



Bible Promises are Meant for You!

Learning to Pray

Prayer is a big Part of a Christian's Life. There is a lot to it, but it is not hard to learn. When we have chosen and decided to belong to Jesus, God considers each of us as His little children. He even invites us to call Him, "Our Father, which art in Heaven".

Now some people have not had parents who really loved them, they may even have treated them cruelly, but God is not like that. We can think of Him and the most loving parent we can imagine! When parents love their little ones, they look forward to the time when they learn to talk! At first babies only manage a word or so, but how happy it makes their parents!

Loving parents also want to give good things to their children, but sometimes what the little child wants, is not good for them or even harmful. In that case they have to say "No" and offer the child something better.

Notice what Jesus told us about this and the promise He gave us. "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him?" Matthew 7:7-11.

Now there is something special we need to know and Jesus tells us about it here: "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it." John 14:13, 14.

If it wasn't for the great sacrifice that Jesus made for us, We would not be able to pray to God or receive any help, or indeed, receive anything good from God. So this is why we say at the end of our prayers, "In Jesus' name, Amen."

Did not the Father love us too? Yes indeed He did, but He had a problem, sin had come between Him and humans; sin means the breaking of God's Holy Law. The government of all the universe was based on that law. God could not cancel that law to save sinful humans. That

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law was eternal, and unless some way could be found to pay the debt of the broken law, there was no hope.

Now Jesus was equal and eternal with the Father, and He was the One who actually was our Creator. We know Him as the Son of God because of what they worked out so that humans could have another chance to decide to obey God and once again become part of God's family. It was decided that Jesus would come to earth as a human and live a perfect life. He would overcome all the temptations we face, and not sin. Then He would give His life as a payment for our sins. His death made it possible for God to forgive our sins, and His perfect life makes it possible for us to receive strength from Jesus so we can choose to stop sinning, something we could not do ourselves alone. So when we pray in Jesus' name, that opens the windows of heaven for us and we can receive answers to our prayers! It is only because of that great gift of God that we can be saved or helped.

Wrong ideas about prayer:

There are religions that believe we will receive answers to our prayers if we say them over and over again. Some think that we receive answers by punishing ourselves, beating our bodies, kneeling on sharp things, or travelling long distances to certain 'holy places'. Some think if they make some kind of offering to God, He will be bribed to do what we want. The Bible does not say this at all. Would a loving parent want his children to do things like that before he would listen to them or help them?

Notice what Jesus said, "But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him." Matthew 6:7. Then Jesus went on to give us the simple prayer we know as the Lord's prayer for an example.

"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, [sins or wrong-doings]as we forgive our debtors [those who have done wrong things to us]. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen." Matthew 6:9-13.

We have this example in slightly different words in Luke: "And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil." Luke 11:2-4.

We don't always need to just say these same words, but they show us how we can simply ask for what we need as we would ask a loving parent or a close friend. We ask in the name of Jesus and the Father treats us as He would treat His Son.

Some people have been taught that God only hears prayers from certain special people and so we have to get these special people to pray for us. Sometimes these people who claim to be special are known as 'priests' or 'prophets'. But the Bible tells us that when Jesus went back to heaven, He became our special High Priest before God for us! "Seeing then that we have a great

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high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. [this tells us that Jesus understands how we feel.] Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:14-16.

Notice that Jesus invites us to come to Him at a 'throne of grace' where He ministers His great sacrifice for us in heaven. What does 'grace' mean? It means we are given something we don't deserve, something we can't earn or buy in any way. It is given to us in love and mercy because we need it. Because Jesus has paid the price and because of God's promises, we can come with confidence to God in the Name of Jesus and tell Him our needs and God hears us and He will help us!

We can pray to the Father in Jesus' name or we can pray directly to Jesus, but we are not to pray to people or angels, or spirits, and certainly we are not to pray to images, trees, rocks, places, or other people. Can you imagine a hungry child asking his bowl or dish to give him food? Of course not, he would ask his parent for food. And so we ask our loving Heavenly Father in the name of Jesus to help us, guide us and provide our needs.

Conditions to Receiving Answers to Our Prayers:

There are some kinds of prayers that we will always receive an answer to. Prayer and faith are closely related, and they need to be studied together. In the prayer of faith there is a divine science. Jesus says, "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11:24. He makes it plain that our asking must be according to God's will; we must ask for the things that He has promised, and whatever we receive must be used in doing His will. The conditions met, the promise is certain.

For the pardon of sin, for the Holy Spirit, for a Christlike temper, for wisdom and strength to do His work, for any gift He has promised, we may ask; then we are to believe that we receive, and return thanks to God that we have received.

We need look for no outward evidence of the blessing. The gift is in the promise, and we may go about our work assured that what God has promised He is able to perform, and that the gift, which we already possess, will be realized when we need it most.

To live thus by the word of God means the surrender to Him of the whole life. There will be felt a continual sense of need and dependence, a drawing out of the heart after God. Prayer is a necessity; for it is the life of the soul. Family prayer, public prayer, have their place; but it is secret communion with God that sustains the soul life.

What is Faith?

Faith is not making ourselves believe something is going to happen, Faith is just believing that God tells the truth to us and means what He says in His Word.

Faith is trusting God; believing that He loves us and knows best what is for our good. Thus, instead of our own way, it leads us to choose His way. In place of our ignorance, it accepts His wisdom; in place of our weakness, His strength; in place of our sinfulness, His righteousness.

