

Prayer that Gets Results

John 9:31

"We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him.

Isaiah 65:24

"It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear.

1. Make specific requests (James 4:2)

James 4:2

You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God.

Aitema - Ask, request, petition, or demand

Each of us has a way of influencing people in order to get what we want. Some people steal, others start wars, some impose sanctions, kids often fight etc. God has given us a way to get things; asking Him. What's your alternative?

Specificity in prayer is one of the biggest causes of unanswered prayer. The sad thing is that many see it as being arrogant or presumptions. It's not. It actually requires faith and spiritual boldness to make a specific request. God is attracted to this. He loves our faith. He loves it when we are confident in His goodness.

You can't just say "Lord bless the whole world" in great faith. How do you know when the prayer has been answered?

This is petitionary prayer.

Phil 4:6-7

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Petition = Deesis - implies a felt need that is personal and urgent

Requests = Aitema – demand or request

Eph 6:18

With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

1 Tim 2:1

First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men,

How do you view God? Do you know that He likes you more than you like yourself? Do you know that He loves it when you make requests trusting in His goodness?

“Emotions are a normal and wonderful part of life. But they were never meant to be the barometer of God’s opinion toward us.” Judah Smith

Here are some examples of specificity in prayer using my crafted prayers for customer relations:

1. Lord help me to give my customers “Plus 1” service by going the extra mile in everything I do.
2. Lord help me to see that my customers are not a burden but the core of my job.
3. Lord reveal to me where I am pursuing customers that are high maintenance and have become a distraction. Help me to keep the main thing the main thing.
4. Lord may you show me which customers to “fire” as they are draining me.
5. Lord open my eyes to see potential customers around me that I have not seen before.
6. Lord open my heart to potential customers that I had overlooked because of my own prejudice or inner vows I had made.
7. I renounce and disarm the power of any debilitating words that I or anyone else has spoken, that would hinder my relationship with current or potential customers.
8. I pray for every interaction, phone call and meeting that I have with my customers. Let your wisdom prevail. Let the right people be present. Let those with a contrary spirit be disallowed. Let all negativity be silenced. Let the purposes of God in my customer relations prevail. Prepare their hearts and soften them toward me. I declare that God’s agenda for all my meetings this week will be established in Jesus’ name.
9. Father may I always have a servant heart towards my customer. May I treat the customer as king. May I walk in true humility and meekness.

I often pray very specifically for the sermon I am preaching.

I prayed a specific prayer when we were looking for something recently.

It’s difficult to spend only a short time in prayer when you understand the power of specificity.

Often we don’t want to be disappointed, so we make our requests very general.

2. Pray in alignment with God’s will

1 John 5:14 – 15

¹⁴This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

Will = Thelema = will, wishes and desires. Often referring to God’s “best offer” to a people, that can be accepted or rejected.

The two conditions here are asking and doing so according to His will. This means that a large aspect of prayer is waiting on the Lord and seeking Him concerning His will. His Word reveals His will so one cannot truly be an effective prayer warrior in the absence of deep exposure to God's Word.

Matthew 6:10

So then, this is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, 10Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

If we want to know the will of God we must study His Kingdom. His Kingdom is a place where His will is manifest. Therefore, we need to study the Kingdom.

Prayer involves ushering in Kingdom activities and climate onto earth. His Kingdom is of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Rom 14:17) so these are the things we ought to pray for.

Can a prayer be answered if it is not God's will?

When we insist on something that is not God's will, we can open up ourselves to gifts from the devil. There are riches that bring sorrow. Some people get them through witchcraft but are enslaved for the rest of their lives.

Prov 10:22

God's riches don't bring sorrow.

NIV *The blessing of the LORD brings wealth, without painful toil for it.*

NLT *The blessing of the LORD makes a person rich, and he adds no sorrow with it.*

You can insist on getting a wife but then end up getting one from the devil. *A prudent wife is from the Lord* (Prov 19:14), not just any wife.

Numbers 11:31 – 34

³¹ *The Lord sent a wind from the sea that brought quails and dropped them all around the camp. There were quails on the ground about three feet deep as far as you could walk in a day in any direction.* ³² *All that day and night and all the next day the people went out and gathered the quails. No one gathered less than 60 bushels. Then they spread the quails out all around the camp.* ³³ *While the meat was still in their mouths—before they had even had a chance to chew it—the Lord became angry with the people and struck them with a severe plague.* ³⁴ *That place was called Kibroth Hattaavah [Graves of Those Who Craved Meat] because there they buried the people who had a strong craving for meat.*

Was it God's original desire and wish for them to get meat? No. Did they end up getting it? Yes. Why? They were grumbling and they were insistent.

1 Sam 8:4-9, 19-20

⁴ So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. ⁵ They said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead^[b] us, such as all the other nations have." ⁶ But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. ⁷ And the Lord told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. ⁸ As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. ⁹ Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will claim as his rights." ¹⁹ But the people refused to listen to Samuel. "No!" they said. "We want a king over us. ²⁰ Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles." ²¹ When Samuel heard all that the people said, he repeated it before the Lord. ²² The Lord answered, "Listen to them and give them a king."

Was it God's original desire and wish for them to get a king? No. Did they end up getting one? Yes. Why? They were grumbling and they were insistent.

This reinforces the point that we should not be careless in our praying. We need to seek God concerning His will.

Colossians 1:9

For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

3. Be single-minded and fervent as you pray

James 1:6- 8

⁶ But he must ask in faith, without doubting, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That man should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ He is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Don't become luke-warm. Prayers that get results are not half-hearted. Therefore, pray with passion in the same direction.

Revelation 3:15-16

¹⁵ I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

How convinced are you about what you are requesting?

Hebrews 5:7

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.

Fervent/loud = ischuros = strong and mighty

Don't be afraid of using your voice.

Ps 142:1

I cry aloud with my voice to the LORD; I make supplication with my voice to the LORD

John 11:43

When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth."

James 5:16b - AMP

The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].

God has called us to make specific requests, according to His will and to do so with fervent single-mindedness. These are the prayers that get results.