

Intercession Wednesday's Spiritual Uplift (WSU)

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Praying To Get Results

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against a spiritual wickedness in high places. - **Ephesian 6:12**

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14.

The Bible teaches on several kinds of prayers—and the different rules that govern them. The church world often makes the mistake in not differentiating between those different kinds of prayers. Tonight we will talk about several prayers and gain clarity on the best ways to pray them effectively.

1. **The Prayer of Faith** is a prayer of petition. (Matt. 21:22) "And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."; Mark 11:24) Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours..

The prayer of Faith says, I am petitioning You for this because I know You can do it. You have what I need. This prayer is always to be based on God's revealed will in His Word, and should never contain an "if." Faith cancels out all ifs and buts...

2. **The Prayer of Consecration:** Psalm 95 -

Whenever we come into God's presence, we must come with thanksgiving. The Lord is to be praised; what we want does not matter, if we are well or if we are not, we must praise. When we pray prayers of consecration, we are asking the Lord in specific ways to set us apart so that He might enable us to obey His revealed will.

The prayers of Dedication, Consecration, and Submission are particular kinds of prayer that deal with our willingness and obedience to fulfill God's plan in our lives. This kind of prayer was used by our Lord in the Garden

of Gethsemane when He was facing the darkest hour of His life on earth. He said, Father, this is not what I want but I am praying this prayer as an act of obedience. Not what I want, but Your will be done in me. In this prayer we pray, "If it be thy will" (Luke 22:42).

3. The Prayer of Commitment: Psalm 81

In Psalm 81, God is speaking to His people. He is calling them to listen to Him for what He is going to say next which is very important. God is praised for what he has done for his people. He brought them out of the wilderness. (1-7) Their obligation to him is to commemorate the Feast of Tabernacles. (8-16) The Lord is calling on His people to make a commitment to Him to serve God only. We too must Commit ourselves to serve God. (1 Peter 5:7)

4. The Prayer of Worship (Matthew 6, Luke 24:52-53).

1) It is Scriptural. It is based on the "Lord's Prayer", or the model prayer, in Matthew 6, begins talking about doing good deeds not to be seen by man. But instead, do good deeds even if no one sees you. Just do them to please God. And God will reward you.

2) It draws our focus toward God, as opposed to our own needs or requests.

3) Gives us a model to experience life giving prayer that can be applied to almost any passage of Scripture.

- ❖ Praise God for His attributes/character
- ❖ Offering thanks for who He is and what He has done
- ❖ Not asking for anything, just worshiping...

5. The Prayer of Agreement (Matt. 18:18-20)

"Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:18-20 RSV)

In the prayer of agreement when we talk about whatever you bind on earth is not specifically about this present life and the afterlife. What our Lord Jesus is saying here is that heaven exists at the same time as earth - both are part of this life.

And heaven is the silent, invisible, spiritual kingdom which lies all about us, enclosing us, embracing us, waiting for us to recognize it. When we enter the kingdom of heaven, we recognize that kingdom, we believe it, and we act upon its reality.

Jesus is also telling us here that God has granted powers of binding and loosing to every believer, and until we act upon them, nothing happens.

The last part we often think it means two people make a common decision. We take it to mean that if I want something, then I find someone else who wants the same thing, and we agree to pray, and God therefore must honor our prayer and must do our will. But that is not what this means. There is another word that is used here which means "to sound together, to harmonize."

Two related notes struck on the piano will harmonize. The harmony is already there, it is simply brought out as you strike the right notes.

For the prayer of agreement to work, there must be two of you. And you have to be on earth.

6. Intercessory Prayer II Chronicle 7:12-15 - A Prayer for others Daniel 9. It has all the elements of true intercessory prayer. It is in response to the Word (v. 2); characterized by fervency (v. 3) and self-denial (v. 4); identified unselfishly with God's people (v. 5); strengthened by confession (v. 5-15); dependent on God's character (vv. 4, 7, 9, 15); and has as its goal God's glory (vv. 16-19). Like Daniel, Christians are to come to God on behalf of others in a heartbroken and repentant attitude, recognizing their own unworthiness and with a sense of self-denial. Daniel does not say, "I have a right to demand this out of You, God, because I am one of your special, chosen intercessors." He says, "I'm a sinner," and, in effect, "I do not have a right to demand anything." True intercessory prayer seeks not only to know God's will and see it fulfilled, but to see it fulfilled whether or not it benefits us and regardless of what it costs us. True intercessory prayer seeks God's glory, not our own. Who are we to pray for?

The following is only a partial list of those for whom we are to offer intercessory prayers:

- All in authority (1 Timothy 2:2)
- Ministers (Philippians 1:19)
- Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6)
- Friends (Job 42:8)
- Fellow countrymen (Romans 10:1)
- The sick (James 5:14)
- Enemies (Jeremiah 29:7)
- Those who persecute us (Matthew 5:44)
- Those who forsake us (2 Timothy 4:16)
- All men (1 Timothy 2:1)