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Our lives, ourselves, are already His; faith acknowledges His ownership and accepts its blessing. Truth, uprightness, purity, have been pointed out as secrets of life's success. It is faith that puts us in possession of these principles. Every good impulse or aspiration is the gift of God; faith receives from God the life that alone can produce true growth and efficiency.

How do we exercise faith? To every promise of God there are conditions. If we are willing to do His will, all His strength is ours. Whatever gift He promises, is in the promise itself. "The seed is the word of God." Luke 8:11. As surely as the tree or plant is in the seed, so surely is the gift of God in His promise. If we receive the promise, we have the gift.

Faith that enables us to receive God's gifts is itself a gift, of which some measure is imparted to every human being. It grows as exercised in taking hold of the word of God. In order to strengthen faith, we must often bring it in contact with God's word.

In the study of the Bible we can be led to see the power of God's word. In the creation of this earth, "He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast." Psalm 33:9, He "calleth those things which be not as though they were." Romans 4:17. for when He calls them, they are.

Claiming God's Promises: The ABC's:

A—Ask: Matthew 7:7. "For any gift He has promised, we may ask."

B—Believe: Mark 11:22-24. "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." We are to believe that we receive."

C—Claim: John 11:41. Then we are to "return thanks to God that we have received."

Why do we return thanks that we have received? Because:

- 1. The word of God is seed. Luke 8:11. "The Seed is the Word of God."**
- 2. The seed contains not merely the component elements of the tree or plant, but the tree itself.**

Rutherford Platt, a prize-winner in science, states in his book "This Green World," that a trunk, two leaves and roots are already contained in the embryo of the seed, and that with a powerful magnifying glass they could be seen.

**3. Therefore, "If we receive the promise, we have the gift." "The gift is in the promise."
"One sentence of Scripture is of more value than ten thousand of man's ideas or arguments."**

So with your Bible, or a promise from the Bible, in your hands say, "I have done as Thou hast said. I Present Thy promise." Remember, the condition to victory is to Ask, Believe, and Claim by receiving. You can even take the Bible or the book of promises right in your hands as you pray.

You and I though utterly unworthy, may place our fingers right on the promise of a living, true, almighty, wise, loving, and willing God. Then we are to tell Him, there on our knees, that We Believe, and Have Received the gift promised. We can tell Him we know we shall realize the fulfillment when we need it most. But now we accept it by simple, living faith.

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Arising from our knees we may continue, in our hearts, asking, believing and claiming happily what God has promised. If we are but willing to conform to the conditions:

"That thy trust may be in the Lord, I have made known to thee this day, even to thee." Proverbs 22:19.

"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" Luke 11:13.

1. Think of God looking for someone to aid.

"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect [or, sincerely fixed] toward him." 2 Chronicles 16:9.

2. Let us look to Calvary and capture the true picture of God.

"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" Romans 8:32.

3. Think of God as often giving us something better than we ask.

"I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known; ... and not forsake them." Isaiah 42:16.

So for us to picture God as saying, "No, period!" is misrepresenting Him. God never says to His believing child, "No, period." He may sometimes say, "No, comma," meaning, "You are not asking for as much as I want to give you!"

"Now unto him that is able to do **exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think**, according to the power that worketh in us," Ephesians 3:20.

Here we see a picture of God as being eager to do so much more for us than we ask, that our asking appears pitifully short of what He wants to give us.

4. Think of God as truthful.

"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" Numbers 23:19.

Hebrews 6:18 declares that it is impossible for God to lie.

5. Think of God as powerful enough to bring solutions.

"By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. . . For he spake, and it was." Psalm 33:6, 9.

"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God." Hebrews 11:3.

(1) Romans 4:17, "God, . . . calleth those things which be not as though they were." (2) Psalm 33:9, "He spake, and it was."

Putting these two passages of Scripture together, it says, in effect, that anything that does not

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exist, does exist the moment God's creative word names it. This is our creator God.

6. God requires of us childlike faith.

"Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3.

Jesus taught us to offer a prayer that asks, believes, and then actually receives, or claims, the solution without doubting, because what God says, is so, even though our own minds cannot comprehend it all.

7. Claiming God's creative promises.

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." 2 Peter 1:4.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." Psalm 51:10.

"Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you." John 15:3.

Some Promises:

Be careful [worried] for nothing: but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6, 7

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Philippians 4:6-8

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me. Psalm 138: 7

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. John 14:1

Peace, I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. John 14:27

Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord. Psalms 31:24

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. 1 Peter 5:7

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. John 14:1

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Colossians 3:15

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Isaiah 26:3

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I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety. Psalm 4:8

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet. Proverbs 3:24

Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them. Psalm 119:165

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Psalm 91:1, 2

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. John 14:27

For the Lord will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the Lord to make you his people. 1 Samuel 12:22

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. Isaiah 41:10

He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds. Psalm 147:3

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:35-39

When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up. Psalm 27:10

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. Psalm 34:17

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing. Psalm 34:10

For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring: Isaiah 44:3

Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Psalm 37:3

For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness. Psalm 107:9

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He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgression from us. Psalm 103:10, 12

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are 'become new. II Corinthians 5:17

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. John 3:17, 18

For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. Hebrews 8:12

I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins. Isaiah 43:25

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. Isaiah 55:7

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

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. II Timothy 1: 7

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. James 1:5

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Proverbs 3:5, 6

I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye. Psalm 32:8

And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left. Isaiah 30:21

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Psalm 119:11

He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy. Proverbs 28:13

A Promise of Water: "When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together: That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the LORD hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it." Isaiah 41:17-20.