



## **Sunday March 11, 2007**

### **Prayer Series (Part-5)**

### **God's Instruction on Prayer (Message 2)**

*Just as we see laws or governing principles in the natural world, God has set laws or principles in the spiritual realm. It is our responsibility to follow His laws.*

These principles specifically focus on the Prayer of Asking and Receiving (or the prayer of faith or Believing prayer).

1. Ask the Father in Jesus' name
  - John 14:13,14 John 16:23,24
2. Pray according to God's revealed will
  - 1 John 5:14,15 James 4:2,3 Colossians 1:9,10 John 15:7
  - You can take the general will of God and apply it to the situations of life.
  - For things not specifically revealed in the Word, you need to seek the mind of the Lord regarding the matter. It is possible for us to know His will (Colossians 1:9,10). The Holy Spirit reveals the mind of Christ (His thoughts, plans, will) to us (1 Corinthians 2:9,10,16). Once you know the will of God about a matter
3. Pray with strong desire
  - Mark 11:24 Matthew 15:28 John 15:7 Proverbs 10:24
  - We must have more than just a casual desire to see the requested outcome in response to our prayer
4. Pray with faith
  - James 1:5-8 Matthew 21:22 Mark 11:24
  - Faith is a conviction. It is the inner certainty that God has heard and will grant your request.
  - Faith is not passive. Faith must be coupled with action (doing).
  - The exercise of our faith in prayer should be coupled with our declaration of faith (Mark 11:23) – speaking words of faith and commanding things to be established.
5. Pray with a clear conscience
  - Psalm 66:18 1 John 3:21,22 1 Peter 3:7,12
  - Walking in obedience to God is essential for a successful prayer life.
  - In Luke 11:5-8 Jesus gave an illustration of the kind of confidence we need to have in prayer. The word "importunity" (KJV) in Luke 11:8 in Greek is *anaideia* = "shamelessness, or unashamed boldness". *Aidos* the root word is translated "sahmefacedness (KJV) or modesty or shame" in 1 Timothy 2:9. In Luke 11:8 it is the negative form of that word, hence meaning "without shame". As the man in the story, we need to approach God with unashamed boldness in prayer. We are able to do so, as we maintain a clear conscience before God.
6. Pray with perseverance
  - Luke 18:1-8 Hebrews 6:12 10:35
  - Jesus taught us to persevere in prayer. To persevere in prayer is not a "continual begging" or a "continual nagging" that we try to afflict God with. Neither is it us



attempting to twist God's hand to do something He does not want to do. We don't persist against God. We don't earn answers through hard work or persistence.

- To persevere in prayer, is to continue with a heart of faith (confident assurance), expectation and thanksgiving about what was prayed, with the confidence that the request was granted the time the prayer was made, and it is only a matter of time before it is seen.
- Don't confuse perseverance in prayer with vain repetition – just repeating the same prayer over and over again. Jesus told us not to do that.
- Don't be like the African Cheetah – if it does not catch its prey quickly, it must end the chase.
- George Muller: "The great point is never to give up until the answer comes."
- Why do we need to be persistent in prayer? Why are there delays in us receiving answer to prayer? There could be several reasons and the actual reasons could vary from situation to situation. Here are some:

(a) The timing of God Ecclesiastes 3:11 Galatians 6:6

The timing of God could be related to several things:

- Getting people, places and things together
- Bringing us to a place of maturity until we are able to handle the answer to our prayer
- Teaching us important spiritual truths

(b) Demonic interception Daniel 10:12,13

Satan attempts to hinder the answer to our prayer from reaching us.

Although the answer to Daniel's prayer was granted and sent on its way as soon as he prayed, if he had given up, it may have never reached him.

(c) Completing all obedience

Pastor Dutch Sheets shares the experience of a woman who prayed for 20 years for her sister and bro-in-law to get saved, with no result. Because of their anti-Christian stance, this woman had developed a hard heart, was religiously proud and was praying out of a wrong motive. One day after hearing the teaching of the Word of God, and in response to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, she repented of her own attitude towards them, got her heart right and also forgave them for their anti-Christian behaviour. She then prayed for the veil to be taken off their eyes so that they could see and understand the truth. A couple of months later – they came to the Lord and gave their lives to Christ.  
*Attitudes in our own hearts often keep God from being able to answer our prayer.*

*Our own sins might hinder our prayer for another sinner. Matthew 7:5*

(d) Sufficient release of power to complete the task James 5:16

(e) Sometimes we continue in prayer and in the Word, till we personally know that we have come to a place of faith for the what we need to pray for.

7. Pray with Thanksgiving Philippians 4:6

Common Questions:



**1. If I have prayed and asked once for something, is it correct if I keep on asking God for the same thing over and over again?**

It really depends on how you prayed the first time and also what you are praying for. If you prayed following His instructions, then there would be no real need to keep on asking. Instead you continue with thanksgiving and speaking words of faith. Sometimes it takes a little longer to come to a place of faith for something – so you would pray over this matter for a period of time, till this happens. Sometimes the Lord may reveal something to you and you need to address that in prayer once again for a matter you may have prayed for previously. So in essence, it is not wrong to continue in prayer over a matter until you come to a place of faith and rest. Keep in mind that when interceding for an individual or an area, it involves a greater degree of perseverance in prayer. And there are some things (e.g. an ongoing ministry, a continuing revival, continued spiritual development of believers, etc.) that need to be sustained through consistent ongoing prayer. (Ephesians 6:18,19)

**2. Does God always give whatever we ask?**

Just as we see laws or governing principles in the natural world, God has set laws or principles in the spiritual realm. It is our responsibility to follow His laws. If we do so then we can definitely come to a place where His promise in Matthew 21:22 is an experiential reality in our lives “whatever you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive”.

**3. What if I do not know God's will about a matter?**

Then your first responsibility is to ask God to reveal His will to you and help you understand His will (Ephesians 5:17). You can ask for His will to be established in the matter and walk according to the peace of God in your heart.



WE RESPECT YOUR INTERNET TIME AND EMAIL PRIVACY. IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO RECEIVE FURTHER EMAILS FROM ALL PEOPLES CHURCH, PLEASE REPLY WITH THE SUBJECT “UNSUBSCRIBE” AND YOUR EMAIL ID WILL BE DELETED FROM OUR DISTRIBUTION LIST. THANK YOU.



**USEFUL RESOURCES**



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

**YOUTUBE:** <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

**WEBSITE:** <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

**CHURCH:** <https://apcwo.org>

**FREE SERMONS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

**FREE BOOKS:** <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

**DAILY DEVOTIONALS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

**JESUS CHRIST:** <https://examiningjesus.com>

**BIBLE COLLEGE:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

**E-LEARNING:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

**WEEKEND SCHOOLS:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

**COUNSELING:** <https://chrysalislife.org>

**MUSIC:** <https://apcmusic.org>

**MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP:** <https://pamfi.org>

**CHURCH APP:** <https://apcwo.org/app>

**CHURCHES:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

**WORLD MISSIONS:** <https://apcworldmissions.org>