

### WHAT SHOULD I PRAY?

So many times we hear the same phrases and statements over and over again in prayers that these repetitions become stale and vain. Our heart expression to God should be new, fresh and challenging. Many times we don't know what to pray for ourselves and others. How are we to pray for them? What are we to pray into their lives? We have many verses on prayer in the Scriptures, but I think the most balanced explanation in answer to the above questions is found in I John 5:14-15, "And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, he hears us - and if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him".

This verse clearly gives the condition to a successful prayer life - that is what we pray must be according to God's will. The next question is "How do we know God's will?" We know God's will is based on God's Word. Whatever God has revealed in the Bible, we can be sure that if we pray it into our lives (or others'), God will do it. Everything we pray should be based upon the very word (will) of God! Notice how Daniel prayed in Dan.9:3-19, or Nehemiah 1:4-11, or Jesus in Jn. 17. They all prayed what God had already revealed as His will and trusted the timing to Him. Read Romans 8:26-28.

#### Pray:

- that they would hunger and thirst for righteousness (Mt.5:6)
- that they would respond righteously to problems (Mt.5:11-12; 39-45)
- that they would be a testimony to others (Mt.5:16)
- that they would have a clean conscience toward all (Mt.5:23-25)
- that they would love others, even enemies (Mt.5:44-48)
- that they would not worry, but seek God's righteousness (Mt.6:25-34)
- that they would have spiritual values (Mt.6:19-21)
- that they would have spiritual priorities (Mt.6:33)
- that they would deal with the sin in their lives (Mt.7:5)
- that they would "find the narrow way that leads to eternal life" (Mt.7:13-14)
- that they would do the will of God (Mt.7:21)
- that they would have a solid foundation by their obedience to Christ (Mt.7:24-27)
- that they would be stable, consistent, rooted and grounded in the Word (Col.2:7)
- that Jesus Christ would be glorified through their lives (Jn.17:10)
- that Jesus Christ would keep/preserve them from evil (Jn.17:11-15)
- that Jesus Christ would fulfill their joy (Jn.17:13)
- that Jesus Christ would sanctify them through the truth of the word of God (Jn.17:17)
- that they would live in unity with Jesus Christ and others (Jn.17:21)
- that they would witness for Jesus Christ (Acts 1:8; Mt.28:19-20)
- that they would be fully persuaded by the promises of God (Rom.4:21)
- that they would be led by the Spirit of God (Rom. 8:14)
- that they would understand their union in Jesus Christ (Rom. 6)
- that they would know all things work together for good (Rom. 8:28)
- that they would be conformed to the image of Christ (Rom. 8:29)
- that they would believe on the Lord Jesus Christ (Jn. 5:24)
- that they would call on the name of the Lord (Rom. 10:13)
- that they would confess their faith to others (Rom. 10:17)
- that they would present themselves to God (Rom. 12:1)
- that they would not be conformed to the world system (Rom. 12:2)
- that they would live peaceably with all men (Rom. 12:18)
- that they would overcome evil with good (Rom. 12:21)
- that they live honestly (Rom. 13:13)

- that they not make any provision for the lusts of the flesh (Rom. 13:14)
- that they not be a stumbling block to other Christians by their behaviour or activities (Rom. 14:13,21)
- that they be at peace with others and edify them (Rom. 14:19)

Rom. 15:5-6

15:13

15:30-32

I Cor. 6:12-20

I Cor. 13:4-7

15:33

15:58

16:13

16:14

II Cor. 4:7

4:16

6:14-16

6:17-18

7:1

8:7

9:6-8

10:4-5

12:9-10

13:5

Eph. 1:15-51

Eph. 3:13-21

Eph. 4:12-16

Eph. 5:22:6:9

Eph. 6:10-18

Phil. 1:9-11

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Phil. 3:10

3:13-14

4:4

4:6-9

Phil. 4:11

4:13

4:19

Col. 1:9-14

2:2

2:5

2:6

2:7

2:8

2:9

2:10

Col. 3:1-4:6

We must base all that we pray on the will of God, by praying the Word of God into our lives and the lives of others.