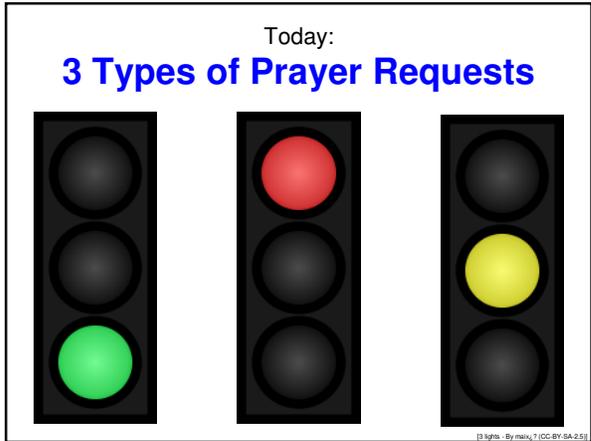
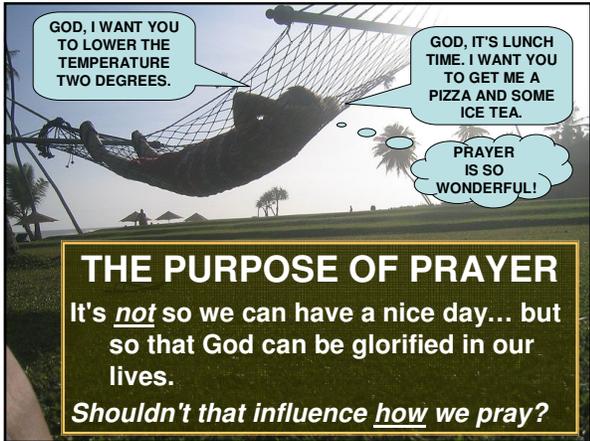
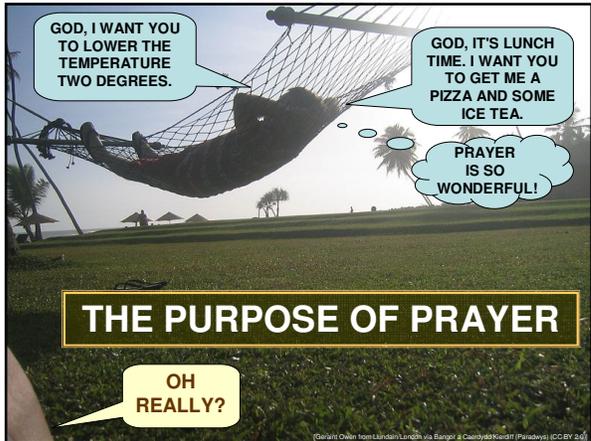


Assurance of Salvation
 Part 87

Prayer:

3 types of prayer requests



Types of Prayer Requests - #1

Requests that have a GUARANTEED "YES" answer.

- God has given us promises and facts we can apply to our life situations.
- We can ask him to be faithful to his Word, and *know* we will receive a guaranteed "YES" answer!

About "YES" Requests

- Pray for what God has promised. Such prayers are *always* answered "YES"!

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.

2 Cor. 1:20 (NIV)

- "AMEN" means "So be it!" When we ask God to do what he has promised to do, we can say "AMEN," knowing "it will be so"!

EXAMPLES

– God's promises and facts *belong* to us.

God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, ...

Psalm 46:1-2 (NIV)

~~KEEP ME
OUT OF
TRIALS!~~

GOD, I CLAIM
THIS TRUTH.
I TRUST YOU.

I ASK FOR WISDOM
AND STRENGTH,
SO I CAN DEAL WITH
THIS TRIAL I AM GOING
THROUGH.

And we know that God causes everything to work
together for the good of those who love God and
are called according to his purpose for them.

Romans 8:28 (NLT)

~~IF YOU DON'T DO
THINGS MY WAY,
MY LIFE WILL BE
RUINED!~~

GOD, I THANK YOU
THAT YOU'VE
GUARANTEED TO
BRING GOOD OUT OF
MY CONFUSING LIFE!

HELP ME TO
CONTINUE TO
TRUST YOU, NO
MATTER WHAT
HAPPENS!

"If you live by what I say, you are truly my disciples.
You will know the truth, and the truth will set you
free."

John 8:31b-32 (GW)

~~I'VE PRAYED THE
"SALVATION
PRAYER." NOW LET
ME LIVE MY WAY!~~

JESUS, I DO BELIEVE
IN YOU. BASED ON
YOUR PROMISE, I
CLING TO YOUR
TEACHINGS.

THANK YOU
FOR FREEING
ME FROM
SLAVERY TO
SIN!

PROTECT ME FROM
SATAN'S ATTACKS,
THAT I MIGHT
GLORIFY YOU IN
MY LIFE!

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness.
We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the
Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that
words cannot express.

