**LEARN TO SEEK GOD IN PRAYER**

**Jeremiah 29:11-14**

[**11**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Jeremiah-29-11/)**For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.**

[**12**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Jeremiah-29-12/) **Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.**

[**13**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Jeremiah-29-13/) **And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.**

[**14**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Jeremiah-29-14/) **And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive.**

**INTRO:**

**\*\*If we learn to seek God . . .**

 **1. God Has Peace For Us!**

[**Isaiah 26:3**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Isaiah-26-3/)**- Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.**

 **2. God Has Power For Us!**

**Ephesians 1:19 [And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Ephesians-1-19/%22%20%5Co%20%22CLICK%20FOR%20MORE%20TRANSLATIONS%20of%20Ephesians%201%3A19-%20And%20what%20%5Bis%5D%20the%20exceeding%20greatness%20of%20his%20power%20to%20us-ward%20who%20believe%2C%20according%20to%20the%20working%20of%20his%20mighty%20power%2C)**

 **3. God Has Protection For Us!** [**Isaiah 54:17**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Isaiah-54-17/)**- No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.**

 **4. God Has Provisions For Us!** [**Philippians 4:19**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Philippians-4-19/)**- But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**

 **5. God Has Possibilities For Us!**

[**Luke 1:37**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Luke-1-37/)**- For with God nothing shall be impossible.**

**\*\*God has all of this for His children. God has all this for His children that seek Him!**

**\*\*We must learn to seek God. Too many expect God just to bless and bless without ever having a relationship with God and without having a conversation with God!**

**\*\*Here are some points on Learning to Seek God in Prayer, and it is for the purpose to give you some skills on how to communicate with God and reason with God.**

**\*\*Is it not a good thing for us to learn how to seek God, communicate with God, and reason with God in our prayer lives? I think it is, and here are some points on how to improve your prayer life.**

**\*\*Some of these things may sound strange or even wrong to do, but what I tell you is what the Lord Himself said to do so listen well.**

**I. COMMAND GOD
Isaiah 45:11 - Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me.**

**\*\*The word “Command” means to lay charge or give orders. Are we supposed to give God orders? We are only allowed to give God orders or commands concerning what He allows us to give orders and commands about.**

**Illustration: When you are sitting in the restaurant and you place your order, you are making “command” statements based on the promises made in the menu. There is a difference in demanding statements and commanding statements. Therefore, we are allowed by God to give him commands and orders concerning His promises and the works of His hands. He even asks us to do so like a waiter waiting upon us.
II Samuel 7:25 And now, O LORD God, the word that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant, and concerning his house, establish *it* for ever, and do as thou hast said.**

**\*\*David prayed and commanded God to do as he had promised. He knew that God was faithful in that which He has promised.**

**Quote: Matthew Henry said, “Be earnest in your requests, and confident in your expectations, as far as both are guided by and grounded upon the promise. We may not strive with our Maker by passionate complaints, but we may wrestle with him by faithful and fervent prayer.”
II Samuel 7:28 Thy words are true and thou hast promised this goodness unto thy servant.**

**\*\*When our prayers are according to the Divine promises, we should be absolutely certain of their success.**

**\*\*You can place your order based on God’s promises because of . . .**

 **A. God's Ability
\*\*He is able to do as he has said.**

 **1. God has the Ability to Perform what He Promised.**

 **2. God has the Ability to Produce what He Promised.**

 **B. God's Attitude**

 **1. His Attitude is filled with Compassion.**

 **2. His Attitude is filled with Care.**

 **3. His Attitude is filled with Charity.
\*\*God is most willing to do what He has promised, so put in your order (command) for the promises He has made.
\*\*Just remember, you have to know what is on the menu (the Word of God) to know what promises are available to order.**

