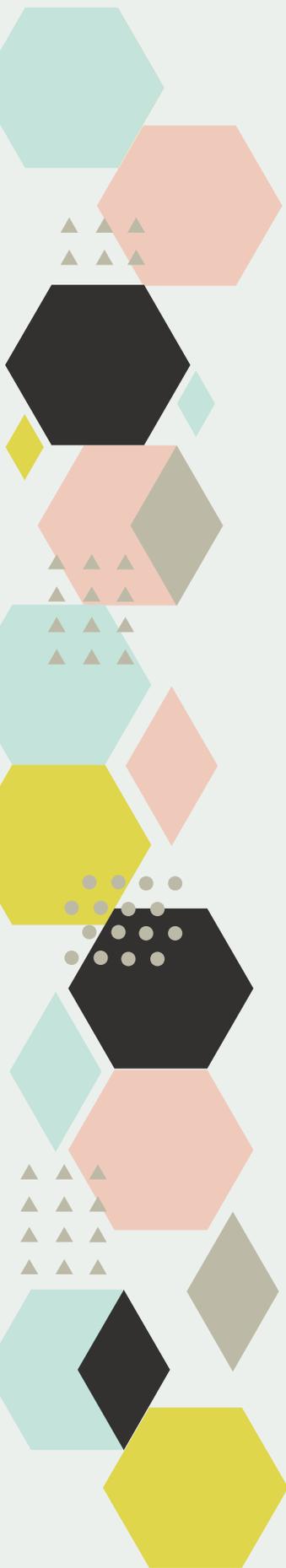


Effective Prayer

5 tips to help you pray!

Here are 5 tips for effective prayer:

1. Pray the Word. Abide in it. Immerse yourself in it. Drown in it. Then, speak it. The more you are in the Word, the more you will become like Jesus and develop a heart like his. When you are more like him, his desires become your desires. Psalm 37:4 says that when we delight in Him, he will give us the desires of our heart. Reading scripture helps us delight in him, and it aligns our will with his, helping us know what to pray for. What better way to pray than to use the words of Jesus? Claim his Word! He promises that when we do, he will give us what we ask for. John 15:7-8: “But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!”
2. Aim to bear fruit in Jesus’ name. The purpose of our prayers should be fruit bearing: for God to be seen, heard, known, revealed, and glorified in our lives. John 15:16: “You didn’t choose me, I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.” The main goal of prayer shouldn’t be the gratification of our natural desires, but for our lives to produce fruit. When his glory is the goal, our prayers will be focused on asking for that which will accomplish the most for the kingdom, not for our own desires.
3. Take a stance of surrender. Just like Jesus. He prayed in his most desperate hour: “Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done and not mine” (Luke 22:42). He was willing to take his personal desires and surrender them at the feet of God, even unto death on a cross. His example for us is clear: we can ask God for what we want, but we must ultimately be willing to walk the road he has for us. In other words, “here’s what I want God, but I lay it at your feet and trust you with it. I want your plan more than I want my own gain.” It’s the ultimate act of trust; surrendering your life to his control. It’s a trust that believes his way is the best way. “Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we can ask or think” (Ephesians 4:20).





4. Ask God to send his Spirit. The Spirit is so vital to prayer life! He intercedes for us and helps us pray for God's will. He leads us into all truth and empowers us to carry it out. Ephesians 3:16: "I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit." We only need to ask for him to come and he will, bringing all the strength we need to carry out what God has for us. When we are in tune with the Spirit, we know what to pray, and we understand what we are hearing from God. Plus, we are empowered to act on it with the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. That's incredible power!

5. Praise and Thank. Our prayers should be filled with praise and thankfulness for a good and perfect father, not just with requests. Philippians 4:6 says, "Don't worry about anything, instead pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for what he has done." Colossians 4:2 echoes this mindset: "Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart." Our praise and thanks open up the communication with the Father. Psalm 100:4 promises "Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name." If you want to be in the presence of God during your prayers (which I do!), then the Bible tells us to praise and thank. The more you glorify him, the more you will see him working all around you... it will open your eyes to see all of the wonderful things he is doing.