

WHAT TO PRAY FOR

A SERIES ON HOW PRAYER WORKS

“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth 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.”

- Romans 8:26

1. There are right and wrong things to pray for

- a. People don't pray because: they don't think it works; or they don't know what to say
- b. Children love to make Santa Claus lists, until they learn the truth about him.
- c. Proper prayer requires mature understanding; wish lists do not. – Jer 17:9, Pro 18:2
- d. Some things are apparent: “Let his days be few” – Psalm 109:8, Psalm 37:4, James 4:3
- e. Prayer does work! It works on you, not your circumstances (dispensational truth)

2. Things We Know Not...

- a. Paul says we know not what we should pray for as we ought - Romans 8:26
- b. We can identify hundreds of physical things; but the spiritual things allude us
- c. Under the covenant Israel knew what to pray for – 2 Chron 7:14, Dan 9:2-4
- d. We have no earthly hope, or physical promises, we walk by faith – 2 Cor 5:7
- e. We know little of heaven, spiritual things, inner man, ... how long? – 1 Cor 2:14
- f. What do we pray for?

3. Pray for Things You Know

- a. We know the spiritual things from God's word – Rom 8:28, Eph 1:3
- b. We know our requests and cares by our thoughts – Phil 4:6
- c. We know how to pray in circumstances by God's grace – 2Cor 12:9, Rom 5:2-3, Phil 4:8
- d. Think on these spiritual god describing things - Phil 4:11
- e. We know others need in prayer through conversation – 1 Tim 2:8, Rom 1:11, 1Ths 5:25

4. Pray to Learn (*for Wisdom and Understanding*)

- a. God is ... - 1 Cor 1:9, 1:25, 1:30, 14:33, 2 Cor 1:3, Gal 6:7, Eph 4:24
- b. To reckon ourselves dead, renew the inner man – Rom 6:11, Gal 2:20, Col 3:9-12
- c. To know the love of Christ – Eph 3:19, 2 Tim 3:15-16
- d. About future glory - Rom 8:18, Phil 1:21, 2 Cor 4:17, Titus 2:13, 1 Cor 15:53
- e. About others edification – 1 Cor 13:5-6, Phil 2:3-5, Eph 4:3-4, 15

5. Pray for God's Will

- a. Praying for God's will means praying for personal growth, not career plans – Rom 12:2
- b. People would be saved, and come to know the truth - 1 Tim 2:1-4, Eph 5:17
- c. God's will is that you stand ... perfect... complete ... mature... Col 4:12, 1 Thess 4:3
- d. Pray for strength, endurance, faithfulness – Eph 3:14, Titus 1:9
- e. God's will is that you give thanks in all things – 1 Thess 5:16-18
- f. If you want to grow spiritually, then you must pray – 1 Thess 5:17