



PRAYING IN THE FIRE

Overcoming Trials and Tribulations

INTRODUCTION

How do we pray amid trials and tribulations? What should we pray for? God empowers us to cultivate a vibrant, effective prayer life that aligns with His will and fulfills His promises, even in adversity.



1. THE POWER OF PERSISTENT PRAYER

Regardless of our surroundings, our focus must remain on Jesus Christ and His reality. The effective, fervent prayers of the righteous avail much (James 5:16). Satan, our adversary, uses our past disappointments and current trials to weaken our persistence in prayer. He understands the power of our prayers; so should we.

And He said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; and he will answer from within and say, 'Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you'? I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs." – Luke 11:5-8.

Back then, an entire family would live in the same one-room house, including their animals. The people slept on a raised platform on one side, and the animals on the other. To open the door, the occupant had to risk waking up the rest of the household. Knowing the disturbance he may cause, this man stayed steadfast in his asking. His desperation caused his determination.

Persistence reshapes us, intensifying our desire for God's will, with the Holy Spirit purifying our motives, increasing our faith, and keeping us grounded in the Word. Through prayer, the Holy Spirit guides us to maintain consistency, patience, and persistence in our supplications.

Persistent, faith-filled prayer changes us, deepens our intimacy with the Lord, and increases our trust in God's promises.

2. PRIORITY PRAYER

"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" ~ **Luke 11:5-13**

"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!"
~ **Matthew 7:11**

To ask, seek, and knock is in the continual tense in Greek: keep asking, keep seeking, keep knocking. Praying for the Holy Spirit ensures we desire all that comes from the Lord.

We keep asking because we never stop believing. Our ceaseless asking comes from faith and trust in our Heavenly Father.



3. PRECISE PRAYER

Contrary to trendy belief, Scripture encourages us to ask God for our needs. However, it also teaches us to avoid empty and repetitive prayers. In the past, some rabbis believed that the lengthier their prayers, the more likely God would answer them.

The quantity of words does not define the effectiveness of a prayer. It is the sincerity and depth of our longing that matter. Therefore, prayers can take various forms, and what truly matters is the sincerity they convey.

"And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him." ~

Matthew 6:7-8

Paul exhorts us:

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." ~ **Philippians 4:6-7**

Sometimes our load is so heavy that we must ask until that peace floods our soul, until anxiety lifts, and until our gratitude remains.



4. PERSEVERANT PRAYER

While persistent prayer keeps asking, perseverant prayer keeps doing so despite difficulties. The fervency of our persistence may diminish over time, but perseverance will not. Perseverant prayer maintains persistence in prayer.

Perseverance in prayer adds an element of enduring faith, highlighting the believer's attitude and character in maintaining their prayer life over time and through various challenges.

Both qualities are vital to a dynamic prayer life and are often intertwined; persistent prayer requires perseverance, and perseverance in prayer is demonstrated through persistent actions.

Prayer is our communication with God. We can talk to Him, hear from Him, pour our hearts unto Him. This relationship is a love relationship. It is in our heart, from our heart, that we do so, even amid doing other things. We desire to communicate with Him ALWAYS.

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." ~ **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

It's challenging to rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in everything. It's the will of God because He knows He will always be there for us, transforming our troubles into triumphs. Never to leave us, nor forsake us (Heb. 13:5).



5. PATIENT PRAYER

We should not ask from our fleshly desires with no consideration for the will of God. This kind of asking leads to discontentment in all things, seeking things that can never bring fulfillment.

"Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures." ~ **James 4:1-3**

We should not let impatience lead us to ask for things we think will appease our frustrations. When we tire of waiting on God, the enemy tempts us to go after less than God's best. Patience is crucial; God's timing, though different from ours, is perfect.

Prayer is not demanding things from God. It's about seeking to know His heart, His will, and His ways.





6. POWERFUL PRAYER

When we pray according to God's will, we can trust the Father will answer with His best for us.

"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him." ~ **1 John 5:14-15**

In this season of increased birth pains (Matt. 24:7-8), let us pray in one accord the following 7 areas of focused prayer. These align with the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13), reaffirming its impact.

God's Promises: Standing by faith on His Word, we pray for the manifestation of all that was accomplished through the redemptive work of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross. God's Word is true and will never return to Him void.

God's Pardon: Forgiveness brings freedom and comes through salvation. We pray for salvation for our loved ones and the world at large. This matters the most. The Holy Spirit opens hearts to receive the message of the gospel. We receive God's forgiveness and forgive others.

God's Purpose: God is a purposeful God. Pray for the revelation and fulfillment of His purposes in our lives and in His broader plan for humanity. For His Will to be done. His Kingdom to come. We trust His Ways to bring it about.

God's Power: His presence comes with His power, which brings transformation and breakthrough. We pray for His miraculous power regardless of how impossible a situation appears to be.

God's Provision: Trusting God as Jehovah Jireh, our provider, in all circumstances lifts fear and worry. We pray for His provisions, knowing our Father loves us and will always take care of us.

God's Protection: Not only are we in Christ, covered by His blood, but God protects us from evil. Even in uncertain times, our God remains constant, faithful, and we are safe under the shadow of the Almighty.

Let us pray with confidence, persistence, and patience. Our Father is loving and faithful, and He never fails. We seek His glory, from glory to glory!

"Father, I pray for the manifestation of Your promises and pardon. May all come to salvation. Fulfill Your purposes for Your glory. I desire to experience more of Your presence and power to confront darkness. Thank You for Your provision and protection. Let Your Kingdom come, Your Will be done. I love You and praise You, in Jesus' name. Amen."

A close-up photograph of a hand reaching upwards, palm facing up, towards a bright sun. The background is a field of colorful flowers, mostly pink and yellow, which are out of focus, creating a bokeh effect. The lighting is warm and golden, suggesting a sunrise or sunset.

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