

**PRAYER**  
**JUNE 1, 2016**

**LUKE 5:17**

**INTRUDUCTION:** The healing of a man taken with palsy reveals to us the importance faith plays in activating the power of God to accomplish His purposes on earth. The power can be present to do great things, but, unless faith activates the power, nothing will happen. Prayer is a means whereby we join forces with God to accomplish His purposes on earth. Faith makes prayer work. To have faith, we must discover what the Word teaches on prayer. **EPH. 6:18** – There are different kinds of prayer: Petition, worship, agreement, united prayer, consecration, intercessory, etc.

**PETITION**

1. Asking God to do something for us personally.
  - A. The Father's attitude. **MT. 7:11**
  - B. It concerns our desires. **MK. 11:24**
  - C. According to God's will. **1 JOHN 5:14-15**
  - D. A prayer of faith. **JAMES 1:5-8**
  
2. Steps to follow.
  - A. Decide what you want.
    - **MK. 10:51** – Jesus asked Bartimaeus what
    - Being general in prayer is like going grocery shopping and not being told what to get.
  - B. Find scriptures that promise the answer.
    - **HEB. 10:21-23** – Knowing what God promised gives us confidence to approach the throne with our petitions.
    - **NUM. 23:19** – God will make good what He said or spoke.
    - **1 JOHN 5:14-15** – God hears when we ask according to His will. The world reveals God's will.
    - Faith comes by knowing God's Word. **JOHN 15:7**
  - C. Ask for what we desire.
    - **MT. 7:7-8** – God expects us to ask.
    - God knows our needs before we ask, yet we are told to ask Him for what we want.
    - **JAMES 4:2-3**
  - D. Believe we receive what we ask for when we pray.
    - **MK. 11:24 (WEB)** – Believing we have received what we asked for is not based on sense knowledge evidences. We may not see it, feel it, hear, taste or smell it.
    - Our faith is based on the higher truth of God's Word.
    - By believing we receive, we plant the incorruptible seed of God's Word into good soil.
  - E. Resist doubt.
    - **2 COR. 10:3-5** – The battle is in the mind.
    - We must keep our thoughts on the answer. We have the answer, but we have an enemy who wants to convince us that we don't.
    - We cast down thoughts, images and suggestions that contradict our faith.
  - F. Praise God continually for the answer.
    - **PHIL. 4:6** – The more we praise Him for what He has done and what He is doing, the more we close the door to anxiety that can short circuit our faith.
  - G. Continue meditating on the promises.
    - **JOSHUA 1:8** – Meditation helps us paint a picture of victory and enables us to be a doer of the Word.
    - **PR. 4:20-23** – 82 year old woman evangelist with seven cancers was told she didn't have long to live. Meditating these verses she began to see herself living and not dying. She went from visualizing herself dying to seeing herself living and serving God. She lived to be 91, won more souls to Christ and died without cancer