

PRAYER – 7
JULY 20, 2016

1 JOHN 5:14-15

The Apostle John emphasizes the importance of praying according to God's will. Knowing God's will gives us confidence, not knowing God's will produces lack of confidence that God heard us. To be more effective in prayer, how we pray and what we pray should be based on biblical insight.

HOW TO PRAY

1. Ask the Father in Jesus Name. **JOHN 16:23-24**
 - A. "That day" has come.
 - B. Only Jesus gives us access to God. **JOHN 14:6**
 - C. One God and one mediator. **1 TIM. 2:5-6**
 - D. Jesus earned His position. **PHIL. 2:8-11**
 - No other name in Heaven, earth or beneath the earth can give us access to God.
 - We are to pray through Him, not to Him.

GOD'S WILL

1. Concerning salvation.
 - A. God's will is that none perish. **2 PET. 3:9**
 - B. No one would pray "save Lord, if it be your will."
 - C. With confidence we can ask for laborers to be sent. **MT. 9:35-38**
2. Concerning receiving the Spirit.
 - A. Every believer should receive Him. **JOHN 7:37-39**
 - B. God's will is to maintain a spirit-filled life. **EPH. 5:17-20**
 - C. We can ask to be filled with confidence. **LUKE 11:11-13**
 - The baptism is the combined presence of the Father and son entering us in the person of the Holy Spirit.
3. Concerning healing.
 - A. God wills our health. **3 JOHN 2**
 - B. Healing is a negotiated benefit. **PS. 103:1-5**
 - C. A woman came for healing saying "pray for me, if it is God's will I will be healed. If not, I won't." After prayer she felt no better. She told her husband to call the doctor. Why call a doctor if it's not God's will?
4. Concerning our needs.
 - A. God promised to provide for us. **MT. 6:31-33, PHIL. 4:19**
 - B. If we do our part, God will do His. **LUKE 6:38**
 - C. An endless supply. **2 KINGS 4:1-7**
5. Concerning the heathen.
 - A. The missionaries' prayer. **PS. 2:8**
 - B. Saving the lost is a precious work. **JAMES 5:7**
 - C. A country preacher with confidence believed the heathen would come and get saved.

CONCLUSION:

It's faith that makes prayer work. Knowing God's will produces confident assurance and boldness to approach God's throne. Asking Him to do what He wills to do assures us that He hears us and we have what we asked for.