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The Guide to Powerful Prayer

The 7 Keys to Getting Your Prayers Answered

 *Answers to Prayer* 

Foreword

Welcome friends!

Thank you for downloading my little book on prayer!

Before we dive into the content of this little book, I want to share with you a bit about my story and how I learned to pray, as I think it will be helpful to you in your walk with God.

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Although raised in a Christian home with a devoted Catholic mother, I did not stay on the path she tried to set me on. I left the church and lived life as I felt like.

I didn't believe in God – or at least TRULY believe. I called myself a Christian when it suited me, and I saw myself as a “non-practicing Catholic”, yet I was far from being any sort of Christian at all. I was full of doubts and at times I even scoffed at the people who went to church and sang songs to God. Living a Christian life seemed ridiculous and even impossible. Furthermore, I felt entirely out of place inside a church. I felt I didn't belong. The awkwardness and anxiety I felt was more than enough to keep me away.

Despite this, there were times that I would pass a church and there just seemed to be something drawing me. I was curious, but not curious enough to actually do anything about it.

As the years passed and after enduring homelessness, countless hardships, severe depression and anxiety, suicidal thoughts, relationship problems, financial hardship, and court battles relating to my divorce, I hit rock bottom. I had lost everything of meaning to me. I felt I had nothing left. In my mind, I had reasoned that I had no reason to live and that I was better off dead. It was only then that things began to change...

Brokenhearted and lost in despair and a bottomless pit of hopelessness, I cried out to the last hope I had... God. I didn't know if He existed, but I felt I had nothing left to lose at that point. I was desperate. In my heart, I had regretted the mistakes I made and I no longer wanted to try to live my way, but to try to live God's way – if He would have me. I wanted and needed a Savior to help me through the mess that I had gotten myself in, and God was the only one who could.

I didn't know how to pray and I didn't know what to do, I just tearfully pleaded for God to intervene and save me if He wanted me to live. If He hadn't, I'd be six feet under right now as I was busy calculating the easiest, fastest, painless, and most surest way to end it all. That was basically all I said.

At that time, prayer was very awkward for me. I didn't understand what to say or what to do. I didn't even know if or how God would hear me, and I especially didn't know if He would even care. I didn't know who God really was back then – I didn't understand His character, His will for us, or why He would even want to save us.

Although I didn't know what I was doing, God heard me, but His response was not what I was expecting. I'm sure it seems silly to you, but I was honestly thinking that some bright light would appear and angels would come to my aid. And though I have come across evidence since then to suggest that does happen in some cases, that is not what happened with me.

Following my desperate cries, I fell asleep and life carried on as usual. That was not the exciting experience I was expecting! I laugh about it now, but I was quite serious and earnest in my plea, intentions, and hopes, and I was rather disappointed I didn't witness something extraordinary or miraculous. However, God did answer and in a powerful, life-changing way.

In the days that followed, I felt led to receive help for my depression and anxiety issues – something that was completely unusual for me as I generally hate asking for help with anything.

After months of counseling, my mind began to clear and I was better able to mentally handle things. It was then that my curiosity grew and I began a journey to learn about God, creation, prayer, prophecy, and all manner of things.

I didn't know what I was doing, I didn't know what to believe or even what to say, but God did answer. If He didn't, I wouldn't be here. There was nothing particularly special about what I said, it was the intentions and desires of my heart, and my choices to respond to His leading after.

So even if you pray say a prayer a thousand times, if you visit every holy site on some pilgrimage, if you give a million dollars to every poor person, rescued thousands of people, it means nothing if you do it without the desire to know, love, and serve God in your heart.

It is not works that will save us, but the mercy and love of God, and the acceptance of the free gift of salvation. We can only receive that if we are obedient to God, seeking to truly love others, and love God above all else.

No matter what you've done, what other people think, or how terrible you feel, God can and will hear your prayers if your heart is in the right place.

If you truly seek to know God, repent for your past wrongs, and seek to live His ways, God will answer and He'll change you from the inside out.

...

It has been over 5 years since I began this journey and I've learned so much, I've met lots of wonderful God-loving people, and I've been blessed in countless ways. In the pages that follow, I will outline some of the lessons I have learned about prayer since my journey began. I hope that this guide is a blessing to you.

This book on prayer is non-denominational. It doesn't matter what denomination you belong or decide to be a part of, this book isn't about churches or denominations - it is about prayer. God's plans for you may be different than mine. So go where He leads you.

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Is God Listening?

