

## Petition

Now that we are cleansed vessels from confessing, repenting of, and receiving forgiveness for our sins, we are ready for the prayer of petition. Petition prayers are when we bring before God our individual wants, concerns, and desires. God is a God of details. He cares very much about the little things. One read through the “begets” in the Bible or the details of the temple design will confirm that! God wants to provide, guide, motivate, encourage, answer, fulfill, help, direct and move on our behalf. But guess what? God wants us to ask, to look to Him in every situation. He does not want us trying to do it in our own power and with our own abilities. That is a recipe for disaster!

One time I was really struggling with writing a newsletter for my church prayer ministry. I was getting very frustrated. Nothing was coming together right. Finally, I heard God say, “I’m ready to step in and help you with this just as soon as you ask.” That’s when I realized that I was trying to do it on my own. I prayed about the situation, asked for His help and guidance, and the words just flowed! Many times God waits to move in a situation until we have asked – and have asked repeatedly! God loves to show us answered prayer.

Pray specific prayers. I’ll give you an example. A medical situation develops over the weekend and I need to get in to see my primary care physician. I could pray that God would move on my behalf and get me in the first part of the week, or I could be more specific and ask Him to get me in first thing Monday morning. I then call at 8:00 a.m. Monday morning and am able to get an appointment for 9:00 a.m. So, what is the difference? If I had prayed my first request and gotten in the first few days of the week, I would have been thankful God answered my prayer. But by praying my specific prayer and getting in Monday by 9:00 a.m., it was one of those faith-building moments where I was just blown away by His power and His ability to move despite all odds. And God just loves it! He loves to show us His glory, His power, and His concern for every detail of our lives.

Ask for help with your struggles, “for we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin.” (Heb 4:15) And in verse 16, He tells us to approach the throne of grace with confidence!

God answers every petition we put before Him. No request goes unheard. Sometimes His answers are “yes,” sometimes “no,” and sometimes “not yet”! But He always hears and always moves in our best interest. In hindsight, I am so thankful for some of the “no’s” God has given me in answer to some of my shortsighted prayers! The answers will sometimes come in unexpected and surprising ways, but may there never be a situation in our lives that remains unchanged and unblessed just simply because we never asked His involvement!

Are you focusing on and overwhelmed by that big need, concern, or struggle in your life right now? Now, take your focus off the situation and look upward and give it to Him. When it is held in the light of who God is, you’ll realize it’s not about how big your need, concern, or struggle is, but about how big your God is. And when we get to heaven, we’ll all realize we should have been thinking a lot bigger!

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