

POWER OF PRAYER by Pastor Lucinda Davidoff September 11, 2022

Philippians 4:6-7 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by **prayer** and **supplication** with **thanksgiving** let your **requests be made known to God**. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Prayer is communication with God- it’s coming to God – not as a stranger but as a Heavenly Father. Someone who knows you, someone who you speak to often.

Supplication: is a humble entreaty or even humble begging God for something- asking something specific from God and in Philippians 4:6 we know that that request is something that’s causing anxiety... the writer of Philippians is giving us a remedy for anxiety. So supplication prayer is one of earnest petition.

With Thanksgiving

Thanking God is faith in action. It says, “I believe before I see.” That’s the God kind of faith. This clears the channel between you and God, so you can receive from Him!

Made known to God:

When we have concerns we need to discuss those anxieties with God and not with the neighbor? Or with carnal friends because they are going to give you their 5cents worth and it’s not going to be faith producing.

Leaders complain up, they never complain to peers lest they disturb the peace or bring division in the ranks.

How we pray and how we receive matters.

Some Christians believe that prayers should **be easy to say** and **easy to receive** an answer to **without them having any responsibility in the process.**

The truth is—Jesus provided everything we needed, but He didn't do everything for us. That's where free will comes in. He provided reconciliation, redemption, and victory over sin and all the works of the devil, but **how we pray** and **how we receive matters.** It takes work to search out the scriptures for revelation and take time with the Holy Spirit to get specific guidance.

So there are effective prayer and ineffective prayers:

James 5:16 'The effective fervent prayer of the righteous availeth much'

Effective means to be operative, be at work, and put forth

power. Effective prayers are faith filled prayers there is no

doubt in them.

James 1:5-8 If any of you lacks wisdom, **let him ask of God**, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 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; *he is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Effective prayers are prayers aligned to God's will and His promises, so it takes some time to pray and ask God specifically what promises relate to your situation. When we pray and read and listen, faith is being produced in us and we become transformed.

So in the waiting we don't just wait for our prayer to be answered. We do the work of searching out scriptures, engaging God and therefore as we are doing this we are BECOMING and BEING TRANSFORMED in the process. We are becoming FAITH FILLED about the specific promise we are BECOMING true believers in the promises of God.

Fervent means passionate intensity.

The key to having your prayers answered is to: **pray according to the will of God.**
And **to receive the way God teaches us to receive.**

How we receive matters.

Have you ever seen a child take something from another child? Talking is ugly. How you receive things matters.

It is interesting to watch those that feel entitled and don't say thank you from the heart for things you give them.

People that feel disenfranchised (they always feel they have been deprived of a right or a privilege) so whatever they are given they feel they deserve anyway.

They don't seem to grow and step into their next phase in life. Their lack of gratitude keeps them stuck in a cycle of discontentment.

When you understand the PRICE Jesus paid was exceptionally HIGH, even though His blessings are for free, you are very grateful and you receive them so humbly and gladly.

So we thank the Lord not because we are entitled as children of God but absolutely gratefully that He paid for everything so we can receive them freely.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 “In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you”

Hebrews 12:28 Therefore, **since we are receiving an unshakable kingdom**, let us be filled with gratitude, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.

Romans 1 tells us that the essence of evil men are that they stopped being ungrateful and acknowledging God as God.

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, **19** because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. **20** For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, **21** because, although they knew God, **they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful**, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. **22** Professing to be wise, they became fools, **23** and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, **25** who exchanged the truth of God for

the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. **27** Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

Lets then look at the process of making our requests known to God.

1. Go to the written Word of God.

Find scriptures that apply to your situation and make those the foundation for your petition. Be specific. Take your time. Study and meditate on those promises pertaining to your needs.

2. Consult with the Holy Spirit.

Get in communication with the Holy Spirit and let Him help you develop your petition in detail. Listen for correction or instruction and follow His leading as you seek His blessings. An important part of doing this is praying in the spirit.

