

October 24/25, 2009

God's Place, Pattern and Priorities for Working Prayer

**Have you quit praying? Do you feel prayer is pointless? Do you believe in prayer but simply don't know how to get prayer to work?**

**Now is a great time to learn how to pray prayers that work. The same Jesus who taught His disciples how to pray is willing to teach us how to pray effectively and powerfully for His best.**

*Luke 10:38-11:4; Matthew 6:6-13*

**1) Prayer that works begins with spending time at Jesus' feet listening intently to His Word.**

*Luke 10:39,41-42; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 97:11-12*

**2) Prayer that works includes unlearning prayer habits that don't work.**

*Matthew 6:5, 7-8*

**3) Prayer that works makes a place to pray purposefully and privately.**

*Matthew 6:6; Mark 1:33-36*

**4) Prayer that works believes in the goodness, wisdom and power of the One they are praying to.**

*Luke 11:5-13*

**5) Prayer that works uses the pattern Jesus gave His first disciples when they wanted to pray working prayers.**

**Praise:** *"Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name."*

**Priorities:** *"Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven."*

**Provision:** *"Give us this day our daily bread."*

**Peace:** *"And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."*

**Purity:** *"And do not lead us into temptation."*

**Protection:** *"...but deliver us from evil."*

**6) Prayer that works begins with honor, praise and thanksgiving. These three things connect us powerfully to Him and position us to pray in confident faith.** *"Our Father who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name."*

***Psalm 100***

**7) Prayer that works wants most what our Father wants most, His kingdom to come and His will to be done. He alone knows that is what is best for everyone. Praying His priorities keeps our priorities in order, making our life work and securing His best.**

*"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done. On earth as it is in heaven."*

**1 John 5:14-15** – *"This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him."*

**Prayer that works best is prayer that works on you to work with your Father to get what He knows is best for you and those you pray for.**

**Discussion Questions:**

**1.** Share a time prayer worked for you. How about a time prayers went unanswered or were delayed? Do you find it hard to pray consistently?

**2.** Take time to review what Jesus taught His disciples on prayer. What insight did you gain about prayer that works?

**3.** What, if anything, will you change about how you pray? Take time to pray and record every answer to prayer in your family or group.