

Online Study Guide

PRAYING BACKWARDS

TRANSFORM YOUR

PRAYER LIFE

BY BEGINNING IN

JESUS' NAME

BRYAN CHAPPELL

Praying Backwards
by Bryan Chapell
Introduction: Praying for Change

Think before you read

1. Do you normally end your prayers “in Jesus name”? If so, why? If not, why not?

2. What are some personal questions and frustrations you have about prayer?

Think after you read

3. What sorts of things or situations usually prompt you to pray?

4. On p. 13, what are to be the motivations or ultimate objectives of our prayers?

5. From personal experience, why are you glad that God is not “obligated to do what we think should happen” (p. 14)? Give examples from your life.

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Chapter 1—Praying in Jesus’ Name: *In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*

Think before you read

1. How have you usually interpreted Jesus’ words, “my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name”? (John 16:23-24; see also John 14:13-14 and 15:16)

2. What sometimes hinders you from coming to God with your daily concerns?

Think after you read

3. What was encouraging to you on pp. 18-19 concerning your own questions and hesitations about prayer?

4. From pp. 21-22, what has to happen before we are eligible to pray “in Jesus’ name”?

5. What benefits do we receive from Christ’s intercession on our behalf (pp. 22-23)? How do they affect your attitude toward prayer?

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Chapter 2—Praying in Jesus’ Way: *Not My Will but Yours*

Think before you read

1. Do you know “The Lord’s Prayer” from memory? Can you say it to yourself right now, without the accompaniment of your congregation, while thinking about the meaning of its words? (How did you do?)

2. What do you consider the basic necessities of life?

Think after you read

3. Using a theological or regular dictionary, give the definitions of “holy” and “hallow.”

4. How might your day have been different yesterday had you approached everything with the prayer, “Hallowed be your name” (pp. 35-36)?

5. Since God is sovereign, why should we pray, “Your kingdom come” (pp. 36-37)?

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Chapter 3—Praying without Doubting: *Trusting Our Father, the King*

Think before you read

1. Read Mark 11:11-26 and Matthew 21:21-22. What questions about prayer do these verses prompt in your own mind?
2. What are basic answers that God gives to prayer? List as many as you can think of.

Think after you read

3. Read Luke 11:2-4, 9-10; and Matthew 6:31-33. What are the conditions under which we truly pray in Jesus' name (p. 52)?
4. What does it mean to include in our prayers, "Yet, Lord, not my will but your will be done" (pp. 52-54)?
5. From pp. 54-55, how can we offer "faithful prayer that heaven delights to answer"?

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Chapter 6—Praying Expectantly: *For All Things Always*

Think before you read

1. Why is it sometimes difficult for you to pray expectantly?

2. What benefits have you witnessed and experienced through corporate prayer?

Think after you read

3. What did George Mueller expect in answer to his prayers that we also may expect (pp. 105-108)?

4. Have you ever kept a prayer journal or record of answers to specific prayers? What did you learn from that practice? How do pp. 107-108 encourage you in that way?

5. How is specific prayer an act of worship (pp. 108-109)?

6. According to pp. 130-134, why does God require persistent prayer?

7. What would be the dangers in being able to “snap our fingers and get God to perform on cue” (p. 132)?

8. What are the three greatest concerns about which you are praying today? Carefully examine them. Are they truly for Christ’s glory? If not, how could you think and pray about them in that way (pp. 134-135)?

9. What are some of the benefits we receive when God delays his answers and we persist in praying (pp. 135-138)?

10. When you prayed using the prayer on pp. 138-139, what was different from how you usually pray?

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Chapter 8—Praying in God’s Will: *Within the Fence of Righteousness*

Think before you read

1. Read 1 John 5:14-15. What does it mean to you to pray “according to God’s will”?
2. When have you sought God’s will in a difficult decision? What helped you make that decision?

Think after you read

3. What things determine whether or not a prayer request is wrong and outside of God’s will (pp. 143-144)?
4. What difference does it make in our prayers when our assessments and feelings determine our priorities (pp. 144-145)?
5. What part does obedience play in praying for God’s will (pp. 145-146)?

