



REAL

SPIRITUALITY

The Habits of Grace

Hear His Voice

Have His Ear

Belong to His Body

John 14-17

Hearing His Voice

John 14:15-16, 27-26

If you love me, **keep my commands**. And I will ask the Father and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever - **the Spirit of truth**. All this **I have spoken** while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and **will remind you of everything I have said** to you.

Having His Ear

John 14:13-14 - And I will do whatever **you ask in my name**, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **You may ask me for anything in my name**, and I will do it.

John 15:7-8 - If you remain in me and **my words remain in you**, ask **whatever you wish**, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

John 15:16 - You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – **and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.**

Belonging to His Body

John 17:20-21

My **prayer is not for them alone**. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their **message, that all of them may be one**, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. **May they also be in us** so that the world may believe that you sent me.

The habits of grace, these spiritual disciplines, are crucial to us being the kind of people that we need to be in order to achieve the mission we have received from God.

Having His Ear

John 14:11-14

John 15:7-10

John 16:16-24

Prayer is for God's glory and our joy.

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- **Effective prayer starts with God's word.**
- God is exalted when his people seek his aid.
- The great purpose of prayer is joy.

Effective prayer starts with God's word.

When we pray to God, we must see his listening to us in relation to our listening to him in his word.

- David Mathis

John 15:7-10

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you **keep my commands**, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.

Hearing God's word, praying in response to God's word, and keeping God's word is evidence of your unity in Christ.

Effective prayer starts with God's word.

The word God speaks to us in Scripture and that we receive by faith is what keeps us in fellowship with him.





P R A Y I N G

T H E

B I B L E

D O N A L D S . W H I T N E Y

Effective prayer starts with his word.

In praying, we start with the word because Scripture provides us with innumerable model prayers that teach us how to pray.

Effective prayer starts with his word.

Matthew 6:9-13

Our Father in heaven, **hallowed be your name**,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as
it is in heaven. **Give us today our daily bread.**
And forgive us our debts, as we also have
forgiven our debtors. **And lead us not into**
temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Effective prayer starts with His word.

Colossians 1:9-12

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to **fill you with the knowledge of his will** through wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way; **bearing fruit** in every good work, **growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power** according to his glorious might so that you may have **great endurance and patience**, and **giving thanks** to the Father who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

Effective prayer starts with His word.

Psalms 51:1, 2, 10, 12, 16-17

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion **blot out my transgressions**. **Create in me a pure heart**, O God, and **renew a steadfast spirit within me**. **Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me**. You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God will not despise.

Effective prayer starts with His word.

Psalms 145:1-4, 21

I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. Everyday I will praise you and extol your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.

Effective prayer starts with God's word.

When you are extolling God's greatness,
prayer is a reflex action.

Effective prayer starts with his word.

The model prayers teach us more than just a prayer formula (ACTS - Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication), they remind us the greatness of our God and the limitlessness of his resources.

Prayer is for God's glory and our joy.

- Effective prayer starts with God's word.
- **God is exalted when his people seek his aid.**

God is exalted when his people seek his aid.

John 14:12-13

Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these because I am going to the Father. **And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.**

God is exalted when his people seek his aid.

John 15:7-8

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, **ask whatever you wish**, and it will be done for you. This is to my **Father's glory**, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

God is exalted when his people seek his aid.

- God is exalted by our recognition that he is greater than us
 - Prayer humbles us as needy and exalts God as wealthy

God is exalted when his people seek his aid.

God is glorified by the fruit that we bear which bears witness that his mission is being accomplished.

God is exalted when his people seek his aid.

John 14:12-14

*I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. **He will do even greater things than these**, because I am going to the Father. **And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.** You may ask me for anything in my name and I will do it.*

PRAY

*"Prayer should not be
merely an act,
but an attitude of life."*

- Billy Graham

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
MAY 2, 2013**



Prayer is for God's glory and our joy.

- Effective prayer starts with God's word.
- God is exalted when his people seek his aid.
- **The great purpose of prayer is joy.**

The great purpose of prayer is joy.

John 16:22-24

So it is with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and **you will rejoice, and no one will be able to take away your joy.** In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you what ever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. **Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.**

The great purpose of prayer is our joy.

It is not wrong to want God's gifts and ask for them. Most prayers in the Bible are for the gifts of God. But ultimately every gift should be desired because it shows us and brings us more of him...When this world totally fails, **the ground for joy remains. God.** Therefore, surely every prayer for life and health and home and family and job and minstry in this world is secondary. And the great purpose of prayer is to ask that – in and through all his gifts – **God would be our joy.**

- John Piper

The great purpose of prayer is our joy.

Prayer in the sense of petition, asking for things, is a small part of it; confession and penitence are its threshold, adoration its sanctuary, the presence and vision and enjoyment of God its bread and wine.

- C.S. Lewis

The great purpose of prayer is our joy.

Answered prayer assures us that though God is omnipotent and omniscient and holy, he knows and loves us.

But what about my unanswered prayers?

John 14:13-14

And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

The great purpose of prayer is our joy.

God answers all our prayers – prayers consistent with his character and purpose. In prayer, we call on him to work out his purpose, not gratify our whims. When pray in this manner, **God gets the glory and we get the delight.**

Prayer is for God's glory and our joy.

Psalms 50:14-15

Sacrifice thank offerings to God, fulfill your
vows to the Most High,

And call on me in the day of trouble:

I will deliver you, and you will honor me.



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