

# 18 QUESTIONS ABOUT PRAYER ANSWERED FROM THE BIBLE



**Be anxious for nothing, but in everything  
by prayer and supplication, with  
thanksgiving, let your requests be made  
known to God**

**Philippians 4:6**

## QUESTIONS ABOUT PRAYER

1. What did Jesus mean to pray “in my name?”
2. Why does Matthew 7:7 not give a condition to answered prayer?
3. What does it mean to believe when you pray for something?
4. Is it a lack of faith to say to God, “Whatever you will?”
5. Why does God want to give good gifts to those who ask?
6. How does losing heart and being like a wave of the sea affect our prayers?
7. How does losing heart and being like a wave of the sea affect our prayers?
8. How can I know if I am praying only to fulfill my desire for pleasure?
9. How can I determine if I am truly delighting in the Lord?
10. Why would God not take away a painful thing in my life?
11. What are the marks of a proud and not humble prayer?
12. How can I know if I have confessed all my sin before prayer?
13. Can I point to a time in my life when I have humbled myself and received grace from God?
14. Should I hold back on praying about things?
15. What is it like to give thanks in everything?
16. In what ways is Christian prayer different than pagan prayers?
17. When was a time in your life when God clearly said “Yes” to your prayer request?
18. When was a time that God clearly said “No” to a prayer request of yours?

## For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

Acts 20:27 KJV

**Premise:** When we pray, God always answers our prayers. Sometimes it is “yes”, sometimes it is “no”, sometimes it is “wait awhile”, or sometimes we will find out in heaven. With every prayer promise there is a condition attached to it. God is not like a bank account that we just need to fill out the amount we need, and we will get it. He is God, we are men, and it is our responsibility to pray according to His will and not give up. He is honored by our requests.

“Our faith-filled requests do not supersede God’s sovereign rule. If He was bound by our prayers, as some teach, He would, in effect, cease to be God. We would be gods by dictating His actions. Nowhere in Scripture do we see such a precedent.”

### 1. What did Jesus mean to pray “in my name?”

There are always conditions attached to prayer promises. In order to, “receive what he will give”, We must “pray in His name”, meaning that we are asking in according to who He is and His eternal purposes. We don’t come to His throne and request things of Him on the basis of who we are, what we think He should do and when we think He should do it. He is the God of the universe and will accomplish His will. Our responsibility is to ask in prayer that exalts His name and plan and person.

Someone might say that John 14:14 says you can ask anything, “In my name and I will do it”, and there seems to be no condition added.

Two things should be said. First of all a principle of hermeneutics is that we are to interpret the seeming exceptions according to the clear verses. If some verses seem to contradict others, we should see what the majority have to say and interpret the minority in light of that.

Secondly, we need to be careful to take verses in the context that they are given. Paul tells us that, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”. All things? That certainly doesn’t mean all things without limit. When we walk in the Spirit in obedience to the Word, nothing is beyond doing what He has asked us to do.

*John 14:13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*

*John 14:14 If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it.*

*John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you*

*John 16:23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.*

*John 16:24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full*

*John 16:26 KJV - At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you:*

## 2. Why does Matthew 7:7 not give a condition for answered prayer?

The promise of answered prayer in the Matthew 7 passage is in the context of a Father with his child. Good fathers will always give to their children what is best, not necessarily what they ask. A good father always gives an answer whether the child understands or accepts it at the time. If a young boy asks for a fire truck the father might buy a toy firetruck for him or arrange a tour to take him to the firehouse and see fire engines. Good fathers give to us what is the best for us.

*Matthew 7:7 KJV - Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:*

*Matthew 7:11 KJV - If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?*

## 3. What does it mean to “believe” when you pray for something?

Another way of expressing the idea of praying in His name is seen in “believing”, “having faith”. The Lord requires this when we pray. But it is not believing in belief or just something we think would be good. It is having faith in the true God and all the things He is in his character seen in His Word.

