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# TEN MISTAKES OFTEN MADE IN PRAYER

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# Ten Mistakes Often Made in Prayer

Mistakes in Prayer	Solutions to Mistakes in Prayers with Scripture Passages	Additional Notes
Praying Outside the Will of God	Pray for things that God wants. To lesson your mistakes in prayer, and since the Lord has promised to provide (Phil 4:19) for our physical needs (Matt 6:33), it's wise to get the core of your prayer requests straight out of the Bible (I John 5:14). "Lord willing" won't have to be added to these types of prayers. If you persist in praying for things that God doesn't want you to have, God may relinquish, after which you will regret the prayer. Be careful when praying for a certain career or certain partner in life.	A woman once prayed that if it be God's will for her to go to hell, she'll go, but this isn't God's will (2 Pet 3:9). God wants your heart and service, and God will provide for your needs.
Praying only in Times of Trouble	If you only pray after running into trouble, it is an indication of the unsaved state or a serious lack of spiritual growth (Heb 5:14). At times, God causes you to run into trouble in order to get your attention. Good! But this time pray and keep it up. Then, the next time you run into trouble, you won't feel guilty when approaching the throne of grace.	If you have a rich prayer life and then run into trouble, God won't be a stranger when you approach the throne of grace (Heb 4:16).
When you aren't willing to Accept the Outcome	Many times the outcome of our prayers is far from where we would like them to be. It may be due to a timing issue (Gen 15:1-2), wrong motive (Jas 4:3), or simply having a wrong focus (Eph 3:20). No matter what the outcome ends up as, God knows what is good for you (Luke 11:11-13), and he knows what you need at what time. Often times, God's answer to prayer (Rom 8:26) far exceeds what we originally intended to receive.	Anybody who is serious about praying needs to have a fasting schedule added onto an already vibrant prayer life. In the worst case scenario, it will help you accept the outcome.

Core Principle: It's better to have a consistent prayer life with mistakes and all, and learn as you go, than not have a prayer life at all.

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When Unconfessed Sin remains in your Life	Unanswered prayer comes from a myriad of reasons, such as timing, lack of diligence or praying for something that isn't yours. Further, the root of the problem may lie in unconfessed, unrepentant sin (Psalm 66:18). Repenting of sins straight out of the ten commandments, other sins, or repenting of violating policy implemented by authority and turning from these ways will greatly strengthen your prayer life (Jas 5:16).	If you are unacquainted with having your prayers answered, it may be due to not knowing the Lord (Prov 28:9). The first real prayer needs to be that of embracing the Savior.
Praying only for a Day or Two	While it is difficult to impress God, in terms of prayers, the formula has been in the Bible for thousands of years. Fervent (Jas 5:16), diligent, faithful (Heb 11:6) prayers does just this (2 Kings 20:5), impress God. A prayer list will help you remember to pray for important requests.	God is not impressed at all with a fickle prayer life. Be diligent (Prov 13:4) in sending your requests to God (Luke 11:5-8; 18:1-5).
When the Lust of the Flesh is the Drive as opposed to Praying with God's Glory in Mind	Certainly, we are all guilty of praying for the sole reason to fulfill the lusts of the flesh (Jas 4:3). Whether it's displaying a God-given talent just for show, the drive for the increase of riches, or just the gratification of the flesh, God is not pleased at all with the drive to fulfill lusts. Be jealous of a rich, spiritual life (Col 3:1-2). Allowing your flesh to control to your prayer life will destroy any godly motive in your prayers. The motive needs to be governed by desire for God to receive glory (I Sam 17:26). Human needs were put there by the Lord, but must to be fulfilled according to the word of God. Christians can only marry Christians (II Co 6:14).	Once there was a married woman who got saved. Then she prayed for her unsaved husband for 25 years so that she could live a better life. After praying for the glory of God, her husband got saved within one week.
Core Principle: Something worth doing will take time and hard work. Period. But, it's all worth it.		

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Faithless Prayers	It is imperative that you have faith (Jas 1:6) when you pray (Mark 11:24), without which God won't answer the requests. Life is hard, and it was discovered way back in Seth's day that we people need to call on God for help. Faith will bring the help. If you don't have a rich history with prayer, start out with smaller requests. As you see these requests be answered, a stronger faith means you can levy up the requests.	When God sees real faith, it pleases him. It's this way for the lost man getting saved, and it's this way for the saved man post salvation. Prayer carries the same formula with it.
Praying with Wrong Attitudes or Lack of Detail	Don't think that you deserve anything good. A self-righteous attitude will immediately get you on God's bad side (Luke 18:10-14). God knows what good we've done without us having to remind him. And the lackadaisical attitude needs to be trunked. Anyone can adjust their attitude.	Then at other times, the petitions are not distinct. Vague prayer requests get you vague results.
Not Praying for the People in your Life	Just as the shepherd is going to pray for his sheep, you need to pray for those you lead and for those who lead you. The Sunday School teacher needs to pray for his students. The pastor needs to pray for his parishioners. The employer should pray for his employees. However, this needs not be limited to praying for subordinates. Pray for one who ripped you off and for the neighbor who won't speak to you.	Since people reveal their hearts when they speak (Matt 12:34), you'll know how to pray for them by conversing with the people in your life.
Treating God as your Financier as opposed to Giving him Praise and Adoration	God is not a genie in a lamp that you can rub at anytime to fulfill all your wishes. Crazy fantasies wouldn't bring what you think they would bring anyways. What we need is what God, who is the great "I am" (Ex 3:14), wills for us. Let's pray for Christ-centered prayers which includes praise.	A vibrant prayer life needs also be filled with praise and adoration to God, and not just petitions to advance your life.
Core Principle: You can make a judgment call on how rich or shallow your spiritual life is by viewing the things you pray for.		

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