

So That Our Prayers Aren't Hindered

My friends,

In order for our prayers to be heard, we must make sure that we are right with God; confessing our sins, turning away from them, and asking the Holy Spirit into our hearts. In Matthew 5:24, Jesus says that when you come to Him with an offering to give, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and give your offering to God. In other words, if you have sin that is separating you from God, you must get right with Him, make right your wrongs, and then come to Jesus for any petition. In this life, we are destined for spiritual death and physical death. In Matthew 7:13-14 Jesus says, "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. **14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.**" We may not be able to escape physical death, because that is the punishment of original sin, but we definitely can escape spiritual death by taking these easy steps on how we get right with God.

Getting right with God is as easy as ABC.

A – Acknowledge that you have sinned against God and are in need of His forgiveness. Without Jesus, we cannot get in right standing with God the Father. When we finally realize that we are sinners, our first instinct is to shrink away from God and that is what the devil wants. We need to run to God and say we are sorry and then follow Jesus' words in John 8:11 "Go and sin no more".

B – Believe that Jesus is the Son of God. In John 14:6 Jesus says, "I am the Way, the Truth, the Life. NO-ONE comes to the Father, but through Me."

C – Confess with your mouth that Jesus is the Lord. Romans 10:9 says "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you WILL be saved!"

So, if you've acknowledged your sins and turned away from them; if you believe in your heart that Jesus is the Son of God—that He was born of a virgin, became man, was crucified, died, was buried, and resurrected on the third day; if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, then you are now saved by His sacrifice on the cross. He paid the death penalty for those of us that believe and love Him, by going to the cross willingly. Our debt to God has been paid. Our sins have been forgiven. And we can now be citizens of Heaven and spend eternity with Jesus in Paradise.

Now, it is time to bring our petitions to God. To start, Jesus says in Matthew 18:19 "if two of you are in agreement about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in Heaven." He also says in Mathew 18:20 "When two or more are gathered together in My name, there I AM with them." This is why we pray in a group; to have the Presence of the Lord with us so that the Father will see our agreement and heed our prayers. But we must always remember something; God's timing is always perfect! We must fully trust Him. In Romans 8:28, the apostle Paul tells us that "all things work together for the good of those that love the Lord." This means that sometimes

unanswered prayers are in our best interest. God sees the whole picture. We do not. He knows what lies ahead for us, so He will answer the prayers that will lead us closer to Him because that is His ultimate desire. Like any loving, caring father, all God wants is for us to stay close to Him while on this earth. He has our very best interest at heart. Trust Him! He loves you! Look at how he has blessed your life. And so, with that, here is a little prayer formula:

P – Praise: Give thanks and praise to God, because He deserves it. He is beyond generous to us with His blessings.

R – Repent: Make sure to confess your sins to Him and ask Him for help in not sinning anymore.

A – Ask: Petition for family and friends first and then for yourself; asking for anything and everything that you believe will be in God's will for us. (Ferrari's don't count! 😊) Be detailed in your prayer. Don't worry about asking for too much. James 4:2-3 says that we do not have because we do not ask. If you're in need, talk to Jesus!

Y – Yield: Slow down and take some time to listen for the Lord's Word. He does speak to us in a still small voice. Make sure to do what He puts on your heart to do.

Finally, remember, there is no set way or place to talk to God. As long as you keep in constant communication with Him on a daily basis, that is all He wants. He says to pray without ceasing. In other words, set your mind on things of God as often as possible. Following Jesus will be the best decision you will ever make for yourself. He will bless you more than you can ever imagine!!

In Christ,

Adriana