*Matthew 21:22 KJV - And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.*

*Mark 11:22 And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.*

*Mark 11:23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.*

*Mark 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*

*Matthew 17:20 KJV - And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.*

*Mark 11:24 KJV - Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive [them], and ye shall have [them].*

## 4. Is it a lack of faith to say to God, “Whatever you will?”

We need to align our thoughts with Jesus when he said, “Even so, Father: for it seemed good in your sight”. If something is not revealed or an answer not given that we wanted, we can submit to His will, even as Jesus did.

*Matthew 11:25 KJV - At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent and hast revealed them unto babes.*

*Matthew 11:26 KJV - Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.*

*Luke 11:9 KJV - And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.*

*Luke 22:42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will,*

*but thine, be done*

*Matt 26:42 (NIV) He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.*

## 5. Why does God want to give good gifts to those who ask?

God is always desiring to give gifts to us He never quits, it never comes to an end. These are always good gifts. Sometimes there are things that I think would be good but in the eternal view of things it might not be one of His good gifts.

*Luke 11:13 KJV - If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall [your] heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?*

*Eph 4:8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men*

## 6. Why is it important to be seeking His kingdom when praying?

Another way to understand a requirement for answered prayer is that we must be, “seeking first the kingdom of God”. That means that we are not living our lives just to be temporarily happy, or we are determined to have our own way because we think we know what is best, but rather for His kingdom. It is important to prove His acceptable will by giving ourselves wholeheartedly to Him. That will help crystallize in our minds what will glorify Him in our requests. It all starts with the heart.

*Matthew 6:33 KJV - But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you*

*Romans 12:1 KJV - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, [which is] your reasonable service.*

*Romans 12:2 KJV - And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God*

## 7. How does “losing heart” and being like a “wave of the sea” affect our prayers?

The Lord tells us clearly that we need to always pray and not give up. We can never use an unanswered prayer as an excuse to cease praying—we need to keep praying.

*Luke 18:1 KJV - And he spake a parable unto them [to this end], that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;*

*James 1:6 KJV - But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavers is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.*

## 8. How can I know if I am praying only to fulfill the desire for my pleasure?

The fact that God gives the strong warning about our “lusts” shows us clearly the temptation we all have, openly or secretly, deep in our hearts, is- lust – the desire to please ourselves. It is the lust of making ourselves to be first place and it does not give up without a fight and never ceases its attempt until we see the Lord. If we are in the habit of only honoring our desires and want them fulfilled it will kill our prayer

life. We will have no answer from heaven. Why would He give anything to us that would make us less spiritual?

*James 4:3 KJV - Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume [it] upon your lusts.*

## 9. How can I determine if I am truly “delighting” in the Lord?

Another way to think of praying in His name is “delighting” (def: to be happy about, take exquisite delight) ourselves in Him. The Old Testament promises that He will give us our desires if our happiness is Him.

*Psalms 37:4 KJV - Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart*

## 10. Why would God not take away a painful thing in my life?

As we think about how great as the Apostle Paul was, and how much he accomplished for the Lord, when he asked to have his thorn taken away, God said, “No”. Paul did ask the Lord three times to take it away and still the Lord did not. We also could easily say, “I could serve you more easily and effectively if you gave me back my health.” This could serve as a reason for us to not serve the Lord or to distrust His love for us. The apostle said, that he would, “gladly glory in my infirmities that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

*2 Corinthians 12:7 KJV - And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure*

## 11. What are the marks of proud and not humble prayer?

The requirement for healing and answered prayer was humility and seeking God’s face. In our approach to God, we must not pretend humility but actually be humble before him. When we pray, our humility is not a symbolic genuflect, or a bow or a salute or meaningless words. It is real. We make ourselves low in His presence. He says that either we humble ourselves or He will humble us. One is much easier than the other and less painful.

*2 Chronicles 7:14 KJV - If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

## 12. How can I know if I have confessed “all my sin” before prayer?

It is necessary to confess our sin to receive answers to prayer. This is not a surface thing, reading a list or saying, “Everyone messes up at some time”. But a truly deep acknowledgment that I am unworthy and have entertained rebellious and impure thoughts as I approach the throne. The heart is the deepest part of our being. However, we are not told to stay away but to confess and he will forgive. Older Christians usually will tell us that the older they get the more they realize their sin and appreciate the grace of God.

*1 John 1:9 KJV - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*

*Psalms 66:18 KJV - If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear [me]*

## 13. Can I point to a time in my life when I have humbled myself and received grace from God?

In our prayer, we must humble ourselves before God, confessing that we are sinners. We must leave outside, at the door, our victories, our possessions, our titles, our honors, and our puffed up self. We are to take the lower place when we pray. The word for humble is “to make low, bring low to level, reduce to a plain.” Then we will be exalted.

*James 4:6 KJV - But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resists the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.*

*Luke 18:11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.*

*Luke 18:12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.*

*Luke 18:13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying,*

*God be merciful to me a sinner*

*Proverbs 3:34 KJV - Surely he scorns the scorers: but he giveth grace unto the lowly.*

## 14. Should I hold back on praying about things?

Think about it. With all the lofty requirements for gaining answers to prayer, He still says to pray all the time. Not, “Wait until you are perfect” and then pray. We are encouraged to keep praying and growing.

*1 Thessalonians 5:17 KJV - Pray without ceasing.*

*Matthew 15:27 KJV - And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.*

*Matthew 15:28 KJV - Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great [is] thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.*

*Luke 18:1 KJV - And he spoke a parable unto them [to this end], that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;*

*Luke 18:2 KJV - Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:*

*Luke 18:3 KJV - And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.*

## 15. What is it like to give thanks in everything?

Another principle of healthy prayer is that we should give thanks in everything---not give thanks for everything. It is never right to call evil good. (Isa 5:20 *Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil;*) But even in the worst circumstances we are to thank God.

*1 Thessalonians 5:18 KJV - In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you*



## 16. In what ways is Christian prayer different than pagan prayers?

In all pagan religions, the follower is on their own when it comes their prayers. Nothing happens unless they pray for it. The pagan is under attack all the time and needs to ward these evil spirits off through endless repeating of the same phrases from a holy book of some sort. Let us rejoice to remember that we have help, up and beyond anything we can do for ourselves. The Scripture teaches us that we have Jesus who is our mediator and advocate and the Holy Spirit who prays for us as our intercessor.

### ADVOCATE

#### 1John 2:1

*My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an **advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous*

#### William MacDonald, Believers Bible Commentary

*“An advocate is one who comes to the side of another person in time of need in order to help. This is exactly what the Lord Jesus does for us when we sin. He immediately comes to us in order to restore us to fellowship with Himself. Notice that it does not say, “If any man confesses his sins ... .” As our Advocate, the Lord seeks to bring us to the place where we do confess and forsake our sin.*

*There is something very wonderful in this verse which we should not overlook. It says, “And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father.” It does not say with God, but rather with the Father. He is still our Father even if we sin. This reminds us of the blessed truth that though sin in a believer’s life breaks fellowship, it does not break relationship. When a person is born again, he becomes a child of God. God is henceforth his Father, and nothing can ever affect that relationship. A birth is something that cannot be undone. A son may disgrace his father, but he is still a son by the fact of birth.*

*Notice that our Advocate is Jesus Christ the righteous. It is good to have a righteous Defender. When Satan brings some accusation against a believer, the Lord Jesus can point to His finished work on Calvary and say, “Charge that to My account”*

### MEDIATOR

#### 1Timothy 2:5

*For there is one God, and one **mediator** between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;*

*“We have a mediator between God and men. This being so, no man can come to God in any other way. A mediator is a go-between, a middleman who can stand between two and communicate with both. Through Christ, Himself Man, God is enabled to approach men with forgiveness of sins. Consequently any poor sinner can approach Him, and will by no means be rejected.*

*Paul identifies the Mediator as the Man, Christ Jesus. This does not deny the deity of the Lord Jesus. In order to be the Mediator between God and men, He must be both God and Man. The Lord Jesus is God from all eternity, but He became Man in Bethlehem’s manger. He represents the whole race of humanity. The fact that He is both God and Man is indicated in the name Christ Jesus. Christ describes Him as God’s anointed One, the Messiah. Jesus is the name given to Him in Incarnation.”*



## **INTERCESSOR**

### **Romans 8:26**

*Likewise the Spirit also helps our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with **groanings** which cannot be uttered*

*“The Spirit sustains us in our weaknesses. We are often perplexed in our prayer life. We do not know how to pray as we should. We pray selfishly, ignorantly, narrowly. But once again the Spirit comes alongside to assist us in our weakness, interceding for us with groanings which cannot find expression. In this verse it is the Spirit who groans and not we who groan, though that is also true.*

*There is mystery here. We are peering into the unseen, spiritual realm where a great Person and great forces are at work on our behalf. And although we cannot understand it all, we can take infinite encouragement from the fact that a groan may sometimes be the most spiritual prayer.”*

### **17. Times when God clearly said “Yes” to a prayer request?**

#### **Some examples of when God says “Yes” to prayer:**

There are many times when God can say “yes” to our requests because they fit into the plan He is working out in our lives

#### **“Yes” to Joshua- when the sun stood still**

*Joshua 10:12 KJV - Then spoke Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon.*

*Joshua 10:13 KJV - And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. [Is] not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day.*

*Joshua 10:14 KJV - And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the LORD hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the LORD fought for Israel.*

#### **“Yes” to Elijah – no rain, then rain**

*James 5:17 KJV - Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.*

*James 5:18 KJV - And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.*

#### **“Yes” to Jesus’ prayer to raise Lazarus**

*John 11:41 KJV - Then they took away the stone [from the place] where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up [his] eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.*

#### **“Yes” to Moses’ request to see His glory**

*Exodus 33:17 KJV - And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name.*

#### **“Yes” to Solomon’s request for wisdom**

*1 Kings 3:11 KJV - And God said unto him, because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment;*

*1 Kings 3:12 KJV - Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.*

*1 Kings 3:13 KJV - And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.*

*Jesus said “yes” to everyone who asked Him for healing and help*

### 18. Times when God clearly said “No” to a prayer request.

**God can also say “No” to our requests.**

#### “No” to save David’s baby

*2 Samuel 12:16 KJV - David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth.*

*2 Samuel 12:18 KJV - And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead?*

#### “No” to Paul, forbidding him to go to Asia

*Acts 16:6 KJV - Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,*

*Acts 16:7 KJV - After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.*

#### “No” to the removal of Paul’s thorn in the flesh

*2 Corinthians 12:7 KJV - And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*

### My PERSONAL EXPERIENCES WITH PRAYER

#### A prayer request that needed refinement

I was an elder in a church and a young brother came to ask us to pray for his family. His mother-in-law was trying and succeeding to break up his young marriage. He asked us to pray that God would, “Kill my mother-in-law”, so the marriage could be saved. The young man was so frustrated thinking the only thing for God to do was to take the wicked woman out of his life. We assured him that we would pray for her but not in that way. God also knows what we need even if we do not know at the time

#### A man like Hezekiah’s 15 bad years

Along with others I once prayed in earnest for the Lord to save a man's life who after a construction accident was in a coma for months. I remember praying in a prayer meeting with tears that he would not die. He did come out of his coma and the next few years were the worst ones of his life and caused great problems in our church. God gave the answer to my request but sent "leanness to our souls" it was trouble on trouble. I often wondered if I should rather have prayed, "Your will be done" instead.

### Seed that died and produced a great harvest

Five young missionaries died in South America. They were killed by the Indians of the jungle that they were loving and making contact with. The Indians attacked them and killed all of them. The men had guns but did not use them on the natives. Back home, many thought this was just a waste. All of the young men were very spiritually gifted. All of them left a wife and some had little children. What happened in the next few years was nothing but astounding. Many young people and others went to the mission field as a result of their examples and literature written about them still is being published and changing lives. God answered those thousands of prayers in a way that glorified Himself

### Patience in prayer

I have known of people who have prayed for 20, even 50 years for an answer and then seen it come. I have often wondered who in the past prayed for my family? All four of us were saved and lived for the Lord. The extended side of my family is a desert of unbelief. However, the Lord blessed my immediate family. I firmly believe that someone prayed for us years ago.

### A World Vision on New Year's Eve

I once spent a New Year's Eve with a group of college students and others who went to a church and spread out a map of the world on the floor, gathered around it and prayed for countries who needed the Gospel. One of the things we prayed for was Russia and the "impenetrable" Iron Curtain. I prayed then but really did not believe it could ever open. In 2004 and 2006 I went to Kazakhstan, formerly part of the USSR and taught in a Bible school for a week to Christian workers. I spoke through a Russian translator. One night I cried while I was there finally realizing I was personally seeing that answer to a very weak prayer.

### The best bed to sleep in

My sister had a lifetime of chronic pain and illnesses of all sorts. She maintained a happy spirit and was a good testimony for the Lord. We prayed hundreds, even thousands of times for healing and help with her diseases. One night in extreme pain she was taken by ambulance to the hospital and after some testing it was told to her that she had stage four cancer. When offered treatment, she said, "No I am ready to go". "I do not want any more treatments". "I want to be with the Lord". Our prayers changed from that point on and the next few days while she was in hospice were glory days. Precious memories were made in that room. That turned out to be the best bed she ever slept in.

### A life well lived – four score and many years

My mother lived to be 107 years old. She was lucid and up for a good conversation until the last 6 days of her life. How should you pray for someone who does not have any major illnesses but whose hearing and sight are almost all gone and they long to be in heaven? Our prayers change for others in different situations.

## **The Lord used debt to guide his servant**

A brother who was serving the Lord was running out of money. It was slow leak, and he realized gifts were not coming in and they could not live on the support they were getting. He noticed that all his major appliances that were wearing out and there was no money to replace them. We prayed that the Lord would supply but when he went into debt, I told him that that was the Lord's answer to our prayer. "Go back to work". He did and got an advanced degree and became a great college teacher and writer. The Lord answered his prayer in a way he had not considered.

## **No Arms, No Legs, No Worries, the story of Nick Vujicic**

There is a great video about a man who has no arms and legs. His name is Nick Vujicic He is one of the happiest evangelists and speakers you will ever hear. He has to be literally carried around and put up on a table to speak. He has accepted his disability and has spoken to millions of young people encouraging them to find their value in Him. As a young boy he often thought of suicide but then one day in prayer he gave himself to the Lord and has been an international blessing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vAVbMggSU48>

## **An act of faith or not?**

I know of a man who had his legs blown off during a war. He was in a wheelchair and was encouraged to wear long pants in case the Lord gave him new legs. I don't know how I would pray for that. Was that an act of faith on his part? Has he gotten bad counsel? I did observe that he has godly children, a good wife but no legs. I think that is God's answer.

## **One man's "Oops" was another man's blessing**

In our lives we have time and again had the money to do what the Lord has asked us to do. We have always prayed for direction and guidance in what the Lord would have us do. I have never requested payment to speak or counsel or minister. I have often used my own funds for travel, and supplied my own materials and other expenses. It is a privilege to serve the Lord freely. I once spoke to a Bible camp for two weeks and at the end got no financial help at all, having to fill up my own gas tank to get back home. Much later the camp director apologized to me and said that he forgot to give something to me. In the intervening time I had a good chance to check my motives and attitude. I was happy that had happened because it proved to me that I now had one more concrete illustration of happily and readily serving the Lord freely.

## **Bringing back something from Jamaica**

I went with a team to serve the Lord in Jamaica. We all had gone there to preach, teach and also to give helpful classes on soul winning and Christian living. It was a wonderful time. For the last week, however, I was asked to stay back while the team traveled on because there were some children's meetings (500+

kids) the next week and the pastor was exhausted and asked me to speak. I said goodbye to the team and when they drove away I was asked to stay with one of the elders and his wife. It turned out that she was very sick and was coughing all the time. When I came back to the States, I got a full-blown viral illness of some kind that went to my kidneys and was destroying them. I went to the hospital for a week. It was never determined what it was and its cure. I found out that there was also no antibiotic for this virus. After a few days of testing, one night it simply went away. The numbers plummeted in the blood work and the doctor said basically, “You are healed”. He was a Christian and had no answer to what it was and said the cure was an answer to prayer.

Of course, I was happy about that but that was only the beginning. We had no insurance and little savings. Believers from all around sent money to help us. The Hospital bill was \$3000 for my stay (which was a lot back then). When I left the hospital, I had \$3100 in our checking account accumulated from gifts from Christians. I paid the bill in full with a little left over. As if that wasn’t enough, throughout the next year I heard story after story of believers who were praying for me, even in some foreign countries. One sister wanted to know when the disease abated, I told her it was early in the morning on Wednesday. She then told me that on that night she walked around her house praying for me until 3:00 am. God answers prayer. My sickness revealed more than just my getting well. The Lord spared my life and gave me a great answered prayer story!

## The Doctor’s advice versus the Lord’s command

While my wife was pregnant with our son, she spent one day with a woman whom we later found out had German Measles, which was a problem. When she told her doctor, he encouraged us to “start over” because he said, the child probably would be blind or deaf or deformed in some other way. We were just a young couple at the time and had never thought about that option– no one was talking about abortions at that time. When she came to the car and told me what he said, we paused for about two seconds and looked at each other and said almost in unison. No, we will take whatever the Lord gives to us. We prayed and put this issue in God’s loving hands. We had great peace of mind and no second thoughts, period. The Lord gave us a wonderful son.

## The 3:00 am prayer request from 12,000 miles away.

A couple we know went as missionaries to Papua, New Guinea. They were stationed in the jungle far from any city. At that time they had one young babe in arms. There was political unrest in the country during that time. One night a rebel group of men came with machetes and shotguns and kidnapped my friend and another missionary taking them deep into the jungle. His wife hid in the back bedroom with the child. When they were gone, she radioed a Jungle Aviation pilot for help. He actually was on his way to his base with problems in his instrument panel. In an act of courage, he turned his plane around mid-air and came back to get her and the baby and flew to safety. I got a phone call at 3:00 am from her asking for prayer. Two weeks later her husband and friend were released. The husband was a military veteran and said there were times he could have grabbed one of the guns and shot the men and fled to safety, but he said that he had come to see them saved not kill them. He was reminded of the Lamb of God who gave Himself for the sins of the world. God dramatically answered prayer for the couple.

## The well-timed arrival of a Teddy Bear and a baby

My wife and I served the Lord in the first two years of our marriage in an outreach to college students in Greeley, Colorado. I was asked one summer to work at a Bible Camp. We were living in Greeley with another couple in a large house that we used for ministry. I took out my last 100 dollars from the bank, paid our half of the rent and put our last 20 dollars in the gas tank to drive back to Woodland Park for the camp. We were expecting a baby, and I did not know how we could pay the bill for the delivery. At the end of the summer, I was preparing my car for the trip home and a brother said that he and his wife would like to give a gift for the new baby to have a teddy bear. Before we left, he gave me a check that covered the entire cost of the baby's arrival- quite a teddy bear! I was in the ministry full time and was unable to hold down a job at the same time. We were there on faith and just kept praying for our daily bread and the Lord always supplied. I would not give up those times for anything.

## True male bonding – the Real thing

My wife, had an emergency surgery on her neck years ago. We had gone to see the doctor to see about another problem she was having and he checked her neck and after an x-ray said that she would need surgery on her neck the next day or face paralysis because of pressure on her spinal cord in the neck. She was on blood thinners at the time and the surgery was risky because of the loss of blood. Many people came to the hospital to pray and be with us. After the successful surgery she was put in ICU. Everyone else left that day but 5 brothers stayed with me that whole night in the hospital because it was still touch and go. We talked, told stories and prayed. One brother was a fire fighter, one was in the Army, one was a teacher, and one was a camp director. When the morning came, she was in the clear and on the road to recovery. All the men went directly to work that morning with no sleep. There was a bond that occurred that night because of prayer and fellowship.

## A vacation from God

As a young man serving the Lord, I was anxious to not waste any time. I wanted to be busy and pack as much ministry as I could and as often as people asked me to speak. I hit a wall one summer and counseled with the President of my former Bible college, Dan Smith. He told me how he handled that type of situation. I then realized I needed to take a vacation with my family which we had never done. As much as we loved to serve the Lord and travel around, we needed a break. I had no money to take a break. My friend Fred Fletemeyer heard about this and gave us a check to cover the wonderful rental of a cabin by the Mississippi where we could have some family time. It was great. God answered before I called.

## Half a check... (prayer)... a full check

I worked for the Colorado Springs Christian Schools in the early first few years of its existence. I went on to serve there for 45 years, retiring when I was 70 years old. I served as a teacher, pastoral counselor, vice principal, principal and finally as the chaplain. In the early years the school was on a very thin line of support. Teachers did not make that much money, about half of what their counterparts in public school made. Then on top of that there was a shortage in the budget from time to time. I was asked to teach the Bible and in my second year was given a contract but told that they could only cover half my salary. The rest hopefully would come from a fund they set up called the "76" (1976) Fund. My salary was not that large but at the end of each month the empty spot was filled by gifts of love. We were confident in the



Lord and really never did pray an anxious prayer. We just assumed the Lord would provide some way. We did not miss a meal or a full check. We saw his extravagant supply on a regular basis.

## The winds are under his control

A number of years ago there was a large forest fire that threatened to burn up the beloved Camp Elim. There were a couple of false evacuation alarms and the staff packed up on two occasions as it seemed like the fire was heading their way. Finally, it was gut wrenching for them to drive away from the camp grounds with their computers, other necessary papers and unreplaceables the second time because it seemed like that was going to be the final time.

The wind shifted and the fire came within 3 tenths of a mile and then blew back on itself. The camp was spared. Probably, hundreds if not thousands of people were praying for the camp to be spared. It was spared and it is safe to say that hundreds, maybe thousands of kids have been saved from hearing the Gospel there since then. The Lord heard the cry of his people.

## 10 Principles to Prayer

### 1) Pray to the Heavenly Father

*Matthew 6:9 KJV - After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.*

### 2) Pray for good things

*Matthew 7:11 KJV - If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?*

*2 Corinthians 12:7 KJV - And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*

*2 Corinthians 12:8 KJV - For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.*

*2 Corinthians 12:9 KJV - And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

*2 Corinthians 12:10 KJV - Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.*

## **3) Pray for needful things**

*Philippians 4:19 KJV - But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

*Matthew 6:33 KJV - But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

## **4) Pray from a righteous heart**

*James 5:16 KJV - 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.*

*Hebrews 10:22 KJV - Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*

*Psalms 66:18 KJV - If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear [me]:*

## **5) Pray from a grateful heart**

*Philippians 4:6 KJV - Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

## **6) Pray according to the will of God**

*1 John 5:14 KJV - And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:*

*Luke 22:42 KJV - Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.*

## **7) Pray in the authority of Jesus Christ**, and He is our mediator

*John 16:24 KJV - Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.*

*Hebrews 10:19 KJV - Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,*

*Hebrews 10:20 KJV - By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;*

*Hebrews 10:21 KJV - And [having] an high priest over the house of God;*

*Hebrews 10:22 KJV - Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*

*1 Timothy 2:5 KJV - For [there is] one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;*

## **8) Pray persistently**

*Luke 18:1 KJV - And he spake a parable unto them [to this end], that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;*

*1 Thessalonians 5:17 KJV - Pray without ceasing.*

## **9) Pray unselfishly**

*James 4:3 KJV - Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume [it] upon your lusts.*

## **10) Pray in faith**

*James 1:6 KJV - But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavers is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.*

*Hebrews 11:6 KJV - But without faith [it is] impossible to please [him]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and [that] he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

*Luke 1:37 KJV - For with God nothing shall be impossible.*

<https://www.gotquestions.org/prayer-conditions.html>