

WHAT MAKES AN ACCEPTABLE PRAYER?

By Keith Greer

Prayer is one of our greatest spiritual blessings we have in Christ. Sadly, it is abused and many times not even used. Why? People don't know how to pray. Let us give some insight into what makes an acceptable prayer.

Ask. "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." (Matthew 7:7) No one can receive anything from the Lord if they don't ask Him!

Must be faithful. "For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." {1 Peter 3:12} One cannot approach the Lord in prayer if his life is full of sin. God will not hear one, with the desire to help and answer, if one is not walking with Him, Isaiah 59:1.2.

Ask according to His will. "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him." {1 John 5:14,15} When one will ask things that are not in God's will, He will not answer such requests. This makes our knowledge of God's will very important for us to know!

Ask in faith. "But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, 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." (James 1:6,7) What good does it do for one to pray if they do not believe God will answer that prayer? Remember, those who were praying for Peter's safety? What happened when he appeared at the door? They didn't believe it was him! (Acts 12:5-17) It is no more than words going up into the ceiling if we do not have the faith in our hearts that God can give us our requests. This is why many don't pray they don't have the faith or confidence that God will answer their prayers!

Dear reader, do you pray? If you're not happy about your prayer life-pray about it! ***