

Seven Principles for Answered Prayer

Introduction

Prompted by a friend, the following analysis of prayer has occurred to this writer. See first this writer's earlier work¹ that summarises the five key elements of prayer that former Navigator Staff member John Ridgway, now with the Lord, depicted via the finger gun illustration.

In addition, the scripture reveals that the Lord answers emergency prayers as in 2 Chronicles 20:12 **neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee.** Note 2 Chronicles 20:20-23.

Likewise in Nehemiah 2:4 **Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven.** Note Nehemiah 2:5-8.

The Lord also answers prayers of desperation, like that of even a doubting unsaved sinner beseeching the Lord in His mercy, Psalm 117:2, for deliverance or indeed salvation, *illustrated* by Peter.

Matthew 14:30 **But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.**

Matthew 14:31 **And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?**

As a word of caution, the Lord can and does answer prayer according to His permissive will rather than His directive will and the outcome may be wholly unfavourable, apart from the Lord's subsequent merciful intervention. See the case of King Hezekiah; 2 Kings 20, 21, 2 Chronicles 32:24-33, 33:1-25, Isaiah 38, 39.

It is suggested therefore that the scripture reveals seven principles for answered prayer consistent with the five key elements of prayer, steadfast application of which principles will also cover emergency prayers and prayers of desperation and avoid the kind of situation that befell King Hezekiah.

Seven Principles for Answered Prayer

1. *Praying in Jesus' name*

John 16:24 **Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.**

2. *Praying according to the Lord's directive will*

1 John 5:14-15 **And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.**

3. *Praying anticipating the Lord being glorified*

Psalm 50:15 **And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.** See this writer's earlier work².

4. *Praying anticipating more of the knowledge of God*

Jeremiah 33:3 **Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.**

5. *Praying in faithfulness to the Lord*

John 15:7 **If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.**

6. *Praying holding fast to the Lord's words*

See John 15:7 second clause. Moreover, you have to have the right Bible for effective prayer, as King Solomon warns. Proverbs 28:9 **He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.**

A church local to this writer regularly prays for revival. However, it is ‘originals only’ on the scriptures. Readers should draw their own conclusions, consulting this writer’s earlier work³ in its entirety.

See further:

Acts 4:29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

Acts 4:30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

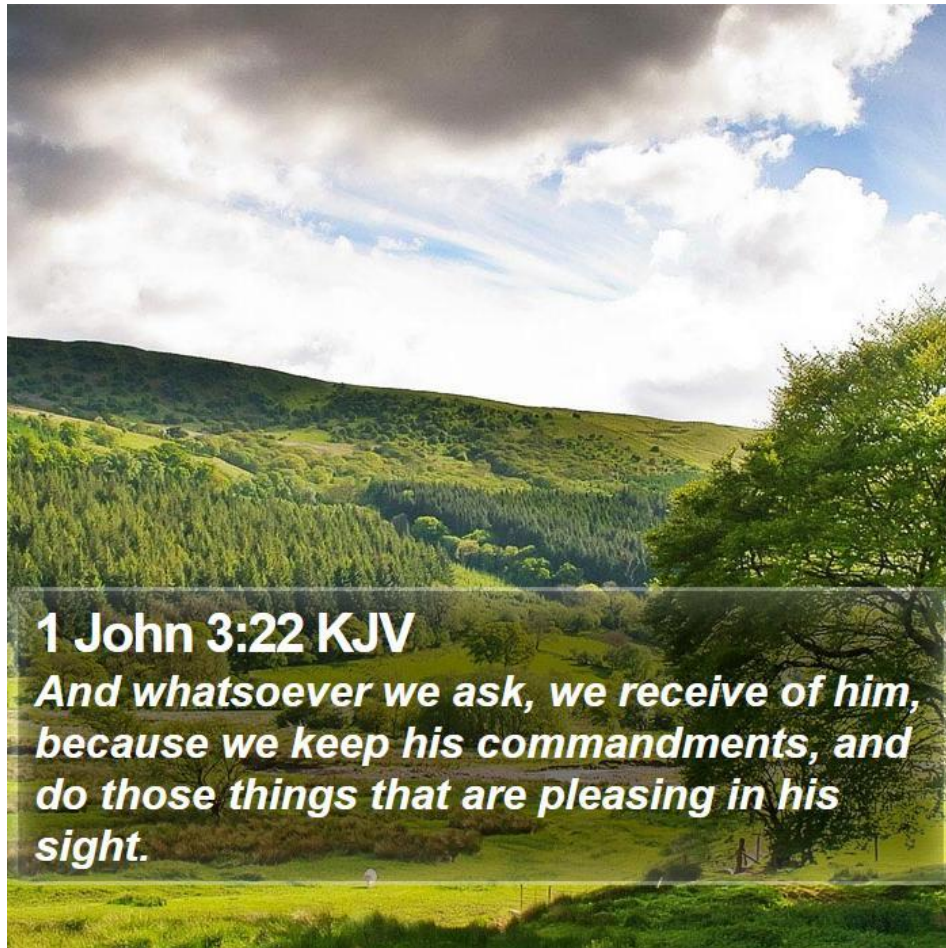
Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Point 6 covers practical aspects of prayer such as definite rather than general prayer requests, persistence in prayer and willingness to abide by the Lord’s response. Note Isaiah 62:6-7, Mark 11:22-24, Luke 18:1-8, 22:41-43, Hebrews 5:7-9.

7. *Praying in faith concerning the outcome*

Matthew 21:22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Conclusion⁴



References

All web references were current at the time of writing. Web reference and author are given the first time a particular work is cited. Only the work itself is cited in subsequent references.

¹ www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/ *Life Work Balance in Christ* pp 13-14, 35

² www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/ *Reformation Heroes* pp 15-16

³ *Reformation Heroes*

⁴ www.scripture-images.com/bible-verse/kjv/1-john-3-22-kjv.php