

PRAYER THAT WORKS

24/1/21

There are two main identities God reveals about himself when dealing with us on a personal level. The first identity he takes on is 'Father' and the second main identity he takes on is 'Friend'. God takes on these identities so he can be better visualized and easily understood. These identities make it a lot simpler to know how to approach him and what to build our expectations upon. The salvation message of repentance, water baptism and the receiving (anointing) of the Holy Spirit gives us a new status, or a fresh start.

That is why it's called being born again.

The main thing you need to understand is that God hears you the first time. 1JOH 5:14 And this is the **confidence** (absolute assurance) that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to **his will***, he heareth us: **15** And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him. *Faith is not just believing, but living and acting according to our scriptural beliefs. If God says he hears us the first time, let's believe it and live accordingly.*

***God's will... JER 29:11** For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. **3JOH 1:2** Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

God begins with an automated care program for us... Speaking in

tongues. 1COR 14:14 For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. *Tongues is both a sign and powerful tool of prayer, but does not directly meet our natural reasoning and doubts.*

ROM 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. **27** And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to **the will* of God.**

Spiritual prayer is very affective and meets spiritual and natural needs, but can leave us lacking in natural satisfaction; thus, prayer in our normal language is good.

How do you talk to your father and your best friend? MAT 6:7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. **8** Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your **Father** knoweth what things ye have need of, **before** ye ask him. *A high level of confidence is offered by God because he identifies himself as our father... but he goes one better than that.*

JOH 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. **14** Ye are my **friends**, if ye do whatsoever I command you. **15** Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you **friends**; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. *God has revealed that he is both a father and friend, thus our prayers should reflect these two great truths. When we ask a good friend (or our dad) for something and he agrees to do it, then we get on with life with the comforting knowledge, that it is being looked after. We do not go to our friend every 10 minutes and ask him again and again for something that is already agreed to. We have our answer, so we get on with business. Let's keep in mind we are partners in the business of salvation and overcoming, with our father and best friend. Our calling is to present God fairly and according to his true will... not the imaginations of our minds or opinions (a form of idolatry). So we go about the lord's business while waiting for the desired outcome.*

Our thoughts and speech set the precedent for how we see God and how others see and think about God and forgiveness as well... this is a huge responsibility.

If we confuse or block people seeking forgiveness, we will receive the same from God. MAT 6:14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: **15** But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. *Prayer is hindered when the approach is flawed.*

The true expectations to prayers and petitions that God offers us must also be offered to others... with the same balanced views he reveals in the scriptures.

When you confess your sin.... EZE 33:10 Therefore, O thou son of man, speak unto the house of Israel; Thus ye speak, saying, If our transgressions and our sins be upon us, and we **pine away** in them, how should we then live? **11** Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have **no pleasure** in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel? **12** Therefore, **thou son of man** (you... the bearer of God's principles and laws), say unto the children of thy people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression: as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall thereby in the day that he turneth from his wickedness; neither shall the righteous be able to live for his righteousness in the day that he sinneth. *Continual asking leads to uncertainty... and that is equally true of all prayers and petitions. Effective prayer is clear cut and works.*

Our prayers and our message to others should be the same as God's... it is the most faithful and practical method available to all of us.

The true salvation principles opens the door to prayer and faith that works best of all. JER 9:24 But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he **understandeth** and **knoweth** me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.