

How to Pray

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Suggested Aid to Use:

† Buckaroo Prayer Journal

1 John 3:22

And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

1 John 5:14

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

You can simply talk to Jesus. No fancy words needed. How do you pray to God ? Anytime, anywhere you can talk to God.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

The born again person has wonderful privileges. We can come boldly to talk to God.

Effective Prayer Takes Practice

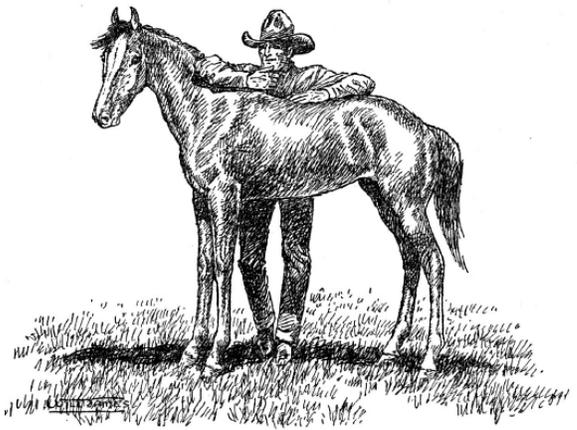
I have a friend whose son can't talk or write because he has "MD". He has times that he wants something or needs something, but can't tell his dad. How frustrating! Most Christians are like this boy: They can't seem to communicate very well with God and they are frustrated. They think that God, their Heavenly Father, doesn't really answer prayers anymore. Some may think that He is not listening !

The problem is that we must learn how to pray if we want God to give us definite answers to prayer. In Luke 11: 1-4 we first see the disciples asking Jesus to "teach" them to pray and then Jesus proceeds to teach them.

Read Luke 11: 1-4

These verses are what we call the "Model Prayer". It is more of an outline than a prayer that we should recite like a poem. Think of it as a pattern of how to pray.

- † ***Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name--*** We begin with an acknowledgement of His power and authority. God is the Creator. We must keep this in mind to keep us humble and remember not to take God lightly. He is "El Elyon", the most high God.
- † ***Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.*** – We should be looking forward to the Lord coming back and setting up His eternal Kingdom (sin can keep us from eagerly wanting His return). If we did, we would be more focused on doing what pleases God and telling others about His coming Kingdom. We are also asking that we understand what God has planned for Heaven and earth. We need to ask that God put in us the "heart and mind of God" like Samuel [1 Samuel 2:35].



- † **Give us day by day our daily bread**—It doesn't take rocket science to understand this part. We should ask for our needs and not be greedy.
- † **And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us.** —We should regularly ask for forgiveness of sins that we commit. With forgiveness in mind, we should forgive others that have done us wrong. Don't hold a grudge!
- † **And lead us not into temptation;** -- I really love fast cars and cool looking cars. With this in mind, should I spend a lot of time at car shows and drag strips? Should I get every magazine about fixing up cars? NO! I would spend too much time doing that and neglect the important stuff like taking care of my wife and our home or preparing for Children's Church. You know your own weakness and temptations so avoid these areas. If you purpose to do this, God will also control your exposure to these temptations.
- † **But deliver us from evil.**—Have you ever thought "I wish you were dead"? We all get mad at times, but we should not let anger turn into evil thoughts or actions. In the same way, we can expect God to protect us from the evil of others.

Some things to remember about Prayer :

1. Prayer is primarily asking things from God.
2. Come to God with absolute respect. He is all Power; we have NONE.
3. Expect God to take care of daily needs.
4. Confess sins frequently.
5. Learn what God's will for your life is.
6. Ask for specific things and expect God to supply them.
7. Do not ask for things that tempt us or cause others around us to sin.

Many Christians never learn to pray effectively and to get answers to prayer. That is not God's fault.

God says:

You have not because you ask not. We generally beat around the bush and never really ask for anything specific. Or sometimes we ask but don't really expect to receive.

Learn to pray "In God's will" and learn to have faith that He will answer. Remember, if we can believe that God will answer Romans 10:13, then we can believe that He will answer other prayers, too.

Take the time now to list a few prayers that you would like for God to answer. Then as God answers those prayers record the answered prayer in your prayer journals.