

Prayer Lesson 4 January 29, 2012

The *Power* in Praying: How Do I Pray More Effectively?

Big Idea: Maximize the conditions for answered prayer.

Focal Scripture: James 5:16 (NASB95) — 16 “. . . The *effective* prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.”

Objective: To increase prayer effectiveness by *praying shamelessly* and *persistently* with *fervency*, *sincerely depending* upon and *believing* He will answer as we continually *entrust* the situation to Him, while *obeying* Him and *doing* my part.

Top 10 Ways To Pray More Effectively:

1. **Ask.** We must call on Him for benefits (1 Thess. 5:17; Phil. 4:6; Psa. 50:15; Matt. 7:7-11; Rom. 10:13; Phil. 4:6-7; Jam. 1:5; Jam. 4:2; Jn. 15:7).
2. **Do.** We must do our part (Jam. 5:14; Neh. 4:9; Rom. 1:20; 10:13-14).
3. **Depend.** We must realize our utter helplessness and hopelessness apart from God (Acts 27:20; Jn. 15:5; 3:27; 2 Cor. 1:9).
4. **Persist.** Persistence in prayer is one of the most repeated conditions for answered prayers (Gen. 32:26-28; Exod. 17:11; Isa. 62:6-7; Matt. 26:40-41; Lu. 11:5-9; 1 Thess. 5:17).
5. **Be humble.** Pray from an attitude of meekness and humility (Matt. 5:5; Jam. 4:6; Rom. 3:23).
6. **Pray shamelessly** (Heb. 4:16; 1 Jn. 5:14-15).
7. **Pray fervently.** Pray from an attitude of fervency, not half-heartedly or being absent minded (Lu. 22:44; Acts 12:5; Matt. 26:36-46).
8. **Believe.** Pray with faith in God (1 Chron. 5:20; Matt. 21:21; Jam. 1:6).
9. **Obey.** Pray with obedience (1 Jn. 3:21-22; Jn. 15:7; Psa. 36:9; 66:18).
10. **Pray sincerely** (Matt. 6:1-7; Psa. 145:18-19; Matt. 22:36-40).

In summary, pray “in Jesus’ name.” Praying in Jesus’ name is not just a proper complimentary close to a prayer “like sincerely yours” that we add to the end of a letter. Prayers in the name of Jesus are prayers that reflect an understanding of the Father (in our mind), a desire for His glory (in our emotions) and submission to His will (a choice of

our will). They are prayers appealing to God based on Jesus Christ's atoning work and for His glory. They ask only for things within the will of God, nothing more, nothing less and nothing else. The purpose of prayer as well as the purpose of everything else in life is to glorify God (Isa. 43:7; Rom. 11:36; 1 Cor. 10:31). Prayers not reflecting this ultimate desire are not prayers offered in Jesus' name.