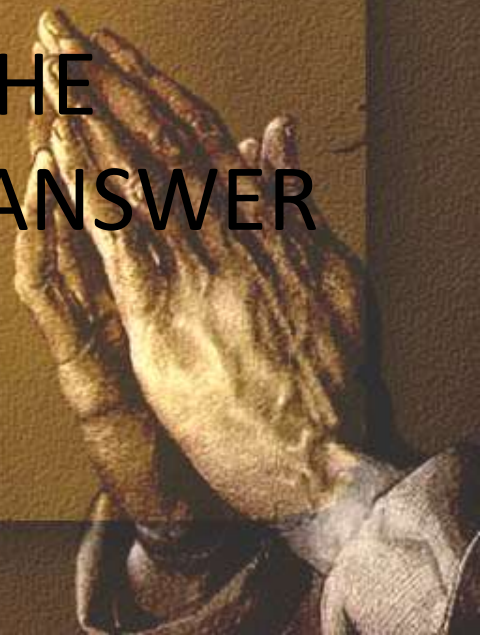
1 John 3:22 and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do the things that are pleasing to him.

According to 1 John 3:22, what else is necessary to have a prayer answered?



What is faith? You could put it this way,
"Lord, I don't know how you are going to
answer it, I don't know when, either, but
I know you are going to answer it."

LEAVE THE HOW AND WHEN TO THE
LORD, KNOWING THAT HE WILL ANSWER
YOUR PRAYER!



Ephesians 6:18 With every prayer and petition, pray at all times in the Spirit, and to this end be alert, with all perseverance and requests for all the saints.

Because of your enemy, how are you to pray according to v. 18?



John 14:9 Jesus replied, "Have I been with you for so long, and you have not known me, Philip? The person who has seen me has seen the Father! How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

John 14:13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

In whose name are you to pray?



John 14:13 And I will do whatever you ask
in my name, so that the Father may be
glorified in the Son.

In order to be sure that you are praying
about the right things, what should be
the purpose of your prayer?



1Timothy 2:8 So I want the men to pray in every place, lifting up holy hands without anger or dispute.

Where is the best place to pray?



Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest incapable of sympathizing with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way just as we are, yet without sin.

How does Jesus our High Priest feel toward you?



Hebrews 4:16 Therefore let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and find grace whenever we need help.

Because of verse 15, what are you to do, according to Hebrews 4:16?

What will you receive ?



Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

What Does God promise?



Philippians 4:19 And my God will supply
your every need according to his glorious
riches in Christ Jesus.

What does God promise?



What Does God Promise?

Mark 9:23 Then Jesus said to him, " 'If you are able?' All things are possible for the one who believes."

John 16:24 Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive it, so that your joy may be complete.

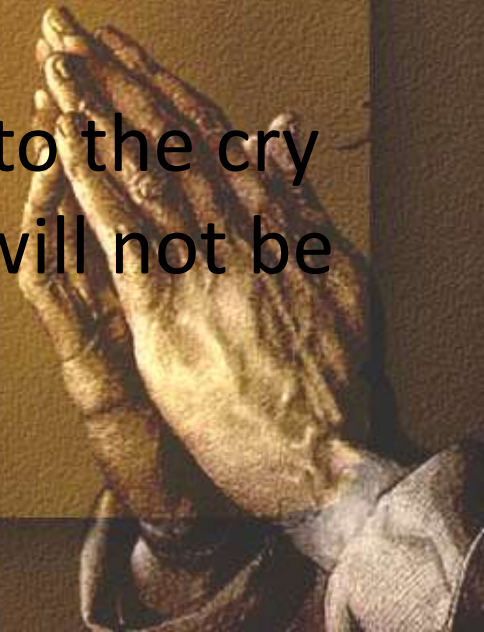
James 4:3 you ask and do not receive because you ask wrongly, so you can spend it on your passions.

James 1:5 But if anyone is deficient in wisdom, he should ask God, who gives to all generously and without reprimand, and it will be given to him.

Why is it that some prayer are not answered?

Ezekiel 14:3 "Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts and placed the stumbling block of their sin right before their faces. Should I really allow them to seek me?

Pro 21:13 The one who shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and will not be answered.



Why is it that some prayer are not answered?

James 4:3 you ask and do not receive because you ask wrongly, so you can spend it on your passions.

Ephesians 4:31 You must put away every kind of bitterness, anger, wrath, quarreling, and evil, slanderous talk.



Why is it that some prayer are not answered?

Mark 11:24-25 For this reason I tell you, whatever you pray and ask for, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. (25) Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven will also forgive you your sins."



Matthew 18:19-20 Again, I tell you the truth, if two of you on earth agree about whatever you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. (20) For where two or three are assembled in my name, I am there among them."

Why is praying with others so important?



TO HELP YOU PRAY, USE THE WORD J-O-Y:

J-Thank and Praise Jesus for Who He is and
what He has done for you;

O-Pray for OTHERS lost and saved;

Y-YOURSELF.



GOD WILL ANSWER -
THAT'S J O Y !!!

