

INSTRUCTIONS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

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Entry 4 - 2

Conditions For Answered Prayer

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Prayer is so easy that any person who is old enough to talk can pray. Some people however, have a special hook-up with God. When they pray, heaven moves and results follow. Three factors produce this powerful person of prayer. 1. They become God's intimate friend because they walk with Him in the secret place. 2. These people understand their personal partnership with God and live for that purpose. 3. They know that there are conditions for answered prayer and they seek the Lord to understand and meet these conditions. Here are 14 conditions for answered prayer that I have discovered.

I have divided these 14 conditions for answered prayer into 2 categories: Seven Conditions for Finding God's Presence and Seven Conditions for Powerful Prayer.

The first 7 conditions will help us come into the presence of God quickly. The second 7 conditions will help us get results when we pray if we tune into the 3 basic requirements that were mentioned earlier.

7 Conditions for Coming Into God's Presence

1. Offer Thanksgiving - Phil. 4:6

Paul taught us about prayer. He said, "In everything with prayer and <u>thanksgiving</u>, make your requests known unto God. Phil.4:6

A lengthy session of thanking God for anything and everything in our lives draws us quickly into His presence. A lack of thanksgiving toward God is the first step on a slippery slope that leads to self-centeredness, perversions and a reprobate mind. (See Romans 2)

2. Pray In Jesus' Name - Jn. 14:13-14

Our own name is not powerful enough, but God pays attention when we pray in the name of His Son. A police officer may not wield much authority when he is not on duty, but when he carries the badge, he comes in the name of the law; he has the authority of the government of the United States behind him. God hears the mention of Jesus' name; it carries authority.

3. Pray With Humility - Lk. 18:9-14

God resists proud people but warms toward and gives grace to, the humble. Jesus tells a story of 2 men who went to pray; one was a sinner who was humbled by his failures, the other was a self-righteous religious leader. Jesus said that the sinner was more righteous because he was humble. (See Luke 18:9-14)

4. Forgive All Who Have Hurt You - Mk. 11:25

Jesus taught, that when we stand praying we must forgive. God will not forgive those who hold grudges, no matter how justified a victim may be in wanting revenge. It is God's nature to forgive. He is repulsed by a hard heart but He is drawn to those who forgive. God avenges the abused.

5. When You Pray, Bless Your Enemies - Mt. 5:44

Forgiving enemies is only a first step. To have the favor of heaven, we should also love, bless and pray good things for our enemies. This 4-step recipe will always bring the presence of the Lord. Those who miss this, lock themselves and their enemies in prison.

6. Without Anger - 1Tm. 2:8

There are 2 expressions of anger. Volcanic-outburst anger and frozen anger. Many people have anger that has built up over many years due to failures, hurts, betrayals and disappointments. Paul said, "*I wish that men everywhere would lift up holy hands* <u>without anger</u>." *1Tm. 2:8*

Anger comes from a lack of forgiveness and a lack of faith. Frozen anger leaves people in a state of numbness; they are unable to engage in life. If we forgive and release our anxieties into God's hands, He will remove our frozen anger and we will be able to pray.

7. Pray In Secret - Mt. 6:5-6

Jesus taught us to pray in secret, for there, God will hear us and reward us publicly. God loves personal friendship prayer but dislikes prayer where an individual is showing off.

7 Conditions for Powerful Prayer

8. Don't Stop Praying - Lk. 18:1

Jesus taught us to pray like the widow who would not stop nagging the judge. He said, "Do not quit." Some say, that praying for something more than once is a lack of faith, but that is not what Jesus taught. Keep praying and do not quit, unless God tells you to.

9. Pray Thoughtfully - Mt. 6:7-8

Witchcraft-religions babble, wind themselves up with emotionalism

and exercise flagrant repetition. Jesus taught us to think strategically when they pray. We will likely be emotional when we sense God's presence but emotionalism will not bring God's presence or produce answers like the prayers that are filled with Spirit-led understanding.

10. Pray On Target - Js. 4:2-3

We can easily pray amiss by asking for selfish things outside of God's will. The Bible is clear, "When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures." Js. 4:3 Some people teach the opposite to what the Bible teaches; be careful.

11. Pray In Faith - Mk. 11:22-23

It is not enough just to ask for things according to God's will; Jesus taught that we must also ask in faith. We should ask as though we have already received the answer. Without faith, our prayers will not be successful and we will never please God.

12. <u>Pray for the Contrite</u> - Js. 5:16 James teaches, "*Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.*" *Js. 5:16* Often our prayers are for other people, however praying for an unrepentant, perverse person will not produce good results. God shows up when people pray for contrite friends. This is most effective when people are honest and sorry for their sin. When we are sick, we should confess our sins to an appropriate person who will shield us and supplicate for us. God releases great power to a contrite person and also to the one who ministers compassion.

13. Pray and Fast - Mt. 6:16-17

Fasting is denying our bodies of food so that God will answer our prayers. This is a desperate measure for desperate times. It communicates to God that we are willing to sacrifice our own comfort to receive help for ourselves or for others who are in need. Many Bible leaders, including Jesus, practiced fasting when they prayed. Fasting is meaningless however, unless we live a life of godliness. (See Isaiah 58) Fasting is very powerful if done right.

14. **Pray in Tongues - 1Cor. 14:15** Praying in tongues is praying with

Praying in tongues is praying with your spirit. After a believer receives the Holy Spirit, their own spirit comes alive. Then they discover another dimension; their spirit connects with God. If this happens to us, we learn to feel God's presence, hear His voice, and He becomes our inner teacher. "*He who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.*" 1Cor. 6:17

God gives us a prayer language. It bypasses our understanding, yet we feel God's power and know the general direction of our prayers. This is amazing for it takes us beyond our human limitations and brings us into unity and purpose with God as we are led by the Holy Spirit. A Ω

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