

HOW TO USE PRAYER

INSTRUCTION ON PRAYER UNDER GRACE

“Continue in prayer”

~ Colossians 4:2

1. Unanswered Prayer

- a. We say we walk by faith, but then we pray... 2 Cor 5:7
- b. Unanswered prayer leads people to think that it does not work - Mt 21:22, Mk 11:24
- c. Not to be confused with superstition, wish lists, force fields, or levers to move God
- d. Prayer is not manipulation/negotiation; it is communication of what is in you.
- e. We do not pray under a covenant privilege – Isa 65:24, Eph 2:12
- f. Prayer works! (*even under grace, but the selfish will be disappointed*) - Eph 3:20

2. Make Prayer Requests

- a. Read all of Philippians not just verse 4:6
- b. Put away childish things - 1 Cor 13:11
- c. Pray with understanding – 1 Cor 14:15, Rom 8:26
- d. Set your affections on things above - Col 3:2
- e. Don't ask for what you have already - Eph 1:3; 1 Cor 3:16, Eph 5:30, Col 1:27

3. Pray With Thanksgiving

- a. IN every thing give thanks - 1 Thess 5:17-18 (not FOR everything)
- b. With thanksgiving – Phil 4:6-7
- c. God is thankworthy – Romans 1:21
- d. Giving thanks unto the Father - Col 3:17
- e. It is sanctified by prayer (which is not like magic salt) – 1 Tim 4:5

4. Pray to Worship

- a. David praised God seven times a day – Psalm 119:164
- b. Paul's prayer of praise - Romans 11:33-36
- c. Glory to God in Christ - Eph 3:15, 20-21, Phi 2:9-10
- d. Every knee shall bow - Phil 2:9-10
- e. Communicating your faith causes an effect - 1 Thess 2:13, Phm 6

5. Prayer Uses

- a. Holding the truth in righteousness - Rom 1:18
- b. Strengthens the inner man - Eph 3:15-18
- c. Keeps our thoughts right – Phil 4:8-9
- d. It provides peace – Phil 4:7, 1 Tim 2:1-2,8
- e. Helps us rejoice – Phil 4:4; 2 Tim 1:3-5
- f. It engenders hope – Rom 5:3-4

Prayer Principles

- ~ Praying is God's will.
- ~ Prayer reflects your attitude towards God.
- ~ Prayer should not try to move God away from his will.
- ~ Prayer moves you to the place where God is working.
- ~ Prayer prepares you to receive what God has provided.
- ~ We pray not because of what God can do for us, but because of who he is to us.
- ~ We pray not because he will fulfill our requests, but because he can exceed them.
- ~ Pray to God as your father; pray as he knows your thoughts; pray as he saved your life

Prayer works!

- It works to make known our requests to God (Phil 4:6)
- It works to produce the peace of God in our care full lives. (Phil 4:6)
- It works to align our hearts and minds with sound doctrine. (Phil 4:7)
- It works to bring every thought captive. (Phil 4:8, 2 Cor 10:5)
- It works to motivate us to minister as the Lord has instructed. (Eph 6:19)
- It works to give us spiritual strength and confidence. (Eph 3:12-16)
- It works to generate gratitude towards God. (1 Thess 5:17-18)
- It works to keep us honest and life quiet. (1 Tim 2:2)
- It works to produce grace in the way we live (1 Tim 2:8)

Prayer works, but not as a magic lamp.
Our spiritual life would be dead without God's word and prayer.
