

Prayer Warrior: Wielding The Power

Prayer is the key, in the hand of Faith, to unlock heaven's storehouse, where the boundless resources of omnipotence are stored.

Through prayer, we can actually share the divine nature of God (2 Peter 1:4) whereby omnipotent power is available for our success in becoming victorious over all sin. Jesus Christ, himself, used the weapon of prayer, and wielded this tool with immense power as he fed thousands, healed the sick, and even raised the dead. He promised to give us the keys to access this power (John 1:12). Therefore, we will begin to explore tips and techniques with which our prayers can become effective and efficient towards the denunciation of all sin within, and without.

Tip # 1: Pray in The Name of Jesus. (John 14:13-14). Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it."

God explicitly tells us that nothing can be done (Philippians 4:13) under no one's authority other than that of Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12).

Tip # 2: Don't Be Anxious; Praise Instead. (Philippians 4:6). Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

The Bible tells us that it's impossible to please God without faith (Hebrews 11:6), and because the word "faith" is synonymous to the word "believe". It means that; our belief in Christ Jesus must spark a "response" of gratitude. And because we are grateful, we should praise the Lord. Our praise "thanksgiving" should overshadow all pain, sorrow, fear, anxiety and doubt because we know that God's Word is true (Psalms 34:1) and His faithfulness will carry it out.

Tip # 3: Pray In Alignment to God's Will. (1 John 5:14-15). And this is the confidence that we have toward 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 that we have asked of him.

God's desire for our good is vastly beyond our own (Jeremiah 29:11), and if we trustingly abide within the confines of His Will we will find grace and mercy, healing and restoration, peace and safety, success and victory, provision, necessity and rest (Psalms 91:1).

Tip # 4: Don't Pray Selfishly. (James 4:3). You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

An important truth needs to be understood, which is; God's blessings are not solely for the receiver (1 Timothy 6:17-19). God gives us blessings so that we can share (Proverbs 3:27) in the dispensation of His goodness (James 1:17).

Tip # 5: Denounce All Cherished Sin. (Psalms 66:18-20). If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. But truly God has listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me!

God loves us (Jeremiah 31:3) and He wants us to love Him back so that we can access the fullest of His benefits (John 14:15). But, God must be first (Exodus 20:3), and if we place [any noun] before Him (2 Timothy 3:2-4) we will lose out on the benefits of His love (Luke 13:3).

Tip # 6: Pray in The Spirit. (Ephesians 6:18). Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.

The Bible says that, "holy men were moved by the Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21). Likewise, our prayers should always be moved by the Spirit, (Ephesians 6:19) thereby

granting us power through His intercession (Romans 8:26).

Tip # 7: Always Pray! (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Pray without ceasing.

Jesus prayed for, and during, all occasions. Weddings (John 2:11), funerals (John 11:41-44), in the garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:44), and whilst even on the Cross (Matthew 27:46). He prayed at dawn (Mark 1:35), and at night (Luke 6:12). If Jesus prayed this much, how much more should we? (Romans 12:12).

Tip # 8: Cultivate a Character of Prayer. (Psalms 55:17). Evening and morning and at noon I utter my complaint and moan, and he hears my voice.

Daniel prayed 3 times a day (Daniel 6:10) "as was his custom". As Christians, "Prayer" should be our [customary] breath of life (Colossians 4:2). For practice forms habit, and habit forms character (Romans 5:4), and character is the instinct of who we are. Thus, our prayers should become instinctive.

Tip # 9: Confession. (1 John 1:9). If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

We must take ownership of our wrong doings and initiate a willingness to right our wrongs (James 5:16), this is crucial to healing and restoration (Daniel 9:20-22). Not only the wrongs that we've committed to God, but we must be willing to make amends the wrongs that we've committed to others as well (Proverbs 28:13).

Tip # 10: Repent; and Forsake All Known Sin. (2 Chronicles 7:14). If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Forgiveness happens instantaneously, the moment you ask, Christ grants the

request (1 John 1:9). However, repentance is a course that we must constantly pursue until its completion (2 Corinthians 7:10). Repentance is a process of denying "forsaking" the indulgence of sin until the desire completely dissipates (Matthew 3:8).

Tip # 11: Contrition & Humility. (Luke 18:10-14). Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed within himself, God, I thank you, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing far away, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but beat upon his chest, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone that exalts himself shall be shamed; and he that humbles himself shall be exalted.

As our fellowship with the Lord increases our love for him deepens (1 John 4:16) causing an enhanced remorse "loathing" of sin (Romans 12:9). Understanding the truth of our guilt, we should humbly ask the Lord for mercy (Hebrews 4:16). Without this contrition our pride and vanity will cast us into an unrecoverable state of denial (Romans 1:22).

Tip # 12: Call Upon the Name of the Lord. (Jeremiah 33:2-3). Thus says the Lord who made the Earth, the Lord who formed it to establish it; the Lord is his name: Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.

Acknowledging the reality of our utter deficiency (Acts 22:16), especially in matters of salvation (Acts 2:21), should lead us to "call upon the name of the Lord". Help is available for all who ask (Romans 10:13). This is required of all the saints who are sanctified in Christ Jesus (1 Corinthians 1:2).

Tip # 13: Pray Without Doubting. (James 1:5-8). If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given

to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubt, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

God demands that we "trust and believe" in Him (Hebrews 11:6). To "doubt" is to say; I don't totally trust you, nor do I totally believe in you (Proverbs 3:5). This CAN NOT be the basis upon which our prayers are offered (Mark 11:23).

Tip # 14: Intercede For All People. (1 Timothy 2:1-3). Pray for All Men . Therefore I exhort first of all supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior.

As representatives of God's Eternal Kingdom (2 Corinthians 5:20), we share Christ's work of "intercession" (Hebrews 7:25). Knowing that those in authoritative positions hold sway over the lives of others (Hebrews 13:17), we should steadfastly hold them up in prayer (Romans 13:1). Our duty to "pray for the erring and wandering soul" is explicitly outlined in God's Word, and their blood will be required of our hands if we don't sound the alarm (Ezekiel 33:6,7), (1 Samuel 12:23), and (Jeremiah 27:18).

Tip # 15: Incorporate Fasting With Prayer. (Nehemiah 1:4-5). So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven. And I said: 'I pray, Lord God of heaven, O great and awesome God, You who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments.

Sometimes, the faith of our prayers are too weak to impact life's challenges, situations and circumstances (2 Corinthians 10:10) and a supplement is required (Hebrews 11:1). Jesus recommended "fasting" to supplement our prayers for such case scenarios (Matthew 17:21).

Tip # 16: Pray With Tears. (2 Kings 20). "Turn back, and say to Hezekiah the leader of my people, Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father: I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. Behold, I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the Lord,"

Another supplement used to accompany our prayers is "tears" (Psalms 126:5). No tears are shed without the Lord's notice (Psalms 56:8), He sees, He cares, and He will respond! (Revelation 7:17).

Lord Jesus, please bless the hearing and reading of these words. Amen!