

plea - for His daily bread. Do you think knowing what you do of Jesus' life on earth, that He was not in need?

He was from a poor earthly family from the world's viewpoint, was constantly followed by people desiring His help, and was often persecuted. And yet, the total amount of asking for things for Himself in His prayer was summed up in one short phrase..."give us this day our daily bread."

Next, our prayer should ask forgiveness. Even once we are saved, we are still sinners. In order to have a "clean heart" in prayer before our holy God, we must "come clean" with Him by asking forgiveness for our continued daily transgressions, or sins - bad attitudes, rebellion, showing disrespect or disobeying parents, gossip, untruthfulness, etc. are all sins, and need God's forgiveness if we are to come before Him; for God is holy, and cannot be in the presence of sin.

The next example Jesus gives us is of asking God for His leading away from temptation, and delivering from evil. As sinners, we all face different things that will tempt us to sin. God knows what yours are. As Jesus shows, we are to ask the God who made and knows us to help us stay away from our temptations. I'm sure you know in your heart what temptations you face, and need to avoid. How can you avoid these temptations?

Finally, Jesus closes His prayer with another praise to God. If we truly love our God, there is never enough thanks and praise that we can offer up to Him. What things can you think of today to thank and praise Him for in your life?

Lesson 5: More About Prayer

To learn more about prayer, read and copy James 5:16 on the blank page to your left.

God's Word tells us here that our prayers will "availeth much" if we meet several conditions. We must first be righteous. Look up this word in your dictionary, and define it below, using the definition that best applies to persons:
righteous -

Right away, the first thing noticed here is that not everyone who calls himself a Christian will offer up prayers that "availeth much," or bear much fruit. Only the Christian who is "holy in heart" and practicing to observe God's commands. We must be "right with God" before we can expect Him to work through our prayers.

The next condition we must meet if our prayers are to "availeth much" is that they must be effectual. Look up this word in your dictionary, and define it below:
effectual -

No quick blurbs of prayer if our prayers are to avaieth much! They must have "adequate power or force" - God wants us to pour out our hearts to Him in prayer, not to just mention a list of needs and wants. James 5:16 also says that our prayers should be fervent to avaieth much. Look up this word and define it below.
fervent -

In other words, we must be "on fire" with the desire for the Lord to work through our prayer needs as we bring them before Him.

A righteous man...effectual and fervent prayers...these will "availeth much."

Just so we have no question of what this means, look up and define the root word of the word "availeth," "avail," and write a brief definition.

avail -

The bottom line is this - if we want our prayers to be of much use or advantage, we must not just live a holy life on the outside, but grow close enough to God and desire to please Him by developing a holy heart, observing His commands. We must pray with power and force, giving Him all the facts of our requests. Our prayers should be in earnest, with much expression.

Where to start? Get on your knees, Christian! Get right with God if you have slacked off in your walk with Him. Develop first an intense relationship with Him by studying His Word - reading, meditating, and memorizing the Bible. Ask Him to soften your heart and open your eyes to wherever your needs may be.

Remember to pray as Jesus did - praise the Lord and thank Him, ask forgiveness of Him where needed, then bring your requests before him earnestly and with force (this does NOT mean forcefully telling God what to do, but rather pleading with your whole heart before Him.)

Make it your fervent prayer today to ask the Lord to show you not only how to pray, but what to pray for. Then, stop and be quiet - and listen for His answer.

Lesson 6: Taking Every Opportunity to Glorify God

Read Daniel 2:24 - 45.

Here we see Daniel telling King Nebuchdnezzar what the king's dream meant. Did Daniel have the power to interpret the king's dream on his own?

Who did?

Look back over the portion of Scripture that you just read. List the Scripture references where Daniel uses his opportunity to stand before the king to point King Nebuchdnezzar to God.

Read Daniel 2:46 - 49.