If you are like many Christians, you may have felt at times that God hasn't been hearing your prayers or feel that God simply doesn't care about you and your problems. While it may certainly seem that way, and sometimes His answer is silence, God does care and He wants what is best for us. The Bible is full of examples and stories demonstrating this.

Many times what we want is not what we need, or there is some important lesson we must learn.

It is easy to forget that God has the ability to see what we can't see, to know things far beyond our ability to comprehend, and He spans all time knowing what will happen before it does, for He knows literally everything.

God has wisdom, power, and love that far exceeds anything we can possibly truly comprehend. God considers us His children, and as children lack understanding, we too do even as adults. At no point during our existence will we ever know everything or understand everything as God does.

But while it may be God's will to remain silent, there are many times where there are walls that separate us from Him and prevent us from hearing His response or acting on it.

The great and all powerful God of the Old and New Testament is still the same God. He hasn't changed, but we often do with backsliding and forgetfulness, and selfishness poisoning our hearts and minds, hindering our ability to see Him and understand Him.

If you would like to receive more answers to prayers and remove the barriers standing between you and God, then keep reading for I have seven keys to receiving answers to prayer that I would like to share with you.

Key #1: Pray with Faith, Not Just Words

As you go to pray, remember that it is not about the exact words you use that matter, but the faith and Spirit you pray with. Jesus spoke with faith when he told the paralyzed to simply get up and walk.

When we pray while in a relationship with God, we can trust that He will help us, for God is faithful.

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Isaiah 41:10 KJV

You don't have to be Jesus to get answers to prayer, but you do need to pray with faith and confidence in Him and God's power and desire to save us.

A lot of people say "I have faith, but God still doesn't answer my prayers." The problem is in our definition of faith versus God's. Your idea of what having faith means may not be in line with the faith God wants you to have.

The Bible is full of examples of people who had great faith – Noah, Moses, David, Elijah, Abraham, and Paul, just to name a few. Their choices reflected their faith and it was consistently expressed in what they said and did even in the face of opposition. It was not done to impress others but done in spite of others who doubted, scoffed, and judged them for it.

If you don't have that level of faith, ask God to give that to you. Will you suddenly have faith? Perhaps, but most likely God will help build your faith over time and draw you ever closer to himself, but only if you are willing.

Key #2: Trust in God and His ways

Often God does not answer our prayers in the way and time we expect and want. However, this does not mean that He is ignoring us or that He doesn't care. God can see through all space and time, and His goal is to see our eternal salvation and the salvation of others.

Whether it's teaching us and preparing us for something or inspiring or influencing others through us, God knows best, even if we don't understand it.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:8-9 KJV

It is important for us to have trust that when we pray, we do our best to set aside doubts and trust that God has heard us and will answer, but we must not be over confident, putting ourselves in needless danger.

Note: When you pray for healing, please do not stop seeing doctors, getting treatments, or taking your medications – that is extremely dangerous and can be deadly. God can work through people like doctors and the things we have to provide and care for us.

It can be difficult to have faith, and also discouraging when things do not go as planned, but we are still to keep seeking God, asking, trusting, and setting aside our doubts.

If you feel you lack faith, the desire to serve God, or any good thing, ask God for it and He can give it to you, if your heart is open to Him and his leading.

Key #3: Use God's Word to Strengthen Your Prayers

Fortify yourself with the Word of God, study and memorize scripture. By studying scripture, the Holy Spirit can bring it to your mind when you need it. It can guide you and provide a lot of comfort.

The Bible is one way God speaks to us, it was given to us as a gift to help us understand and learn about Him and His love for us. It is full of promises that we can claim, stories to provide encouragement and hope, and it is an endless well of wisdom and truth that we can draw from and use.

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15 KJV

We should all spend time with God in prayer and study the Bible each day, seeking His guidance and leading in all things. The more scriptures you know, the more you can use them in your prayers.

The Bible is full of promises and examples that we can follow. By claiming bible promises, we increase the chances that God will answer our prayers. It's no guarantee of course, but it shows precedent.

If you don't have a Bible yet, you can get one for free, [click here](#) to learn more.

Key #4: Repent and Seek God's Grace

We all struggle with sin of some kind, whether we like to admit it or not. We are in a constant battle with sin, for Satan is always trying to turn us away from God.

Our eternal salvation and the salvation of others is far more important than the temporary pain or troubles we experience – for eternity is forever, while this life is just a moment in comparison.

Seek forgiveness for yourself and others, asking God to reveal what you and they need to change, and for the strength and courage to do it.

