Confident Prayer

Introduction

* **Purposes of Prayer-What Is Prayer God For? *Fellowshiping With God, Releasing Burdens, and Loving Others.***
* **Benefits of Prayer in Unknown Tongues**
* **Keys To Persevering Prayer- (Take The Expiration Date Off Your Faith & Looking At Life Through Heaven’s Lens)**

**Focus Question: Why can we have confidence when we pray?**

***1 John 5:11-15 NLT***

***And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. [12] Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God’s Son does not have life. [13] I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life. [14] And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. [15] And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for.***

***1 John 5:14-15 AMP***

***This is the [remarkable degree of] confidence which we [as believers are entitled to] have before Him: that if we ask anything according to His will, [that is, consistent with His plan and purpose] He hears us. [15] And if we know [for a fact, as indeed we do] that He hears and listens to us in whatever we ask, we [also] know [with settled and absolute knowledge] that we have [granted to us] the requests which we have asked from Him.***

\*In these verses we see the benefit of having confidence when we pray\*

**Reason One for Our Confidence: We Have A Good Father**

*Matthew 7:7-11 NLT*

*“Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. [8] For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. [9] “You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? [10] Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! [11] So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.*

(Highlight the comparison between a human parent’s natural tendency to care for their children in relation to our Heavenly Father’s Nature of Perfect Love)

*Romans 8:31-32 NLT*

*What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? [32] Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won’t he also give us everything else?*

(Knowing that God is a Good God is vital in reference to the level of confidence we have when we pray. Give an illustration of your earthly father’s consistency and how it translated into confidence in his word.)

**Reason Two for Our Confidence:**  **We Have Been Cleansed From Sin**

**(We have the tendency to lose confidence that God will hear and answer our prayers if our behavior is not perfect. Works Righteousness is being opposed to Righteousness By Faith)**

*Romans 4:1-8 NLT*

*Abraham was, humanly speaking, the founder of our Jewish nation. What did he discover about being made right with God? [2] If his good deeds had made him acceptable to God, he would have had something to boast about. But that was not God’s way. [3] For the Scriptures tell us, “Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.” [4] When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something they have earned.*

***[5] But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners. [6] David also spoke of this when he described the happiness of those who are declared righteous without working for it: [7] “Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sins are put out of sight. [8] Yes, what joy for those whose record the LORD has cleared of sin.”***

**(Additional Evidence of God’s Merciful and Loving Nature)**

*Psalm 103:8-13 NLT*

*The LORD is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. [9] He will not constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever. [10] He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve. [11] For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. [12] He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west. [13] The LORD is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him.*

**(His character of Unconditional Love is why we can have confidence in the Lord’s willingness to answer prayer)**

**(Holiness promotes confidence in prayer. We don’t earn answers to our prayers based on our personal holiness or ability to avoid sin, but we place ourselves in a position where the devil has less ammunition to use against us)**

*1 John 3:18-21 NLT*

*[18] Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. [19] Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God. [20] Even if we feel guilty, God is greater than our feelings, and he knows everything. [21] Dear friends, if we don't feel guilty, we can come to God with bold confidence.*

**Reason Three: It’s God’s Expressed Desire to Answer Our Prayer**

*John 15:7-8 AMP*

*If you remain in Me and My words remain in you [that is, if we are vitally united and My message lives in your heart], ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you. [8] My Father is glorified and honored by this, when you bear much fruit, and prove yourselves to be My [true] disciples.*

***1 John 5:14-15 AMP***

***This is the [remarkable degree of] confidence which we [as believers are entitled to] have before Him: that if we ask anything according to His will, [that is, consistent with His plan and purpose] He hears us. [15] And if we know [for a fact, as indeed we do] that He hears and listens to us in whatever we ask, we [also] know [with settled and absolute knowledge] that we have [granted to us] the requests which we have asked from Him.***

We as Christ’s followers have the right to be confident when we prayer when we are asking for things to manifest in this natural world that He has already declared is in agreement with He has bought and paid for through His.

*Matthew 16:19 AMPC*

*I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind (declare to be improper and unlawful) on earth must be what is already bound in heaven; and whatever you loose (declare lawful) on earth must be what is already loosed in heaven.*

(Example of trying to use a Target Gift Card at Walmart-I only have authority use the Target Gift Card at Target because my authority to use funds on the card has only been given in that store-so it is with us spiritually. We can only expect answers to prayers that are in line with what God has provided for us through Jesus’ redemptive work)

Matthew 5:3-12 NLT

“God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

[4] God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

[5] God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth.

[6] God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.

[7] God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

[8] God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.

[9] God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.

[10] God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

[11] “God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers.

[12] Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

Wisdom is promised to those who ask…

*James 1:5 AMP*

*If any of you lacks wisdom [to guide him through a decision or circumstance], he is to ask of [our benevolent] God, who gives to everyone generously and without rebuke or blame, and it will be given to him.*

Comfort is promised to those who ask…

*2 Corinthians 1:3-5 NLT*

*All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. [4] He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. [5] For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ.*

**Summary Statement: We have a Good Father Who has made provision for the forgiveness of our sins through the gift of Son and it is His expressed desire to answer our prayers, therefore when we pray we can pray with confidence.**