**II. CONFRONT GOD**

**\*\*Two ways to reason with God through confronting God.**

 **A. Confront God Based On His Reputation**

**\*\*God’s reputation is based upon His Will.**

**Illustration: In Numbers 14, Israel had sinned against God after He had delivered them out of Egypt, and God wanted to kill the people of Isreal. However, Moses confronted God and told God that He could not do it. The reason was because of God’s reputation, and God changed His mind about killing all of Israel because of His reputation.
Numbers 14:15-16** [**15**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Numbers-14-15/) **Now *if* thou shalt kill *all* this people as one man, then the nations which have heard the fame of thee will speak, saying,** [**16**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Numbers-14-16/) **Because the LORD was not able to bring this people into the land which he sware unto them, therefore he hath slain them in the wilderness.**

 **1. God Will Preserve the Glory of His Reputation**

 **2. God Will Protect the Goodness of His Reputation**

 **B. Confront God Based On His Record**

**\*\*God’s record is based upon His Word.
Numbers 14:17 I beseech thee, let the power of my Lord be great, according as thou hast spoken,**

**\*\*Our prayers must be in line with what . . .**

 **1. God’s Word Promises**

 **2. God’s Word Proclaims**

**\*\*We too often do not base our prayers off the Truth We Have Held but rather the Tales We Have Heard.**

**\*\*God will bless us when we make sure our prayers line up with God’s Will and God’s Word.**

**III. CONSULT GOD**

**\*\*We must consult God or ask God about every move we make and every move that we don’t even know we’re about to make.**

 **A. Ask God for His Advice**

**Proverbs 4:20-22 20**[**My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Proverbs-4-20/) **21**[**Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Proverbs-4-21/) **22**[**For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Proverbs-4-22/)

 **1. Absorb God’s Advice through your Eyes, and it will be good for your Heart!**

 **2. Absorb God’s Advice through your Ears, and it will be good for your Health!**

**\*\*Many professing Christians have stopped seeking God’s advice, and that’s why their Spiritual health is sickly and they have no Spiritual life left in them.**

 **B. Ask God for His Approval.**

**Galatians 1:10 . . . do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.**

 **1. Seeking God’s Approval Pleases Our Savior**

 **2. Seeking God’s Approval Pleases Our Soul**

**\*\*Oh how foolish it is to live without learning to seek God in prayer for His Advice and Approval. Consult Him!**

**IV. CONTACT GOD**

**John 16:23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give *it* you.**

**\*\*Only through the Name of Christ do I have access to . . .**

 **A. Heaven’s Bank**

**Illustration: I cannot go to your bank and demand access to your bank accounts or safety deposit box without you or without getting your approval. I cannot access your funds without you signing the check! However, if I go with you to the bank, then I can access your bank account and safety deposit box with you by my side and with your permission. If we want access to God the father and to heaven’s bank account, then we must go through Christ and pray from our hearts in the name of Jesus!**

 **B. Heaven’s Blessings**

 **1. Blessings for the Christians**

 **a. He’ll Bless Your Heart**

 **b. He’ll Bless Your Home**

 **2. Blessings for the Church**

**\*\*Too many people make the mistake of making requests based upon personal glory or personal goodness; however, God grants the requests of those who are making requests and confronts God based upon His glory and His goodness.**

**\*\*Our best pleas are founded on the prayer, “Hallowed be thy name.”**

**Illustration: Someone once wrote a letter to a preacher and gave it to him just before he was to preach, and here’s what it said:**

**Brother, I am in great perplexity. I have been praying for a long time for something that I am confident is according to God's will, but I do not get it. I have been a member of the Presbyterian Church for thirty years and have tried to be a consistent one all the time. I have been Superintendent in Sunday School for 25 years and an elder in the church for**

**20 years, and yet God does not answer my prayer. I cannot understand it. Can you explain it to me?**

**He took the note to the pulpit and read it and then said, "It is perfectly easy to explain. No man deserves anything from God. However, Jesus has great claims on God. You don't receive from the Father on the grounds of your own personal goodness or service, but on the grounds of Jesus Christ's claims alone. Petition the Father on the merits of Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God." That’s the only way to have God’s favor . . . through the Lord Jesus Christ!**

**CLOSE
\*\*I’m so thankful we have a God that is reasonable and can be reasoned with!**

**\*\*If we would only earnestly seek Him and pray and trust Him and believe, the Lord would answer our prayers.**

**\*\*Let us learn how to seek God and make our requests known unto Him.**