

Thinking About Prayer

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He turns a deaf ear to hypocrisy, when form replaces faith and disobedience hides behind ritual.¹

Ask or beg or plead, but never try to bribe him by your devotion.²

Simply ask, and it will be given to you.³ But if it is not in his will, you do not want it.⁴

Therefore, ask God what to pray for.⁵

In order to recognize and understand his answer, get to know his ways.⁶

Read Scripture to learn how he works and what is important to him.⁷

Do not assume that what seems urgent to you is urgent to him.⁸

When you see what he is doing, join him.⁹

Expect prayer to change you.¹⁰

See if an answer has come in the form of an open door that was not there before.¹¹

Be prepared to act.

Know your personal gift and have experienced how it translates into ministry.¹²

Sit at the apostle Paul's feet—see how he modeled being an ambassador for Christ.¹³

Take the long view.¹⁴ God has been very generous in telling us what he intends to do.

Pray for his kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven.¹⁵

Is he preparing you to be a faithful servant in it?¹⁶

Basic to service (ask any employer) are obedience, reliability, and consistency.

Obedience requires observing procedures: knowing how he works.

Reliability requires honesty and accuracy in observation.

Without consistency there is no true obedience.

Consider the personal characteristics he said he is looking for, such as¹⁷

humility¹⁸

tolerating no sin in self¹⁹

being straightforward and honest in communication²⁰

being generous, giving freely²¹

being a peacemaker²²

being perfect (complete, holy).²³

Seek the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and everything will be given to you.²⁴

1 Ps 66:18; Is 1:13-15, 59:1,2; Matt 6:5-6; Mark 7:13; Jn 9:31

2 2 Chr 33:12,13; Job 35:13; Ps 5:12, 84:11; Ez 8:18; Amos 5:23

3 Matt 7:7, 7:11; Jn 15:16

4 1 Sam 8:6-9; Mark 3:35; 1 Jn 2:17, 5:14; Eph 6:6; Col 4:12

5 Mat 4:4; Luke 11:1, 12:29-31; Eph 1:9, 6:18; Col 1:9

6 Ex 12:36, 33:17; 2 Ki 13:4; Ps 25:4-5, 46:8, 119:15; Jer 11:14; Lam 4:16; Hos 6:3; Rev 15:3

7 Col 1:26; Ps 77:12-15, 119:15-16,27-28; 2 Tim 2:14-16; Ps 5:12; Rom 4:3; Gal 3:22, 4:30-31; 1 Thes 5:18; 1 Pet 2:15-17, 4:10, 19

8 Ps 29:11, 115:13; Jn 11:21; 2 Pet 3:9

9 Ps 5:8, 28:5; Prov 16:3; Is 56:6; Matt 7:22-23, 11:29; Luke 12:47; Acts 5:12-14; 1 Cor 4:6; 2 Th 3:4

10 Is 26:3; Acts 10:30

11 Neh 2:4-8; Ps 51:13; Matt 7:8; Acts 16:25

12 Rom 12:6; 1 Cor 7:17, 12:1-31; 1 Pet 4:10

13 Eph 3:14-21, 6:18-20; Phl 3:17; Col 1:9-14

14 Is 9:7; Dan 7:27; Matt 6:19-21; 1 Cor 6:3; Eph 1:17-18; Col 1:12; 1 Th 3:13; 2 Th 1:7-12; Jude 14; Rev 12:10, 19:15

15 Ps 37:11; Matt 6:10

16 Matt 7:21-23; Heb 4:11-13, 6:5

17 1 Ki 15:5; 2 Ch 16:9; Ps 34:15; Pr 5:21; Rom 12:2; 1 Pet 3:12

18 Matt 5:3,5

19 Matt 5:6,8,10,29-30

20 Matt 5:37

21 Matt 5:42

22 Matt 5:9

23 Matt 5:48; Heb 13:21; Eph 4:12; Col 4:12; Phl 1:6; 1 Pet 5:10; James 1:4

24 Zec 8:22; Matt 6:33; Luke 5:16