

10 Steps To Answered Prayer

1. Approach The Lord

You know, It's always best to seek to be near the Lord when we seek answers to our prayers. But what does it really mean to be "near Him?" Well that's not exactly an easy thing to explain. James 4:8 says, "Come near to God, and He will come near to you." Now that's rather odd, if you think about it. We are talking about God - The Almighty Supreme Being of the Universe! I mean, why would we need to take the first step?

Well, the truth is, God does a whole lot before we ever do. He is the one that draws us, leads us to consider Him. So when we approach Him, we really are responding. It's like when your Mother called you to come down from your bedroom upstairs (or wherever) to eat dinner - she is the one who initiated contact, not you. But then after she initiates, she is waiting for you to respond. If you do not respond, she will probably not just come running after you YET. God is the same - he initiates in many ways seen and not seen, but now we have to reciprocate, or perhaps we are not that interested in Him at that moment. (Insert uncomfortable pause HERE!)

2. Adore Him

So lets say, for the sake of argument, that we did choose to respond to God and we approached him. Now again that's not a physical act, we may be sitting in a chair during break at work and not move a muscle. But if you have 5-10 minutes, you can quickly run through these 10 steps. So you can take a moment and just begin to Praise Him. It's uncomfortable at first if you have rarely done this, or if you never have.

Public worship at church is one kind of praise and we need to do that. But taking it a step further and praising Him right there in your chair at your desk, now that's so cool! Please note, you do not need to become a worship leader while at work and shout out loud for your boss to hear. You can praise God quietly if that's more appropriate.

3. Agree With The Word

That's a funny saying - to agree with. But what it does is very powerful. When you agree with someone, you basically become a single unit - a united force in the world. When we agree with God we are coming into alignment with Him, his plans, and his ways. And our standard is the Word of God. The Bible is the Word of God. Old Testament and New Testament alike are inspired of God and profitable for you and me.

Agree with God, then you are aligned with God, And once you align with God, your prayers will suddenly be answered in ways you cannot imagine - and THATS because now you find yourself wanting His way, His will and His timing more and more.

4. Admit Your Need

After a time of reading His Word, we are ready to take a look inside. Now I think we need to make that a very short period of time no need to go digging into the past unless God is clearly directing you that way. In general, we should just submit to the Spirit's leading when we pray. That is really weird for some when they first start praying regularly. But you will get used to it until the point where for the most part you allow the Spirit's lead in your daily prayer time. I always feel that after I read the Bible, I am inspired and encouraged but also convicted. So I think its good for us to take a moment and take inventory. That's one of the first steps in everything, right? We need to Admit it and quit it!

5. Accept His Forgiveness

You have admitted it, now accept it. God will never lead you to admit your wrongdoings, or attitudes or motives without coming and cleansing you with a fresh aroma of His peace and presence. Where the Spirit is, you will sense and experience an amazing feeling of peace. Romans 15:33 says, "And now may the God of peace be with you all." The deal is - He wants intimacy. You cannot have intimacy with someone when there are hidden offenses, hurts or other issues in the way. So we first deal with those best we can, forgive each other best we can, and then set out to be better today than yesterday. And guess what? He has forgiven you! Now you surely need to forgive yourself.

6. Allow His Leading

Are we having fun yet? I think it's just a blast to be able to pray to God and see His work in our daily lives. But that work will not happen like it could unless we allow Him to lead. You know there have been more times than I want to admit that I prayed "God have your way in my life today" and then all day, I was making my own way. It was a great day when I realized that God didn't want to just wave me off to work in the morning and wait for me at home when it was evening. That's not God's idea for an amazing relationship. Probably not yours either.

7. Adjust Your Will

When we start following God more closely, sooner or later wills are going to clash. And obviously guess who needs to adjust and who does not! Interestingly enough, we do not respect authority in this country even close to the way our fathers and grandfathers did. Part of that, is because many authorities figures often blow it - they simply do not earn the respect of people around them. But we have to remind ourselves of this truth - A PERFECT ALMIGHTY ALL WISE GOD doesn't make mistakes, ever! So therefore of all the imperfect authorities that show us a less-than-stellar example are nothing like God's character and ways and ability and authority. Do not allow yourself to question His authority in your life. Now, there are going to be times you will be tempted - so just remember what I am saying right now - that when those times come, recall what God is, not what human beings are like. "As for God, His way is perfect." Psalm 18:30. See why I like starting my prayer time with the Word!

8. Ask For Your Needs

Finally we come to the praying that we are all most familiar with - asking God for stuff. Most of us pray like this is all there is to prayer - which I hope you can see is so not the case! But yes after the previous 7 STEPS, we are ready to make requests. I think in most cases it is perfectly fine to begin asking God to help you with any request that comes to mind. A quick tip here though is this - make sure to ALLOW the Spirit to direct your prayers. Again the Holy Spirit is there to help you.

The Holy Spirit's job is to give you direction and leading in how to pray. I know many people who begin to get words, pictures, visions, and then pray those for that person, only to find out later that was the EXACT thing they needed right at the moment they were prayed for! Wow! God is cool!

9. Appeal For Others

You know, sometimes it's so easy just to keep on asking for our stuff. Now what I really mean by "stuff" is not "Christmas presents"; no I am referring to personal issues. And that is a very huge and important part of prayer don't get me wrong. But if I had to choose I would say I prefer this part of prayer - I love appealing for others! Now what does that mean? Good question.

First of all - I think of a courtroom. The way things work in the spirit realm has to do with authority much like the way we observe it in the court of law. So God is the Judge, Satan is the prosecuting attorney, and Jesus is our Defense. In fact, In Revelation 12 Satan is called "The accuser of the brethren." So let me ask you this? When we are tempted to accuse our brother or sister, where is that temptation coming from? Yep. I know. Scary. But look - you are human, so get over it. Get into the 10 Steps of Prayer here and go through and when you get to this one you can join Jesus and APPEAL for your sister and brother! It's so much more fun, anyway.

10. Adore Him Again!

I know it seems like I got tired of my list, and actually only had 9 so I just redid number 1 again. But no - no this is a great step for number 10 because it's the exclamation, the "Amen" and the "So be it God!" You know when you get on an airplane and especially if you have a passport and then they take out the stamp and they start stamping your passport? Now to me it always seems like they gets little carried away - like they haven't got their passport stamping fix so when they get a chance, they look like that carnival game when you club as many gophers that pop out of the hole as you can! Bam! Bam! Bam!

Okay I digress. But the thing about that act of stamping an official document is that now it cannot be withdrawn and it has been decided and that is what is now going to happen! Now we don't always get to see that stamp of approval, but we can sense it and know it, and trust that what we prayed God will answer ultimately according to His will. We can influence His will apparently. otherwise why pray? Matthew 7:7 "Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened." What a great way to leave our 10 steps! I hope you enjoyed these!!