

God's help through prayer

**Accessing all we need for life and godliness.
2Pe 1:3 If we know how, we can pray for:**

- Forgiveness (cleansing) of spirit 1Jo 1:9**
- Wisdom to serve God, not Satan Jam 1:5**
- This Life 2Co 12:8 thorn, Heb 13:5 be content, Ph 4:11 with whatever you have, 1Tim 6:8 food, clothes is enough**

Prayer

Pray to God in Jesus' name. "In the name of Christ" is not an incantation, but as directed or authorized by Christ. What Christ has told us...

John 16:23 "In that day you will no longer ask Me anything. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you."

To God the father, Luk 11:2 'So He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven,..."'

To pray is to plead, beseech, ask, petition, implore

Not Asking Amiss

According to God's will 1Jo 5:14,15
God's will is not for “our pleasures”, or even our comfort; Heb 12 - rather our discipline to accomplish His will.

Jam 4:3 “You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.”

Religious pleasure seekers are ignored by God

2Ti 3:4-7 lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! 6For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, 7always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Prayer examples

Prayer and God's will in:

Choosing deacons Act 6:5,6

Choosing elders Act 14:22,23 in every church

For the evangelist Paul Eph 6:16-18;

For the Colossian's faith Col 1:3,4;

For the Thessalonican's faith 2 Thes 3:1,2;

**For the spiritual weak in the congregation Js
5:13-15 (context of James 5 is spiritual)**

For spiritual strength against error Jude 20

Prayer

**Sacrifice of praise – fruit of lips
Heb 13:15**

**Vigilant in their “prayer list” Col
4:2-6**

Persistent Luk 18:1

Focused Prayer

How we pray for ourselves, our brethren and others must be “according to His will”. God's will is for ALL to be saved. 1Tim 2:4

The aim of our prayers is “spiritual” above “physical”. Neither is neglected.

Godly prayers answered

1JO 3:18 Little children, let us love not in word and speech, but in action and truth. 19And by this we will know that we belong to the truth, and will assure our hearts in His presence: 20Even if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts, and He knows all things.

21Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God, 22and we will receive from Him whatever we ask, because we keep His commandments and do what is pleasing in His sight.

Watchful in prayer

Mat 26:40,41 Be watchful in prayer for one hour!

**Distractions of this life - riches, 1Ti 6:6, worldly 1Jo 2:15, Jam 4:4, Rom 8:6 which mindset?, Mat 6:24
Can't serve two masters, Pro 14:12 ways seem right, Jer 17:9 desperately wicked (by sin)**

**Two wills, God and man's, Jam 4:15 if the Lord wills
– He wills that all are saved 1Tim 2:4**

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Psa 51:10, 1Jo 1:9 forgive and cleanse from sin (good effect on heart).