Romans 8:26 (NIV)

~~I KNOW WHAT
I NEED...
ANSWER ME!!~~

I KNOW I AM WEAK.
THANK YOU FOR
SENDING YOUR SPIRIT
TO HELP ME PRAY!

TAKE MY WEAK
PRAYERS AND CHANGE
THEM INTO SOMETHING
YOU WOULD BE
DELIGHTED TO HEAR!

Cautions & warnings

- **CONTEXT** – The promises must be taken within context.
 - Some don't apply to us *today*. (Example: certain Old Testament promises.)
- **TIMING** – Answers won't always arrive according to *our* schedule. ... but according to *God's* schedule.

• DELAY IS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT – God keeps his promises.

- We can rejoice even if the answer is delayed until *eternity* arrives... like these people did:

[After a list of examples:] All these people died having faith. They **didn't receive** the things that God had promised them, but **they saw** these things **coming in the distant future and rejoiced**.

Hebrews 11:13a (GW)

- **BARRIER** – Sin may form a barrier that hinders the "YES" answer.

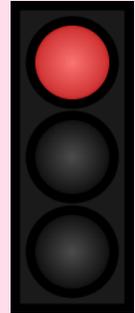
But there is a problem—your sins have cut you off from God. Because of your sin, he has turned away and will not listen anymore.

Isaiah 59:2 (NLT)

- If this happens to you, it's *your* fault, not *God's!* You need to repent!

Types of Prayer Requests - #2

Requests that have a **GUARANTEED "NO" answer.**



- Preoccupation of these is a waste of our time!
- We must be willing to accept God's Word and *not* pray *against* it!

EXAMPLES (DON'T PRAY FOR THESE!)

- **DIRECT VIOLATIONS OF GOD'S WILL** – *Anything* that goes against God's commands and prohibitions is a "NO" request.

I LOVE THAT PERSON... PLEASE LET ME COMMIT ADULTERY!

NO!!!

"You shall not commit adultery."

Exodus 20:14 (WEB)

- **CONTRADICTIONS TO GOD'S WARNINGS AND INSTRUCTIONS** – Scripture teaches us how to live. If we choose to ignore what God teaches...

I AM TOO LAZY TO STUDY ... HELP ME TO GET A GOOD GRADE!

I REFUSE TO OBEY YOUR TEACHINGS ABOUT MARRIAGE. HELP ME TO HAVE A WONDERFUL MARRIAGE!

I DON'T REWARD SIN. YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN!!!

"A man reaps what he sows."

Galatians 6:7 (NIV)

BLESS THEM WITH HEALTH AND PROSPERITY!

NO!!!

- **WRONG PRIORITIES** – Jeremiah was told to *not* pray for the well-being of the nation that had rejected God.

"So do not pray for this people nor offer any plea or petition for them; do not plead with me, for I will not listen to you."

Then the Lord said to me, "Do not pray for the well-being of this people."

Jeremiah 7:16; 14:11 (NIV)

Their #1 need was *repentance*, not "well-being"!

- **WHEN PEOPLE DELIBERATELY REJECT THE TRUTH** – John has much to say about people who *know the truth*, and then *deliberately abandon it*.

NO!!!

If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. **There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that he should pray about that.** All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death.

1 John 5:16-17 (NIV)

(Though it doesn't say to *never* pray for the person, it definitely discourages it. We have much greater prayer priorities: See the first part of the verse!)

Cautions and warnings

- **PEOPLE WHO ARE "WAVERING"** – We should continue praying for those who have not totally rejected the truth.
 - Rescue them, if possible.

Be merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear--hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

Jude 1:22-23 (NIV)

- **WE ARE NOT "SUPERIOR" TO THOSE WHO HAVE REJECTED THE TRUTH**
 - We who are saved know that we also deserve judgment.
 - We give God the credit for our salvation.
- **OUR ATTITUDE** – In all these matters, we need an attitude of humility, desiring God's will, etc.

Types of Prayer Requests - #3

Requests with a **"NOT guaranteed"** answer.

- For these, God did not promise a "YES." *So don't always expect it!*
- We must be willing to accept whatever answer we receive: YES, NO, WAIT, etc.



EXAMPLES

"God, heal my friend!"
"God, give me a pay increase!"
"God, save my neighbor!"

- Where are the Scripture passages that guarantee a "YES" answer?

[none].

Nowhere

- Sadly, this is the only type of prayer that some people have.

WHY SO MUCH FOCUS ON WANTS AND DESIRES?

WHY SO LITTLE CARE ABOUT YOU AND YOUR GLORY?

Cautions and warnings

- **FOCUS ADJUSTMENT** – YES!! We can pray for such things, but we may need to modify how we pray for them.
 - We need to focus on God's priorities, and on the guaranteed promises that apply to our situation.

– REMEMBER THIS ...



