

MAKING PRAYER WORK

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TEXT: Philippians 4:6

INTRODUCTION:

1. Prayer is a very neglected subject.
2. Every Christian needs to develop a healthy prayer life.
3. God designed prayer for our benefit.
4. Some don't believe prayer will work.
5. Christians often have a distorted view concerning prayer.
6. They think prayer is telling God their problems.
8. Prayer is designed to work for you, not against you.
9. Prayer is praying for your needs, not telling God your needs.
10. Prayer is praying according to the Word of God in faith.
11. Prayer will not work without faith (**James 5:15**).
12. It is the prayer of faith that moves God.
13. The one element that makes prayer work is **FAITH**. This is where most have missed it.
14. Prayer is the key to the door, but it is faith that unlocks the door.
15. Wrong words in prayer will hold you in bondage.
16. Right words prayed in faith will release the ability of God in your behalf.
17. Don't pray the problem, but pray the answer.
18. Did you know that Satan doesn't care how much you pray if you are praying inaccurately.

I. HOW TO MAKE PRAYER WORK

- A. God has designed prayer to work for you.
- B. The Word of God gives us instructions concerning prayer and how we are to pray.
 1. Decide what you want from God - **Psalms 37:5**.
 2. Pray to God the Father in the name of Jesus - **John 16:23-24**.
 - a. Jesus is our intercessor.
 - b. When we pray we pray in His name or authority.
 3. Base your prayer on the Word of God; find scriptures that promise what you desire.
 - a. All the promises of God are yea and amen – **2 Corinthians 1:20**.
 - b. **John 15:7**, *“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”*
 - c. God always honors His Word when we stand on it in prayer - **Isaiah 40:8; 55:11; Psalms 119:89**.
 - d. God's Word is God's will. To know God's will concerning something you must see what His Word has to say about it.
 - e. **1 John 5:14-15**, *“And this is the confidence that we have in him.....”*
 4. You must believe you have received the answer the moment you pray, and then you will have it. The believing comes before the seeing - **Mark 11:24**.

5. Refuse to doubt - **James 1:8; 4:7.**
6. Meditate on the promises of God -**Proverbs 4:20-22; Joshua 1:8.**
7. Praise God for the answer to your prayer even before you see the answer -
Philippians 4:6.

II. HINDRANCES TO OUR PRAYERS

1. Doubt.
 - a. **James 1:6-8**
 - b. Cast down doubt - **2 Corinthians 10:5.**
 - c. When we feed our faith with the Word of God, our doubts will starve.
2. Fear.
 - a. **2 Timothy 1:7.**
 - b. Fear can be so debilitating.
 - c. When you are operating in fear it is impossible to have faith.
3. Sin and unforgiveness.
 - a. **Psalms 66:18.**
 - b. **Mark 11:25**
 - c. We must first forgive if we want our Heavenly Father to forgive us.
4. Wrong motives.
 - a. **James 4:2-3.**
 - b. Our motives must be pure and not selfish.

CONCLUSION: