

Prayer Principles

How to Really Get Answers

Bible Reading from the World English Bible

Outline from "Studying Together" by Mark Finley

Our loving Lord invites us to seek Him.

Luke 11:11-13 Which of you fathers, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, he won't give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, he won't give him a scorpion, will he? ¹³ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

Matt. 7:7-12 Ask, and it will be given you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and it will be opened for you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives. He who seeks finds. To him who knocks it will be opened. ⁹ Or who is there among you, who, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, who will give him a serpent? ¹¹ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

¹² Therefore whatever you desire for men to do to you, you shall also do to them; for this is the law and the prophets.

Ps. 65:1-4 Praise waits for you, God, in Zion.

To you shall vows be performed.

² You who hear prayer,
to you all men will come.

³ Sins overwhelmed me,
but you atoned for our transgressions.

⁴ Blessed is one whom you choose, and cause to come near,
that he may live in your courts.

We will be filled with the goodness of your house,
your holy temple.

Mark 11:22-26 Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God. ²³ For most certainly I tell you, whoever may tell this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and doesn't doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is happening; he shall have whatever he says. ²⁴ Therefore I tell you, all things whatever you pray and ask for, believe that you have received them, and you shall have

them. ²⁵ Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father, who is in heaven, may also forgive you your transgressions. ²⁶ But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your transgressions."

Be sure your life is surrendered to His will..Be willing to surrender anything not in harmony with His will .

1 John 5:13-15 ³ These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God. ¹⁴ This is the boldness which we have toward him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he listens to us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions which we have asked of him.

Matt 26;36-39 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go there and pray." ³⁷ He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and severely troubled. ³⁸ Then he said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here, and watch with me." ³⁹ He went forward a little, fell on his face, and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass away from me; nevertheless, not what I desire, but what you desire."

James 4:1-4 Where do wars and fightings among you come from? Don't they come from your pleasures that war in your members? ² You lust, and don't have. You murder and covet, and can't obtain. You fight and make war. You don't have, because you don't ask. ³ You ask, and don't receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it for your pleasures. ⁴ You adulterers and adulteresses, don't you know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Bring to Him everything that troubles you or concerns you in any way.

1 Pet. 5:5-7 Likewise, you younger ones, be subject to the elder. Yes, all of you clothe yourselves with humility, to subject yourselves to one another; for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."^[a] ⁶ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time; ⁷ casting all your worries on him, because he cares for you.

Ps. 55:22 Cast your burden on Yahweh, and he will sustain you.

He will never allow the righteous to be moved.

Mingle praise, gratitude and thanksgiving with all your prayers.

Phil. 1:3-6 I thank my God whenever I remember you, ⁴ always in every request of mine on behalf of you all making my requests with joy, ⁵ for your partnership^[c] in furtherance of the Good News from the first day until now; ⁶ being confident of this very thing, that he who began a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.

Col. 3:14-17 Above all these things, walk in love, which is the bond of perfection. ¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord.

¹⁷ Whatever you do, in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father, through him.

1 Thess. 5:13-22 Be at peace among yourselves.

¹⁴ We exhort you, brothers, admonish the disorderly, encourage the faint-hearted, support the weak, be patient toward all. ¹⁵ See that no one returns evil for evil to anyone, but always follow after that which is good, for one another, and for all.

¹⁶ Rejoice always. ¹⁷ Pray without ceasing. ¹⁸ In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus toward you. ¹⁹ Don't quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Don't despise prophesies. ²¹ Test all

things, and hold firmly that which is good.

²² Abstain from every form of evil.

The purpose of prayer is to lead us into oneness with the mind of God and the deepest fellowship with Him.

Rev. 3:18-22 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, that you may become rich; and white garments, that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see. ¹⁹ As many as I love, I reprove and chasten. Be zealous therefore, and repent.

²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, then I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with me. ²¹ He who overcomes, I will give to him to sit down with me on my throne, as I also overcame, and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies."

Eph. 3:14-21 For this cause, I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, that you may be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inward man; ¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; to the end that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be strengthened to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know Christ's love which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to him be the glory in the assembly and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

God invites you to find a quiet place to pray and seek Him each day with your whole heart.

Mark 1:35 Early in the morning, while it was still dark, he rose up and went out, and departed into a deserted place, and prayed there.

Jer. 29:11-14 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says Yahweh, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you hope and a future. ¹² You shall call on me, and you shall go and

pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You shall seek me, and find me, when you shall search for me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you, says Yahweh,

Learn to pray aloud where only God can hear you.

Matt. 26:39 He went forward a little, fell on his face, and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass away from me; nevertheless, not what I desire, but what you desire."

Luke 11:1-9 When he finished praying in a certain place, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John also taught his disciples."

² He said to them, "When you pray, say,

'Our Father in heaven,

may your name be kept holy.

May your Kingdom come.

May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

³ Give us day by day our daily bread.

⁴ Forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

Bring us not into temptation,

but deliver us from the evil one."

⁵ He said to them, "Which of you, if you go to a friend at midnight, and tell him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, ⁶ for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him,' ⁷ and he from within will answer and say, 'Don't bother me. The door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give it to you?' ⁸ I tell you, although he will not rise and give it to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence, he will get up and give him as many as he needs.

⁹ "I tell you, keep asking, and it will be given you. Keep seeking, and you will find. Keep knocking, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives. He who seeks finds. To him who knocks it will be opened.

Record God's answers and rehearse His blessings.

Deut. 8:1,2 You shall observe to do all the commandments which I command you today, that you may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which Yahweh swore to your fathers. ² You shall remember all the way which Yahweh your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, to prove you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments, or not.

1 Chron.16:11-12 Seek Yahweh and his strength.

Seek his face forever more.

¹² Remember his marvelous works that he has done,

his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth,

Remember Jesus' teaching.

Matthew 6:24-34 "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You can't serve both God and Mammon. ²⁵ Therefore I tell you, don't be anxious for your life: what you will eat, or what you will drink; nor yet for your body, what you will wear. Isn't life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ See the birds of the sky, that they don't sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns. Your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you of much more value than they?

Which of you, by being anxious, can add one moment^[b] to his lifespan? ²⁸ Why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They don't toil, neither do they spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you that even Solomon in all his glory was not dressed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today exists, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, won't he much more clothe you, you of little faith?

Therefore don't be anxious, saying, 'What will we eat?', 'What will we drink?' or, 'With what will we be clothed?' ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But seek first God's Kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things will be given to you as well.

³⁴ Therefore don't be anxious for tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Each day's own evil is sufficient.