

Prayer

I Must Know: Prayer Works

1. The key to prayer is to **know**, prayer works.

Hebrews 11:6

- Faith **pleases** God.
- 2. In order for prayer to work, you have to have **faith** and also know faith is not just believing, faith is **knowing**.

1 John 5:14-15

Notice in the two scriptures:

- There are two "**if's**"
- There also are two "**know's**"

Let's look at the first "if" in verse 14:

- **If** we ask anything according to His will

The second "if" in verse 15:

- And **if** we know that He hears us

3. Any time you see the word, "if" in the Bible, it's a **condition**.
4. We also must understand in the Bible there are promises stated that are absolutely **unconditional** no matter what you do, God will never **break** the promise.

2 Timothy 2:12-13

- Example regarding the covenant with Israel.
 - God says, I want you to **do** all My law.
 - I don't want you to ever **mess up**.

And Israel foolishly said, Okay we will do this and never make a **mistake**; we will enter into the covenant with you.

Now God comes in the New Covenant saying, you entered into this covenant saying, you will never make a mistake → but **you did**.

I'm going to come and fulfill **your** part of the covenant – born a man, live without sin, and be the perfect sacrifice for **you** and your **mess up**.

Again, here it is in 2 Timothy 2:12-13, even if you deny Him and totally messed up, He **cannot** deny Himself.

5. The Lord cannot break covenant with Himself; that is the New Covenant so you are **complete** in Him.
 - So there are promises that are **unconditional**.

He will never leave you nor forsake you → but there are promises that are **conditional**.

Go back to 1 John 5:14

1 John 5:14

¹⁴ Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

We get hung up with this – it causes us to think this way: If it be thy **will**?

Here is my first point how prayer works:

A. Know God's **will** when you pray.

Question: If you're going to have to pray according to His will, what do you have to know?

Answer: You must know His **will**.

6. It is easy to know God's will because He had men write it down, the **Bible**.

2 Peter 3:9

⁹The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing (means, not His **will**) that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

So, God's will is He wants **everybody** saved.

The word, will – means **desire**

- Question: How do you get God's will or desire from Heaven to earth?
- Answer: a disciple said, Lord, teach us to pray

Jesus said, this is how you pray:

Lord, let your **desires** come to pass on earth as it is in **Heaven**.

- It's up to us to **know** His will and **pray** His will.

Let me show you how prayer works

Here is the second point on prayer:

B. God **hears**

1 John 5:15

If we know, if you believe, if you have faith that God **hears** you.

Church family: are you noticing a formula?

- If you pray according to God's will/desires and know that He hears you, the prayer is **answered**.
- 7. If you know praying God's will works, He hears and it works, you know with faith you are not praying in the **air**.

Let me give you the third point:

C. Know that God **answers** prayer

1 John 5:15

¹⁵ And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

- We know God's will/desire is His **Word**
- We know He **hears** us and **answers** prayer
- So, we know we have the **petitions**

God **hears**, He **knows**, and He **answers** - when you pray according to His Will which is His **Word**.

My question is: **who** are you praying for?