

Praying God's Way and Word (Luke 11:1-13; John 14:12-14; 15:7-8; 1 John 5:14-15)

Jesus and his Apostles made bold claims about God's desire to answer our prayers. The key to praying with confidence and persevering in prayer is knowing that we are praying God's Way and Word as we are renewed by the Holy Spirit.

God's Way of prayer is most clearly expressed in Jesus' teaching us the "Lord's prayer" (Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:1-4). Here we learn God's priorities: intimacy with Him ("Father"); God's glory and fame ("hallowed be your Name"); God's gracious and powerful rule ("your Kingdom come"); our daily needs ("daily bread"); regular confession and forgiveness ("forgive us"); and wisdom and strength to resist Satan ("temptation").

Jesus also teaches us that effective prayer grows out of God's Word guiding our prayers (John 15:7-8; 1 John 5:14-15). God's Word reveals God's ways, His desires for people, and His general will. The Holy Spirit may also give us specific direction in our prayers, but His direction will never contradict God's Word (John 14:15-21; 16:12-15).

Praying for the lost and perishing (Luke 13:5; 15:1-12; John 3:16-21):

"That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you will be saved. ... Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Romans 10:9-13).

- Draw them to Jesus with holy desire (John 4:10-14; 6:35-44; 7:37-38).
- Reveal Jesus as the greatest treasure they can possess and give them the joy of repentance (Matthew 13:44-46; John 10:10).
- Tear down demonic strongholds that blind them to Jesus (2 Corinthians 4:4-6; 10:3-5; Ephesians 6:10-18).
- Convict them of their sin and need of a Savior and show them forgiveness in Jesus Christ (John 16:7-11; Acts 2:37-39; 10:3).
- Free them from the deceitful, destructive, enslaving power of their sin (John 8:31-36; Colossians 1:13-14).

Praying for those in Christ:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. ... Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:37-40)

- Desire to know, love and glorify God wholeheartedly (Jeremiah 9:23-24; Matthew 22:37-40; John 17).
- Holy Spirit's revelation to know God better, gospel hope and power (Ephesians 1:16-23; Colossians 1:9-12).
- Strengthen their union with Jesus and deeper experience of God's love (Ephesians 3:16-19).
- God's power to fulfill His purposes for them (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12)
- Encouragement, hope and strength (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12).

- Comfort and counsel of the Holy Spirit (14:15-27)
- Knowledge of God's will and the power to please Him (Colossians 1:9-12).
- Knowledge, wisdom and depth of insight to discern what is best, filled with the fruit of righteousness (Philippians 1:9-11; James 1:5-8).
- Needs met (Philippians 4:19).
- Deliverance from Satanic strongholds; healing (2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Ephesians 6:10-18; James 5:13-16).
- Grace to resist temptation (2 Timothy 2:22; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Peter 5:8-11; James 4:7-10).
- Grace to be financially generous for ministry (2 Corinthians 8:1-9).