For if ye turn again unto the Lord, your brethren and your children shall find compassion before them that lead them captive, so that they shall come again into this land: for the Lord your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn away his face from you, if ye return unto him.

2 Chronicles 30:9 KJV

Claim the blood of Jesus Christ, that was shed on Calvary and the promise of eternal salvation through Him. You can do this by praying the sinner's prayer. An example of the sinner's prayer can be found on the next page.

Lord, I admit I am a sinner. I need and want Your forgiveness. I accept Your death as the penalty for my sin, and recognize that Your mercy and grace is a gift You offer to me because of Your great love, not based on anything I have done. Cleanse me and make me Your child. By faith I receive You into my heart as the Son of God and as Savior and Lord of my life. From now on, help me live for You, with You in control.

In Your precious name, Amen

Another example can be found in scripture:

*Have mercy on me, O God,
according to Your unfailing love;
according to Your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.
Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.
Against You, You only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in Your sight,
so that You are proved right when You speak
and justified when You judge.
Surely I have been a sinner from birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me...
Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me and I will be whiter than snow...*

*Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me from Your presence
or take Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me.
Then will I teach transgressors Your ways,
and sinners will turn back to You.*

Psalm 51

You can also ask to be clothed with the robe of righteousness and that you be made ready for the coming of His great kingdom. The robe of righteousness refers to the heavenly robes Christ wears and offers to us, that make us pure and clean before God. While we won't be wearing those robes now, we will want to on the day we must stand before God.

Key #5: Pray for the Holy Spirit

When Jesus ascended to Heaven, He did not leave us empty handed. He sent His Holy Spirit to minister and help us.

When we cannot come up with the words to pray, the Spirit can speak for us. The Spirit can provide us with comfort, guidance, and help us to develop a Christ-like character.

We need the Holy Spirit and we need to ask for it every day, so that we can be transformed and made ready for the day Jesus returns.

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

John 3:5 KJV

When you pray for yourself and others, ask to be filled with the Holy Spirit and that the heart, mind, and body be cleansed and made whole to glorify God. It is a request that we must make at the start of each day so that we can be open to Him and His leading.

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

We also must strive to live right, to live healthy so that we can be fit and have a clean mind that can house it. Seek to do all things to glorify God, so that He can come into your life and dwell with you.

Key #6: Listen for God and Follow His Leading

In the Bible, the voice of God is described as a “still, small voice.” In a world full of a constant bombardment of distractions, it can be hard to hear God over all the noise.

And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah?

And he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake:

And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.

1 Kings 19:9-12 KJV

The “still, small voice” of God is not an audible voice we hear with our ears. It is something that comes to us as a quiet thought.

It is very different from our other thoughts, the thoughts where we debate and argue with ourselves, the thoughts that indulge our desires and fantasies, the thoughts that tempt us to do some wrong, or the thoughts that cause us to feel bad about ourselves or others. The voice of God speaks only of truth, love, and peace.

It doesn't argue, it just speaks. It doesn't condemn, it just corrects. It does not force us to obey, it just tells to do what is right. God doesn't always speak to us this way though.

God can also speak to us through scripture, nature, other Christians, and even our surroundings. Jesus says that His sheep will know His voice, and the voice that speaks to us is the Holy Spirit.

Your ability to recognize it will depend on your relationship with God, but also your awareness of it, and your familiarity with His character, promises, and laws. Therefore it is so important for all Christians to study the Bible, as all of that information is contained within its pages.

Most people don't know what to listen for or look for, so they often reason away the voice or ignore it completely. This can make them feel abandoned and unheard when that is not actually the case at all.

If you want to recognize God's voice and receive more answers to prayer, you must first understand God's true character and ways, through studying His Word. You must also open your heart to Him and let Him into your life so that He can help you.

Key #7: Pray Often

The Bible instructs us to “pray without ceasing,” which can seem like a pretty impossible thing to do. We often live such busy lives, it can be very hard for us to even find a few minutes in the day to sit and pray.

God wants us to make time to pray, not for His benefit, but ours. When we stop what we’re doing and take a few minutes to really focus and pray, quieting our mind of our worries and troubles, and bring them before the Lord, seeking His counsel, it can bring us a lot of comfort and peace.

See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.

Rejoice evermore.

Pray without ceasing.

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Quench not the Spirit.

Despise not prophesyings.

Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

Abstain from all appearance of evil.

