

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Marion Oaks – 1-15-2020 & 1-29-2020

Introduction

Effective prayer is about relationships, not just results!

Something is effective if it does what it was designed to do.

- The primary goal of prayer is not having our requests granted.
- The primary goal of prayer is to spend time in conversation with our Father.

Three types of prayers Jesus said are totally ineffective.

- Prayers that aren't prayed (Matthew 6:5)
- Prayers meant to impress others (Matthew 6:5)
- Prayers meant to impress or manipulate God (Matthew 6:7)

Text: Matthew 7:7-11

1. Prayer is effective when we come to God as our Father. (7:11)

Matthew 6:1, 6, 8, 9, 14, 15

A. Seeking to grow in our relationship with Him.

Proverbs 8:17; Jeremiah 29:13; Deuteronomy 4:29; Matthew 7:7

B. Seeking His agenda, not just ours.

Matthew 6:33; 1 John 5:14-15

- His honor (Matthew 6:9)

- His kingdom (Matthew 6:10)
- His will (Matthew 6:10)
- Our physical needs (Matthew 6:11)
- Our spiritual needs (Matthew 6:12-13)

2. Prayer is effective when we come to God

frequently. (7:7-9)

A. “ Keep on ”
asking, seeking, and knocking

- We must persevere in prayer.
(Luke 18:1-8)
- Don't be discouraged.

B. God always answers genuine prayer.

3. Prayer is effective when we _____

God to give us what is _____ in His timing. (7:10-11)

Luke 11:11-12

A. God gives _____ gifts.

James 1:16-17

B. God will not play _____ with our prayers.

C. God always answers our prayers, but in His way, with perfect _____ and _____.

1) Sometimes a good Father must say “ _____.” (Acts 12)

2) Sometimes a good Father must say “ _____.”
(Isaiah 55:8-9)

3) Sometimes a good Father must say “There's something _____ must do _____.”

4. Prayer is effective when we are in

_____ relationship with God and _____.

“Prayer Busters”

A. _____ (James 4:2)

B. _____ sin (Isaiah 59:2)

C. Unresolved relational _____
(Matthew 5:23-24)

D. _____ (James 4:3)

E. Inadequate _____ (James 1:5-8)

Conclusion

Effective prayer is about _____, not just _____!

- Are we in right relationship with _____?
- Are we coming to Him to grow in our _____ with Him and to align with His _____?
- Are we willing to _____ Him when His answer is not what we want it to be?