

Series: Back to Basics

Title: Asking According To God's Will

1 John 5:14-15

Introduction

Prayer is having a conversation with God. We take time to listen and commune with God. God is personal and prayer is multi-faceted:

- including *praise & worship*
- *thanking* God for what he has done
- *supplication* (pouring your heart out to God)
- *requests* — (petition)
- intercession – prayer for the needs of others.

1. Prayer requests _____ to God, and He answers our requests.
2. Despite God's amazing offer through prayer, relatively few people spend any _____ time or energy praying.
3. We seldom recognize the connection between our requests and God's _____.
4. Answered prayer is the greatest _____ for making a prayer request to God.
5. There are questions about the _____ between divine sovereignty and human responsibility.
6. The key to answered prayer has something to do with praying according to God's _____.
7. John says we can be confident that God will _____ our requests when we ask according to his will.
8. To pray in Jesus' name is to ask as a _____ of Jesus.

9. God decided to accomplish His plan through human agents—people who voluntarily _____ with him.
10. The ground floor of all human agency is _____.
11. All significant spiritual _____ must be birthed and bathed in prayer!

I. Entrust yourself to God's loving authority

12. The most basic way we ask according to God's will is to have the proper heart _____.
13. It involves humbly putting yourself under God as your rightful leader, trusting that his will is right and good and _____ your heart to follow him.
14. Prayer is not a convenient device for imposing our will on God, or for bending his will to ours, but the prescribed way of _____ our will to his.
15. By prayer, we seek God's will, _____ it, and align ourselves with it.
16. Some use chants, charms, rituals, etc., trying to gain _____ over the gods/spirits to make them obey them.
17. God helps you see your _____ to entrust yourself to him.
18. The _____ prayer we pray with the right attitude is, "Jesus, forgive me for my rebellion and to come into my heart to lead me."
19. When we pray, we shouldn't _____ what we want; instead, we should discuss with God what He thinks is best for us.

II. Focus on God's priorities

20. The Bible informs us of specific things that are/aren't God's will and reveals what God says is _____.
21. The more your perspective is grounded in God's _____, the better you will pray according to its priorities, and see God answer your requests.
22. When we don't know God's priorities, we naturally pray for our _____ priorities.
23. Try praying for what you _____ are God's priorities—and see what happens!
24. Let specific passages of scripture become your prayer _____ and the road to answered prayer.

III. Ask God's Spirit to help you

25. This is the most subjective part of request praying and the most easily _____ but it is a key part.
26. God's Spirit can help us by _____ for us according to God's will.
27. Focus your prayer on what the Holy Spirit reveals to you and _____ to his guidance.
28. It also helps to pray with other _____.
29. It's easier to discern the Holy Spirit's _____ when we pray with one another rather than when we pray alone.
30. When we pray together, our prayers become more _____ and there is a growing sense of God's will.

Conclusion

31. Through the Bible and the guidance of the Holy Spirit we can know that our prayer is being _____ in the will of God.

32. Don't _____ to ask others to join you in prayer and seek God's will together.

God takes your offerings of prayer and praise seriously and wants your prayer life to be an amazing spiritual resource.

- Trust God's Loving Authority
- Focus on God's Priorities
- Ask the Holy Spirit to Help You

ANSWERS

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. matter | 12. attitude | 23. know |
| 2. consistent | 13. aligning | 24. guide |
| 3. answer | 14. subordinating | 25. abused |
| 4. motivation | 15. embrace | 26. interceding |
| 5. relationship | 16. power | 27. respond |
| 6. will | 17. need | 28. Christians |
| 7. grant | 18. first | 29. guidance |
| 8. representative | 19. demand | 30. specific |
| 9. cooperate | 20. important | 31. offered |
| 10. prayer | 21. Word | 32. neglect |
| 11. work | 22. own | |

QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION

1. Have you ever found yourself praying for the right things but for the wrong reasons? How did God answer those requests?
2. What specific scriptures should you be praying over for yourself right now? For your family? For others you know?
3. What other Christians should you be praying with right now? What can you do to make those times of group prayer more frequent and more aligning to the will of God.