

PRAYER *Talking with GOD*

Some specifics of prayer

Why do we pray "in Jesus' name"? Jn.14:13-15; Mt.28:18

Because He authorized and commanded us to do so. The authority is His to give!

What exactly does "pray in Jesus' name" mean?

To pray in Jesus' name is to pray in/with His authority. What a privilege!

How much authority does Jesus have? Mt.28:18

The Father has placed everything in His authority. Everything, everyone, forever.

Is this a "magic bullet" to be tacked on the end of every prayer? Comment?

No. It should remind us who He is. Not all prayers are necessarily valid, James 4:3.

What does praying "in His will" include? Jn.14:15

It includes loving Him and this means we keep His commandments. Very clear.

How am I to know His commandments? Where can I find them? IITim.3:15-17

His will is revealed in His Word. His instructions on how to live, and who He is!

What is patently obvious about His will for us relative to His Word? Heb.6:18

His will and His Word are never in contradiction. He cannot lie. Not in His being.

So what's one sure test we can use to evaluate our prayers?

Is what we're asking in agreement with the Word of God? Rest totally in His Word!

Why are prayers even *in HIS will* sometimes not answered? Lu.11:5-10

He requires us to keep on asking/seeking. Perhaps testing our motive, faith, patience, ?

Does GOD ever "trick" us in our prayers? Lu.11:11-13

Never! He is infinitely more just than we are. He only gives us what's best for us.

What are some other things that can hinder our prayers? IPet.3:7

Having an improper attitude, of a husband toward his wife! He wants us pure.

What is another prayer "hinderer"? James.4:3-4

Having a worldly attitude. Friendship with the world (system). Drives lusts.

What else hinders prayer? James.4:6

Having a proud or haughty spirit. He resists, holds back, such a one.

What else? James.4:8

Seek Him. Confess your sins. Have a pure heart/conscience. Gives boldness in prayer.

How does Isaiah sum up this concept? Who has God's ear? Is.66:1-2

The one having a humble, broken, smitten spirit. One who is fearing God.

This all sounds like hard work! Any short cuts? Lu.22:39-44 ; Heb.4:14-16

Apparently not! Jesus agonized in prayer... and He had no sin! He wants us pure!!