

Seven Attitudes in Prayer

The following attitudes should be developed as conditions upon which God will hear and answer our prayers. The more we pray with these attitudes, the more effective our prayers will be.

1 *Acceptance*

Let us pray in acceptance that God knows better than we do what our needs are (Matthew 6:8, Romans 8:26, 2Corinthians 12:7-10).

2 *Faith*

The blessing of prayer has been clearly revealed to us in the scriptures. Let us trust what they say, and pray without doubting (James 1:5-7).

3 *Persistence*

In Matthew 7:7-8 the Greek carries the idea of "keep on asking, keep on seeking, keep on knocking". Jesus said we should always pray and not give up (Luke 18:1-8, 1Thessalonians 5:17, Acts 16:23-25).

4 *Right Motives*

"You ask and do not receive because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures" (James 4:1-3). They were not wrong to ask, but their asking was wrongly motivated. Example of wrong motives, James and John (Mark 10:35-37). Example of right motives, young Solomon (1Kings 3:3-15).

5 *Harmony with God's Will*

If we pray anything according to God's will he hears us and grants that prayer (1John 5:14).

- When the Bible clearly reveals God's will, we have confidence in the answer. For example when we genuinely repent of sin and ask forgiveness, we know our sin is forgiven (1John 1:8-9, Acts 8:18-24, Isaiah 1:15-20, Psalms 51:1-17).
- When God's will in the matter is unrevealed, then we pray in the attitude, "If it be possible... nevertheless not my will but Your will be done" (Matthew 26:39).

6 *Desire to Obey*

Only "the prayer of a righteous man is powerful" (James 5:16). We receive from God what we ask only when we show ourselves willing and eager to keep God's commandments and do the things that please God (1John 3:22).

7 *Thanksgiving*

We are to make all our requests to God with thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6). God loves the grateful soul. He is not much interested in whingers (Daniel 2:23, Hebrews 13:15, Colossians 4:2, Ephesians 5:20).

We must see the need for a new heart, a different way of thinking, a right spirit and attitude—a *transformed* mind. We must see that the human heart is deceitful and desperately sick (Jeremiah 17:9). We should desire to replace our mind with the mind of Jesus Christ (Philippians 2:5).

Like King David, we should cry out to God to “create in me *a pure heart*”(Psalms 51:10). Our heart—that is, our mind—is the main source of our problem with sin. Actions begin as thoughts. Our thinking is a deeply ingrained part of who and what we are. We must cry out to God for His divine help in cleaning us from the inside out.

Consider David’s heartfelt plea of repentance: “Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me” (Psalms 51:1-3).

David continues: “Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop [an aromatic plant used in ritual purification], and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones you have broken may rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. *Create in me a clean heart*, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me” (Psalms 51:6-10).