Romans 8:26-27 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes

intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

3. Write your petition.

Philippians 4:6-7 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by **prayer** and **supplication** with **thanksgiving** let your **requests be made known to God**. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Writing your petition to the Lord as a formal request, using His Word, is a powerful tool **Habakkuk 2:2** Write the vision, make it plain so that those that read it may run with it.

The following is an example of a petition for healing:

Be it known this day, _____, at _____ (a.m./p.m.), that I receive healing from _____ in my body. No sickness or disease of any kind has a place in my body. So, Father, in the Name of Jesus, I come boldly to the throne of grace and present Your Word.

According to **John 16:23**, Jesus said You will grant whatever I ask in His Name. In **Mark 11:24**, You said whatever I ask in prayer, believing I will receive it, will be given to me.

I declare, according to **Isaiah 53:5; Psalm 103:2-5; Psalm 91:9-10, 14-16; and 1**

Peter 2:24; that Jesus took all my sickness and disease today, tomorrow and forever. I am healed by the blood of the Lamb, and I am protected from all plagues and sickness. I am redeemed from the curse of the law, which includes sickness and disease of any kind (**Galatians 3:13**).

I bind Satan and all his forces according to Matthew **18:18**, and declare they will not hinder me from receiving this promise. I loose my ministering spirits (**Hebrews 1:13-14**) and charge them to go forth and cause _____ to come into my hands.

I believe in my heart and declare with my mouth that I AM HEALED. I thank You and praise You for healing me of _____, and I thank You for making me whole.

I believe I receive today. I will not waver or doubt at Your promise but will stand firm. I praise You and thank You that I am not waiting for this to manifest—I **take it right now** and hold it in my spiritual hands.

Signature _____ Date _____

4. Pray the prayer of petition.

With God's promises in front of you, pray for the answer through the prayer of petition. Petition Him with these promises from His Word. When you do, you are praying with precision, rather than around and around in circles. You won't have

to guess if your prayers are effective—they're based on the Word of God!

5. Have confidence.

“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, NKJV

God always backs His Word. You can be confident that God will answer your prayer because it's based on the promises **He has spoken directly to you**. Part of being confident is **refusing to think or speak anything to the contrary**. When you walk away from your prayer, your countenance should be different than when you first came to the Lord because you know that what you have asked will come to pass.

God is a good God and that He gives good gifts to His children.

James 1:17 says “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”

This verse means that God remains good and He keeps being good even when we mess up.

However if we are experiencing shadows then maybe we have done the turning and the enemy was given legal access because we have made agreements with

him.

6. Praise and Thank God for the answer.

Psalm 8:2 and Matthew 21:16 say that praise stills the enemy and the avenger.

Psalm 8:2 Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

Do you need your enemy silenced today? Start praising God.

As women we can be victims of our circumstances and be totally complacent in our walks with the Lord and in life – allowing the day to day responsibilities to be more of our focus than our eternal responsibilities. As I was preparing this sermon on prayer I woke up early to pray and opened my bible and this was the scripture God gave me.

Isaiah 32:9 Rise up, you women who are at ease,

Hear my voice;

You complacent daughters,

Give ear to my speech.

10 In a year and *some* days

You will be troubled, you complacent women;

For the **vintage will fail,**

The gathering will not come.

11 Tremble, you *women* who are at ease;

Be troubled, you complacent ones;

Strip yourselves, make yourselves bare,

And gird *sackcloth* on *your* waists.

12 People shall mourn upon their breasts

For the pleasant fields, for the fruitful vine.

13 On the land of my people will come up thorns *and* briers,

Yes, on all the happy homes *in* the joyous city;

14 Because the **palaces will be forsaken,**

The **bustling city will be deserted.**
The **forts and towers will become lairs forever,**
A joy of wild donkeys, a pasture of flocks—
15 Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high,
And the wilderness becomes a fruitful field,
And the fruitful field is counted as a forest.

We have a choice: we can either take action and pray and go out and fulfill the great commission UNTIL the Spirit is poured out from on high or we can experience the gathering being taken away, the vintage will fail. That's the best NEW WINE will no longer be available. Palaces will be forsaken (the kings have lost their authority and the bustling city will be deserted).