

*Quite simply, prayer is an honest
conversation with God.*

*Prayer has the Power to change things In
your life for the better...*

*Through prayer, you can experience a
miraculous turnaround, an unexplained
intervention, an incredible event or an
unexpected outcome...*

*So...which of the following are you
currently asking God for?*

Lord, I need a healing...

Lord, please protect me...

Lord, please bless me...

Lord, direct my path...

Lord, please forgive me...

*If you're like me, then you're
asking God to heal, bless,
protect, guide and forgive you...*





*Despite His awesome power, unfortunately,
sometimes we doubt the Lord.*

Some situations that cause us to doubt Him.

Sudden tragedy or loss

When something happens that we just don't understand

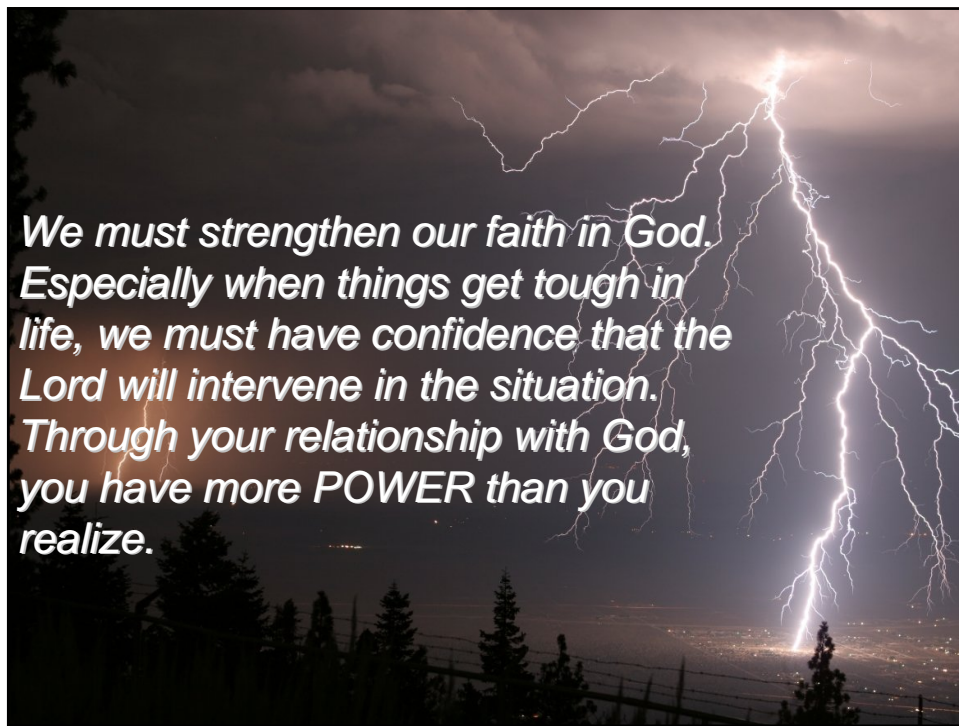
Prayers that aren't answered in the way we want

Prayers that aren't answered fast enough

Overwhelming life situations and problems

When bad things happen to good people

When good things happen to bad people



*We must strengthen our faith in God.
Especially when things get tough in
life, we must have confidence that the
Lord will intervene in the situation.
Through your relationship with God,
you have more POWER than you
realize.*

We all want our prayers to be effective.

*Let's examine some bible characters who
had their prayers answered by God.
By examining their successful prayers,
hopefully we can enhance the
effectiveness of our communication with
the Lord.*

A Dead Girl and a Sick Woman's Request for Healing

Mark 5: 21-42

What do you think we can we learn
from the success that these bible
characters had with the requests they
made of Christ?

The Dead Girl and Sick Woman

- The Sick Woman displayed confidence in the Lord. She knew she would be healed if she connected with Him. *We must be confident in Him.*
- It appeared that the young girl was dead, but with the help of Christ, she lived. *With the help of Christ, it's never as bad as it looks.*
- Christ told the woman that her faith had healed her. *Our requests are granted according to the faith we have. If we have strong faith, in His Word, He says that our requests will be granted.*

David prays for protection.

Psalms 69: 1-17

What can we learn from David's prayer?

David's Prayer for Protection

- The Bible refers to David as "a man after God's own heart" yet, despite being a man of God, he is dealing with personal distress. *Personal distress is a part of life.*
- David says that he is "worn out calling for help" and says that his "eyes fail" looking for his God. David didn't get his prayer answered the first time he called on God. *Like David, sometimes, we will have to wait for God to answer our prayers.*
- David admits his sin. He says to the Lord, "You know my folly, O God; my guilt is not hidden from you." *God knows everything. He knows the sin in our lives and we should acknowledge our sin if we expect Him to grant our requests.*
- David acknowledges that God is in control and is the only One who can deal with his situation. He says, "Rescue me from the mire, do not let me sink; deliver me from those who hate me, from the deep waters". *We should acknowledge that we need God to help us and that only He is able to perform the miracles we desire to happen in our lives.*

Nehemiah prays for success.

Nehemiah 1: 1-11
What can we learn from
Nehemiah's prayer?

Nehemiah's Prayer for Success

- Upon learning about the trouble in his homeland, Nehemiah immediately begins to pray. *Going to God in prayer should be the first thing we do and not a last resort.*
- Nehemiah confesses sin. *If we want our prayers to be heard, we should acknowledge sin. God granted Nehemiah's request even though Nehemiah wasn't perfect. You don't have to be perfect to be blessed by God.*
- Nehemiah asks God for success and favor. *Success comes from the Lord. We cannot have long-term, real success without Him and His intervention.*

*Nehemiah and His Men Successfully Rebuild the
Wall With The Help of the Lord*



So...what are you praying for?

Are the things you're praying for
within the Will of God?

I John 5: 14-15

Solomon's Prayer for Wisdom

I Kings 3: 5-14

What do you notice about
Solomon's prayer?

Solomon's Prayer for Wisdom

- Solomon has become the new king and he knows he needs guidance. He asks the Lord to give him wisdom and discernment. God was pleased that Solomon asked Him for wisdom and understanding, rather than wealth and honor. *We should be careful that we pray for things that please God. Rather than being selfish, Solomon prayed for things that would help him be a better leader for his people.*
- God tells Solomon to live right and be obedient and He promises to give Solomon more than he asked for. *The Lord wants us to be obedient and to try our best to live right. When we please Him, he desires to give us even more than what we have asked of him.*

*Jesus prays that we will
receive forgiveness.*

Luke 23: 33-38

What does Jesus teach us
through His prayer?

Jesus' Prayer of Forgiveness

- After being tortured, Jesus asks His Father to forgive His accusers. *We should pray for others. We should even pray for our enemies.*
- Despite the evil deeds of men, God still offers us forgiveness. *The example of the Cross should help us see that no matter how great our sins are that through the Power of Christ our Lord we can be forgiven.*
- Christ gives us an incredible example of the power of forgiveness. *Without His forgiveness we would be eternally lost. We, too, should strive to forgive others when they trespass against us.*