

COMMUNICATION / PRAYER

Five Keys for Resolving Conflict in Life

Pray to the Father in Jesus' Name (John 16:23-24)

Believing that we receive when we pray (Mark 11:24)

We must forgive (Mark 11:25-26)

Depend upon the Holy Spirit to help you pray (John 14:16 & Rm 8:26)

Build yourself up by praying in tongues (1 Corinthians 14:14)

The first rule of successful prayer is to pray to the Father in Jesus' Name. John 16:23-24: *And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. 24Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. "* Praying to the Father in Jesus' Name is the first rule, or principle, you should know about prayer.

You are to pray to the Father, not to Jesus. When you pray to the Father, you are to pray in the Name of Jesus. In John 16:24, Jesus said to His disciples, *"before now you have asked nothing in my name:"* When Jesus was on the earth, the disciples did not pray in His Name. But toward the end of His ministry, just before He left the disciples, Jesus changed their way of praying. Jesus said, *"in that day ye shall ask me nothing."*

What day was Jesus talking about? He wasn't talking about a particular day of the week. Jesus was talking about the glorious day in which we are living - this Day of Salvation! He was talking about the Day of the New Covenant! Jesus said, *"And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. "* Hallelujah!

The second rule of prayer is when you are praying to receive something is found in Mark Chapter 11: 24, *"Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."* According to this verse, when we pray, we are to believe that we receive and then we shall have it. So believing that we receive when we pray is the second rule you should know about prayer.

That is so clear and plain, yet there is so much misunderstanding about it. Some have said, "I am going to keep on praying until I get it." No, that is not what Jesus said to do. We are to believe we receive when we pray. Not after we pray, nor before we pray - but when we pray! When do you believe you receive what you have prayed for? Before you have it. When do you have it? After you believe you receive it. If you still don't understand this principle, don't give up. Keep thinking on it and meditating on it and you will get it after a while.

The third important rule of prayer is also found in Mark Chapter 11: *Forgive if you have 'ought' against any. Jesus wasn't finished talking in verse 24. Verse 25 begins with the Word 'and' – a conjunction that joins what Jesus just said to what He is about to say. "Therefore I say unto you, "And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your*

trespasses." When we pray, we must forgive. Why? Because our faith and prayers will not work if we have unforgiveness in our heart. I know from years of study and experience that many Christians believe it is wrong to hold something big against people, but they think it is okay to hold little grudges. No! The Word says, "If you have ought against any." That word 'ought' means anything at all, or anything whatsoever little, big or medium-sized! Even the little things can stifle your prayer life and stop your faith from working to the effect that the devil can enter in and find you in many ways. If you are going to walk with God, walk in faith, and have your prayers answered, you cannot have any air of unforgiveness about you. Don't permit the least bit of animosity or ill-will toward anyone to cloud the horizon of your life.

The fourth rule of successful prayer is to depend upon the Holy Spirit to help you pray. You can't get the job done by yourself. If you could, there wouldn't have been any need for Jesus to send the Holy Ghost! But remember that Jesus said, *"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever."* (John 14:16)

Some translations of this verse reads, "I'll send you another Helper." The Greek word translated 'comforter' literally means one called alongside to help. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us – and He will help us in our prayer life! Romans 8:26: *"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."*

The literal Greek translation of the last part of this verse says, " ... with groanings which cannot be uttered in articulate speech," That agrees with what Paul wrote in First Corinthians 14:14: *"For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful."* The Amplified reads, *"For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful."* The Holy Ghost knows how to get the job done in prayer! Depend upon Him to help you pray. Realize-- that-He is a Helper; He is not going-to do your praying for you, but He can help you pray. So learn - --to depend on the spirit of God to help you when you pray.

The fifth important rule of successful prayer is to take time to build yourself up in your most holy faith by praying in the Holy Ghost. In other words, spend time praying in tongues. It will build you up and help you in your prayer life.

Howard Carter, founder of England's first Pentecostal Bible School and noted expert on the Gifts of the Spirit, said, in effect: "We must not forget that speaking with other tongues is not merely an initial sign or evidence of the Holy Spirit's indwelling, but that speaking with other tongues is an experience for the rest of one's life to assist him in the worship of God. It is a flowing stream that should never dry up."

So from all of this, you can learn to pray successfully by:

- 1) Praying to the Father in Jesus' Name
- 2) Believing you receive when you pray
- 3) Forgiving if you have ought against any
- 4) Relying on the help of the Holy Spirit when you pray
- 5) Building yourself up by praying in tongues

These five keys will help you achieve success in your prayer life. They will empower you to pray with confidence, because you are praying according to the Word. They will enable you to receive answers to your prayers!