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

1 Thessalonians 5:15-24 KJV

But how can we “pray without ceasing” as the scriptures tell us to do? To pray in this way is to keep God present in our minds at all times as we go about our day.

When we are doing chores, driving to work, going for a walk, watching a TV program, we can keep checking in with God and seeking His blessing and approval in all things.

Of course, the thought of God critiquing everything we say and do is rather intimidating and maybe even frightening to some, but we can't hide anything from the One who created all things. He already knows what is in our hearts and minds and our deepest, darkest secrets.

When we stop hiding and instead invite Him in, repenting and seeking His help to live according to His ways, to develop His character, and live with a God-first mindset, He will welcome us and help us with a love and mercy that has no end.

God wants to be in our lives, as a friend or Father that is there for us personally through all of life's ups and downs. He will correct us and guide us to make better decisions and to do what is right, but we must be willing to obey and set aside our selfish pursuits.

The sooner we realize all of that, the sooner God can work countless powerful changes and works in our lives and provide us with a joy, peace, and comfort that only God can manifest.

The Importance of Intercessory Prayer

Often it can help when others pray for us and our needs. Even just knowing that they are praying and caring about us and our situation can be comforting.

We are instructed to pray for one another, not just for ourselves and our own needs. It is through connecting with other believers and praying for them that we are given greater faith as we see our prayers answered. It is also an opportunity for us to play a role in the work God does others.

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

James 5:16 KJV

So if you are struggling with something, seek to have others pray on your behalf, and do not neglect to pray for others and their salvation and needs.

We are living in the middle of a spiritual war between God and Satan, and all people on the earth are affected – that includes your parents, your children, your friends, your relatives, your co-workers, and all the people you encounter just going about your day.

Every person experiences struggles. Every person feels pain. Every person needs to be loved.

Regularly praying for others and their needs helps not just them, but ourselves in the process as we can grow in our confidence and faith in God, and we can be comforted to see their suffering is lessened or alleviated as a result of our prayers for them.

God needs every opportunity He can get to demonstrate His love, mercy, and power so that more people can come to know Him and be saved. Intercessory prayer is one way we can help make that happen.

Powerful Prayer Checklist

The items on this checklist are not required to pray or have a relationship with God, but they do help you by strengthening your faith, providing you with inspiration, and readying your heart and mind for a conversation with our wonderful Creator.

☐ Download a Bible app on your phone.

I personally use and recommend the YouVersion Bible app because it is free, easy to use, and has a lot of great devotional plans, daily scriptures, and tools that will help you. You can also highlight and bookmark scriptures, make scripture images to share with your friends, and friend other users of the app.

☐ Get a physical Bible and make a habit of reading passages from it daily.

No matter how convenient a digital Bible is, there is simply no comparison to holding a physical Bible in your hands and turning the pages. The best version to get is the King James Version or the New King James Version, however, other versions like the English Standard Version is helpful for beginners. You can get a Bible for free, just [click here](#).

☐ Schedule time in the morning for prayer and make it a habit.

If you keep busy like me, you may find it hard to find time to sit down and pray. Some of the best times to pray are first thing in the morning. Get up, go to your spot to pray, read some scriptures, and talk to God. Give your daily plans to Him

☐ Create a comfortable and private prayer space.

Find a quiet and private prayer space that you can pray in comfortably. It is preferable if you kneel, but if you are unable, use a stool or chair to sit on. Set up a space in a room or closet where you are likely to be undisturbed. Keep a Bible, scriptures, and a prayer list in that location for easy access.

☐ Mute your phone!

Satan hates it when we pray and he will send distractions your way to interrupt your time with God. You may find that you'll start getting messages, notifications, or calls when you try to pray, so it is best to turn your phone off or put it on mute so that you can pray without distraction.

☐ Mentally prepare for prayer by reading scripture and remembering who God is.

God is the Creator and King of the Universe, so obviously He deserves some respect. Kneel and bow low to God to show that respect. Read His Word and mentally prepare yourself to talk with Him and speak to Him with reverence, respect, love, and gratitude for all He has done and will do for us.

For more tips and information, visit AnswerstoPrayer.org

Christ breaks the chains that the powers of darkness put on you

No matter who you are or what you're going through, take heart in knowing that Christ died for you, just as He died for all.

The chains of sin and oppression that Satan has on you are broken through the power of Christ, through God's Word, and through the infinite love God has for us. Though we may fail and fall, God can always raise us up, make us new, and transform us into what we were meant to be.



 Answers to Prayer 

AnswersToPrayer.org