

The Doctrine of Prayer: Part 2

This is Part 2 on the Doctrine of Prayer. For Part 1 see the January 1, 2006 *Connector*. The Bible clearly outlines some pre-requisites to effective prayer. Jesus gave us important guidelines for prayer in the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 6:5-15) including a model prayer, or Lord's Prayer. Jesus also added other important lessons on prayer. He told us to pray for those who spitefully use us (Mt 5:44; Lk 6:38). He told us to pray for God to call out those who will carry the gospel to the lost (Mt 9:38). He told us to pray in order to avoid sinful behavior (Lk 21:34-36; Mt 26:41). He told us to be persistent in prayer (Lk 18:1). He told us to avoid pride and a judgmental spirit against others when we pray (Lk 18:9-14)

For sixty-eight years George Muller operated an orphanage, a Bible Institute, distributed Bibles, tracts, books in twelve foreign languages and supported a world-wide missionary enterprise all based on the simple teaching of Matthew 7:7-8 "Ask and it will be given you . . ." Muller never asked another person to give financial or other support to sustain the ministries that God led him to begin. He promised if God would take care of him, he would rely totally on prayer to supply every personal and ministry need. God responded in a miraculous manner by sustaining Muller's ministries for nearly seventy years. In a sermon on prayer in 1880 he presented the key verses that governed his prayer life. All of the ministries he began 173 years ago are still operating in England today.

1. **Prayer must be according to the will of God** – 1 John 5:14
 - The Holy Spirit leads us to know God's will – Rom. 8:27
2. **Prayer must be in Jesus name** – John 14:13-14
 - Prayer is a relationship not a magic formula – 1 Cor 1:2
3. **Prayer must be a believing prayer of faith** – Mark 11:24
 - Believing prayer is power – Matt. 21:21-22
4. **Prayer must persevere until God answers** – Luke 11:5-13
 - God honors prayer that persists – Luke 18:1-8

God promises to honor and answer the "effectual fervent prayer" of the righteous. May God help us to talk to Him and rely upon Him by enlarging our prayer life (Jms 5:15-18).

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