

The Biblical Keys to Answered Prayer

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Psalm 19:12-14: "Who can understand his errors? **cleanse thou me from secret faults**. Keep back thy servant also from **presumptuous sins**; let them not have dominion over me: **then** shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Note: All definitions are from the Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary which defines the words as they were used in the King James Bible time period.

PRESUMP'TUOUS, a. Founded on presumption; proceeding from excess of confidence; applied to things; as presumptuous hope. Arrogant; insolent. Unduly confident; irreverent with respect to sacred things

Isaiah 57:15: "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, **with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit**, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones."

HUM'BLE, a. [L. humilis.] Lowly; modest; meek; submissive; opposed to proud, haughty, arrogant or assuming. In an evangelical sense, having a low opinion of one's self, and a deep sense of unworthiness in the sight of God.

CONTRITE, a. [L., to break or bruise; to rub or wear. See Trite.] Literally, worn or bruised. Hence, broken-hearted for sin; deeply affected with grief and sorrow for having offended God; humble; penitent; as a contrite sinner.

Isaiah 66:2: "For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: **but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.**"

POOR, a. [L. pauper.] Poor in spirit, in a Scriptural sense, humble; contrite; abased in one's own sight by a sense of guilt. Matt.5

Psalm 22:25: "My praise shall be of thee **in the great congregation**: I will pay my vows **before them that fear him.**"

Comment: It is ideal that not only yourself but the people of your congregation fear the Lord. Unfortunately this dynamic is almost nonexistent in America.

Psalm 25:14: "The **secret of the LORD** is with **them that fear him**; and he will shew **them** his covenant."

Psalm 33:18: "Behold, the **eye of the LORD** is upon them that fear him, upon them that **hope in his mercy...**"

Psalm 34:7: "The **angel of the LORD** encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them."

Psalm 34:9: "**O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.**"

Psalm 85:9: "Surely **his salvation is nigh them that fear him**; that glory may dwell in our land."

Psalm 103:11: "For as the heaven is high above the earth, **so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.**"

Psalm 103:13: "Like as a father pitieth his children, **so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.**"

Psalm 103:17: "But **the mercy of the LORD** is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children..."

Psalm 111:5: "**He hath given meat unto them that fear him**: he will ever be mindful of his covenant."

Psalm 145:19: "**He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them.**"

Psalm 147:11: "**The LORD** taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that **hope in his mercy.**"

Luke 1:50: "**And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.**"

Ecclesiastes 8:12: "...surely **I know that it shall be well with them that fear God**, which fear before him."

Psalm 2:11: "**Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.**"

Philimon 2:12: "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.**"

II Chronicles 7:14: "**If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.**"

II Chronicles 34:27: "**Because thine heart was tender, and thou didst humble thyself before God**, when thou heardest his words against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, **and humbledst thyself before me, and didst rend thy clothes, and weep before me; I have even heard thee also, saith the LORD.**"

Psalms 9:12: "...he forgetteth not the cry of the humble."

Psalms 10:17: "LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear..."

Proverbs 29:23: "A man's pride shall bring him low: **but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.**"

Proverbs 15:33: "**The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.**"

Proverbs 18:12: "**Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility.**"

Comment: Notice how humility and fear of the Lord are also connected with Gods blessings whereas pride and haughtiness are always connected with God's wrath. As a result we should be continually praying for the fear of the Lord and humility in our lives as bible believing Christians.

Proverbs 22:4: "**By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.**"

Matthew 18:4: "**Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.**"

How did Solomon get his prayers answered:

I Kings 3: 5-12: "In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: **and God said, Ask what I shall give thee. And Solomon said**, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: **and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.** And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude. **Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people? And the speech pleased the Lord**, that Solomon had asked this thing. And God said unto him, **Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment; Behold, I have done according to thy words:**

lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee."

Comment: It is apparent that Solomon's prayer embodied humility before the Lord and that his heart was pure before the Lord in the things that he asked for. Now the Lord we serve has not changed as the Scripture state in Malachi 3:6: "For I am the LORD, I change not..."As far as individuals go only Solomon and Jesus Christ are ever mentioned in conjunction with 'pleasing' the Lord.

James 4:2-4: "Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, **yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**

Comment: So sometimes we don't get our prayers answered because we don't ask and sometimes because we ask for things so that we can consume them in our own lusts. God equates this with being an adulterer before the Lord and being an enemy of God.

James 4:6-11: "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, **God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. Speak not evil one of another, brethren."**

Comment: So study this passage closely to find further confirmation regarding this Bible study.

Psalm 15:1-5: [[A Psalm of David.]] LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.

Comment: Why not pray for the Lord to conform you to the person represented in this Psalm.

U'SURY, [L. usura, from utor, to use.] Formerly, interest; or a premium paid or stipulated to be paid for the use of money.

Comment: The word "formerly" above is in reference to the context in which the Bible was written. So in other words: interest is usury.

Matthew 23:12: "And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and **he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.**"

I Peter 5:5: "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, **and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.**"

I Peter 5:6: "**Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time...**"

I Peter 3:7: "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, **giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel**, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; **that your prayers be not hindered.**"

Isaiah 59:1-4: "Behold, the LORD'S hand **is not** shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness. None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity.

Comment: The verse above is one of the many prescriptions in Scripture to have your prayers hindered.

Jeremiah 5:25: "**Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you.**"

INIQU'UTIY, n. [L. iniquitas; in and oequitas, equity.] Injustice; unrighteousness; a sin or crime; wickedness; any act of injustice. Original want of holiness or depravity.

Psalms 66:18-20: "**If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:** But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me." *Comment: So if iniquity dwells in our lives (which is the case for the vast majority of professing Christians), then God will not hear our prayers.*

Job 13:23: "**How many are mine iniquities and sins? Make me to know my transgression and my sin.**"

Comment: Now Job was the most upright and righteous man on earth (see below) when he uttered the verse above. So if this prayer in this verse applied to Job, surely it should even more so apply to us.

Job 1:1 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was **Job**; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.

Job 1:8 And the **LORD** said unto **Satan**, Hast thou considered my servant **Job**, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

Hosea 4:6: "My people are **destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee**, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, **I will also forget thy children.**"

Comment: Be careful what knowledge you reject as if it is Biblical knowledge, it will be to your and your children's detriment.

Isaiah 53:5: "**But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.**"

When you pray the Bible instructs us to pray to the Father in the name of Jesus Christ. Confess any and all sins you may have before God, and ask him to forgive of those sins, and be willing to turn (or repent) of those sins. If we do not do this God will not hear our prayer because: Psalm 66:18: "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me" Psalm 19:12-14: "Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer."

Also forgive anyone who has done you wrong as we cannot obtain the Lords forgiveness unless we forgive those who have offended us.

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Jude 3&4: "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the

common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."
