

Prayer and the Promises of God

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I. Introduction.

A. As Christians, we have unlimited and free communication with God the Creator.

1. We have access to throne of God through Jesus. (Hebrews 4:16)

2. We have the Holy Spirit to help us communicate with God. (Romans 8:26-27)

B. We have promises of God in scripture that relate to prayer.

II. We will examine several specific promises of God that relate to prayer in scripture.

A. God states that if we ask anything in His name, He will do it. (John 14:12-14; 1 John 5:14-15)

1. To ask in the name of Jesus means that we ask in the merit of Christ.

2. To ask in the name of Jesus means we come as agents of Christ to do His work, not just to fill our needs.

B. God states that if we ask anything according to the will of God, He will do it. (1 John 5:14-15)

1. Anything in the Bible that is directly stated as being God's will, we can pray in confidence of.

2. It would be helpful to think through how our prayer request fits into what we already know of the will and character of God before we ask for it. (Matthew 18:19)

C. We can pray that God will help us understand the scriptures. (Psalm 119:18)

D. We can pray that we and others will experience the love of God. (Ephesians 3:17-19)

E. We can pray that we and others will be given spiritual wisdom and a knowledge of God's will. (Colossians 1:9)

F. We can pray that we and others will live a life worthy of God. (Colossians 1:9)

G. We can pray that we and others will have endurance and patience with joy in hardship. (Colossians 1:11)

H. We can pray for the development of the gifts and abilities that God has given us and others for His glory. (Ephesians 6:18-19)

I. We can pray for restoration and forgiveness of our sins no matter how many times we make the same mistake. (1 John 1:9; Matthew 18:21-22)

J. We can cast our cares on Him. (1 Peter 5:7; Hebrews 4:15-16)

III. God is not limited to answer our prayers in the way that we see as most probable or possible. (2 Kings 7:1ff; Genesis 18:14; Jeremiah 32:16-17, 25; John 16:24)

Application questions:

1. Why can you trust God to fulfill His promises?

2. What attitudes should shape your prayers?

3. Why can you pray for the things listed above with boldness?