• **God already knows about our needs and desires!**

– We have more important things to do, than to "run after" such things!

For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

But **seek first his kingdom and his righteousness**, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:32-33 (NIV)

– Let God do the "worrying" about them!

**THE RIGHT PRIORITY!
(EXAMPLE)**

Dear friend, I know that you are spiritually well. I pray that you're doing well in every other way and that you're healthy.

3 John 1:2 (GW)

- Their **spiritual condition** was already going in the right direction; so John prayed for their **physical condition** and circumstances.

A SUGGESTED WAY TO PRAY

– We can combine "MAYBE" and "YES" prayer requests!

– Then, whatever the answer, we're guaranteed that the results will be good!

COMBINED WITH A GUARANTEED "YES" REQUEST

GOD, PLEASE CHANGE MY SITUATION!

"MAYBE" REQUEST + RIGHT ATTITUDE

YOUR WILL, NOT MINE, BE DONE!

WHATEVER YOU DECIDE, USE IT TO GROW ME IN THE FAITH, JUST AS YOU HAVE PROMISED YOU WOULD!

STOP A **WARNING** about being stubborn and demanding! 

- If this is our attitude, it needs to change.
- Under these conditions, even if we get what we ask for, we may end up regretting the consequences.
- Manipulating and coercing God never has good long-term results.

GOD, PLEASE GIVE ME THAT CHEESE!

NO!



(Neal Dillen CC-BY-SA 3.0)

The consequences of being stubborn and demanding.

There is a way that seems right to a man [or in this case, a mouse], but in the end it leads to death.

Proverbs 14:12 (NIV)

BUT I NEED IT! CHEESE IS GOOD FOR ME!

AGAIN, NO!

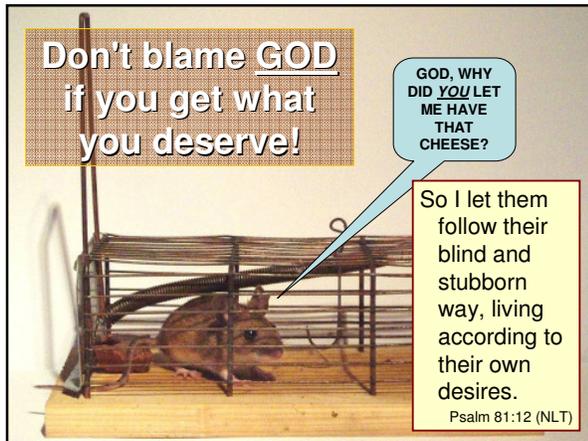
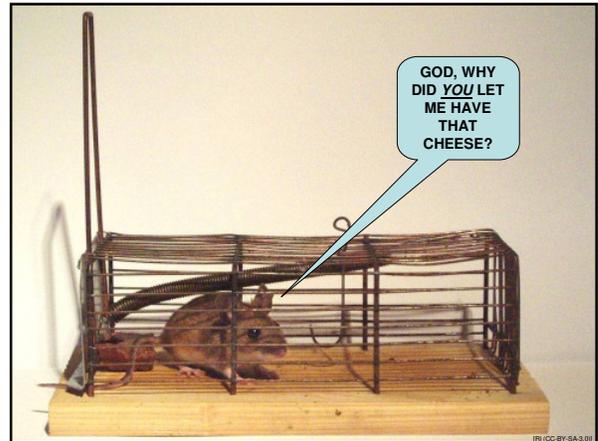
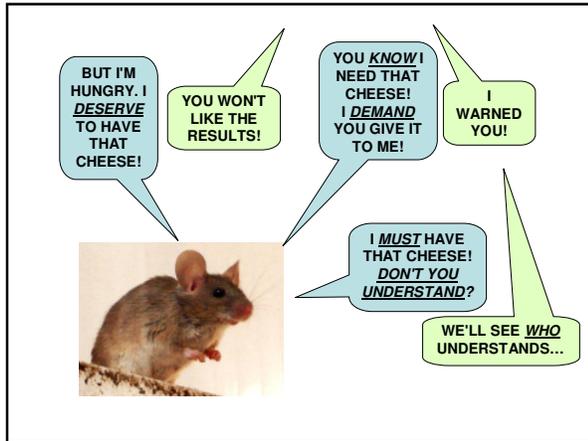
RIGHT NOW, YOU NEED TO REMAIN HUNGRY!

DIDN'T YOU PROMISE ME BLESSINGS? DON'T FAIL ME!



YOU CAN'T SAY THAT! IT'S MEAN! A LOVING GOD WOULD NEVER SAY THAT!

YOU SHOULD BE TRUSTING ME!



YOUR MISSION

- **Learn to seek God's will in all matters!**
 - Let *his will* influence *how* you pray.
- **Have Jesus' attitude:**

"My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me.
Yet I want your will, not mine."
Matthew 26:39b (NLT)

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