

HOW TO GET *Answers* TO YOUR PRAYERS

by Marilyn Hickey

PRAYER is the communication system used for fellowship with our heavenly Father, and prayer activates His promises in our lives. No one can beat this system. It's quick, efficient, and available to you *right now!*

Prayer reaches our heavenly Father instantly. Years ago, my mother was diagnosed with a brain tumor. I was out of town and could not lay my hands on her. That night, as fear swept over me, the Lord quickened Psalm 107:20 to my spirit: *"He sent His word and healed them, And delivered them from their destructions."* I sent God's Word long distance to my mother's brain. When she was X-rayed again, there was no evidence that any tumor had ever existed! Hallelujah! Prayers are swifter than any medical technique!

Only born-again believers who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord can have a relationship with the Father—and prayer is the communication method used to develop that relationship. I am going to show you four keys that will supercharge your prayer life with power.

FOLLOW GOD'S DIRECTIVES: Following God's directions for prayer is as important as praying itself, if you want results.

What are these directions?

Pray to the Father in Jesus's name.

When you pray to the Father, two thirds of the Trinity pray with you—Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:27 says that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us according to the will of God. Hebrews 7:25 says Jesus ever lives to intercede for us. Jesus and the Holy Spirit pray FOR us according to the Father's will.

Pray without ceasing.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Paul tells us to *"pray without ceasing."* That doesn't mean pray all day. God gave us the gift of praying in the Spirit so we could communicate with God at any time. Driving the car,

cooking dinner, or working in the yard are all great times to pray. Take advantage of every opportunity, so you can begin to flow continuously in God's communication system.

EXAMINE YOUR HEART: 2 Timothy 2:22 tells us to call upon the Lord with a pure heart. If you are believing for something and have not received results, check your heart. Repent if you are harboring a sin. When your slate is clean, expect an answer to your prayers. God never says, "Examine other Christians' hearts." He says, "Examine your own heart." Be sensitive to God's leading, and you will see results in your prayer life.

HAVE COMPASSION FOR OTHERS: Your prayer life is affected when you lose sight of other people's needs. Proverbs 21:13 says: *"Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, Will also cry himself and not be heard."* I encourage you to spend at least one hour a week praying for others. When you show compassion, you will see powerful changes in your own life. Remember other people's needs. Stay in compassion and love, and God will meet your prayers.

RELEASE YOUR FAITH: To see answers to your prayers, release your faith in God's ability. The story of the woman with the issue of blood is such a blessing to me: *"When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. For she said, 'If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well.'" (Mark 5:27-28).* This woman knew exactly what she wanted from the Lord—healing. She released her faith and was instantly healed. The woman with the issue of blood acted on her faith. Don't wait for a prayer line to get your answer, act on your faith, and the answer will come.

No matter what has happened in your past, no matter what is happening in your present, seek out your heavenly Father in prayer as often as you can. Take my word for it—He loves you and wants to answer your prayers.