

# YT Video: How To Pray Effectively

-Yirmeyah Tan, 12 July 2025

Text [All quotes are from KJV unless indicated otherwise]

*Jas 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

## I. Manipulative Witchcraft Prayers

Examples:

- a. Dear God, I pray that Mr. Wong will give me that job
- b. Dear God, I pray that Yirmeyah will give me \$5000
- c. Dear God, I pray that my wife will obey me
- d. Dear God, I pray that my husband will love me and provide for me
- e. Dear God, I want that house on the corner of Kulai Street
- f. Dear God, I pray that my father will leave all his money to me in his will.

**Note:**

1. Such prayers are manipulative. Those who pray like this are really practicing witchcraft, which is harnessing the power of the devil to get what they want.
2. YAHWEH gave us all free will so He cannot and does not violate it.

## II. God Does Not Hear Sinners

### a. Unrepentant sinners:

*Joh 9:29 We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is.*

*Joh 9:30 The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvellous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes.*

*Joh 9:31 Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.*

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

*Isa 59:2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*

### b. Having iniquity in the heart:

*Psa 66:16 Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul.*

*Psa 66:17 I cried unto him with my mouth, and he was extolled with my tongue.*

*Psa 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:*

*Psa 66:19 But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer.*

*Psa 66:20 Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me.*

### **c. Insincerity and hypocrisy**

*Isa 29:13 Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:*

#### **Note:**

- 1. God does not hearken to the prayers of people whose hearts are not right with Him.**
- 2. Neither does He accept the prayers or worship of those who follow false doctrines and the traditions of men.**

### **III. Wrong Motives**

*Jas 4:2 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.*

*Jas 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.*

**Note:** prayers with wrong motives for the purpose of satisfying lusts are not answered by YAHWEH.

### **IV. Lack of Faith**

*Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

*Mat 13:57 And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.*

*Mat 13:58 And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.*

#### **Note:**

**unbelief blocks the power of God, prevents miracles and answers to prayer.**

### **V. Evil Doing, Oppressing the Poor**

*Isa 1:15 And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.*

*Isa 1:16 Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;*

*Isa 1:17 Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.*

*Isa 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*

*Isa 1:19 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:*

*Isa 1:20 But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken*

## **VI. Worshipping Other Gods**

*Jer 11:11 Therefore thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon them, which they shall not be able to escape; and **though they shall cry unto me, I will not hearken unto them.***

*Jer 11:12 **Then shall the cities of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem go, and cry unto the gods unto whom they offer incense: but they shall not save them at all in the time of their trouble.***

*Jer 11:13 For according to the number of thy cities were thy gods, O Judah; and according to the number of the streets of Jerusalem have ye set up altars to that shameful thing, even altars to burn incense unto Baal.*

*Jer 11:14 Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up a cry or prayer for them: for I will not hear them in the time that they cry unto me for their trouble.*

**Note: idolatry is not only about worship of other heathen gods but is also about objects like houses, money, people [especially spouses and children]**

## **VII. Unworthy Service**

*Mal 1:7 Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible.*

*Mal 1:8 And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.*

*Mal 1:9 And now, I pray you, beseech God that he will be gracious unto us: this hath been by your means: will he regard your persons? saith the LORD of hosts.*

**Note:**

- 1. Temple sacrifices had to be of clean animals that were spotless.**
- 2. What kind of service/sacrifice do we give YAHWEH?**
- 3. Failure to give Him our best result in His rejection of us and our prayers/worship.**

## **VIII. Neglecting God's Law**

*Jos 1:7 **Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn***

**not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.**

*Jos 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written*

**Pro 28:9 He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.**

**Note:**

- 1. Meditating on and obeying YAHWEH's Torah will bring prosperity to us: health, material provisions, success in our endeavors.**
- 2. So many Christians believe the Torah has been abolished and therefore disregard God's commandments and ordinances. Such people will be rejected by Him and even their prayers will be an abomination to Him.**

#### **IX. Praying for Prosperity**

*3Jn 1:1 The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth.*

*3Jn 1:2 Beloved, **I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.***

*3Jn 1:3 For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.*

**Note:**

- 1. So many people want to be prosperous, especially in terms of money, property and worldly success.**
- 2. Prosperity teachers leverage on this, encouraging covetousness and prayers for wealth.**
- 3. The Bible teaches that true prosperity comes only when our souls prosper**

#### **X. Self-Righteous Prayer**

*Luk 18:9 And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:*

*Luk 18:10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.*

*Luk 18:11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.*

*Luk 18:12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.*

*Luk 18:13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.*

Luk 18:14 I tell you, **this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.**

#### XI. **Repetitive Prayers**

**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.

Mat 6:8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

#### XII. **Helping the Oppressed**

**Pro 31:8** Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction.

Pro 31:9 Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

#### XIII. **Honoring Wife**

**1Pe 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.**

#### XIV. **Praying in God's Will**

**Mat 6:9** After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, **Hallowed be thy name.**

Mat 6:10 **Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.**

Mat 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread.

**1Jn 5:14** And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, **if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:**

1Jn 5:15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

**Joh 15:7** **If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.**

Note: prayers will be answered if we

- a. Ask according to His Will
- b. Abide in Him and His Word [walk in obedience]

#### XV. **Persistent Prayer**

**Luk 18:1** And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that **men ought always to pray, and not to faint;**

*Luk 18:2 Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:*

*Luk 18:3 And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.*

*Luk 18:4 And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man;*

*Luk 18:5 Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.*

*Luk 18:6 And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.*

*Luk 18:7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?*

*Luk 18:8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?*

#### **XVI. Pray In Secret**

*Mat 6:5 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward.*

*Mat 6:6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.*

#### **XVII. Intercession by the Holy Spirit**

*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.*

*Rom 8:27 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.*

**Note:**

- 1. We do not always know what to pray for**
- 2. The Holy Spirit therefore intercedes for us with groanings**
- 3. He intercedes for us according to the will of God.**

#### **XVIII. Prayer of a Righteous Man**

*Jas 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

Note: a righteous man is one who is walking in the fear of God, being conformed to His Will and who do not hope or plan for gain through the prayer.