**TELL ME HOW TO GET MY PRAYERS ANSWERED**

**Psalms 17:1-8**

[**1**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Psalms-17-1/)**(A Prayer of David.) Hear the right, O LORD, attend unto my cry, give ear unto my prayer, *that goeth* not out of feigned lips.** [**2**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Psalms-17-2/)**Let my sentence come forth from thy presence; let thine eyes behold the things that are equal.**

[**3**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Psalms-17-3/)**Thou hast proved mine heart; thou hast visited *me* in the night; thou hast tried me, *and* shalt find nothing; I am purposed *that* my mouth shall not transgress.** [**4**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Psalms-17-4/)**Concerning the works of men, by the word of thy lips I have kept *me from* the paths of the destroyer.** [**5**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Psalms-17-5/)**Hold up my goings in thy paths, *that* my footsteps slip not.** [**6**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Psalms-17-6/)**I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God: incline thine ear unto me, *and hear* my speech.** [**7**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Psalms-17-7/)**Shew thy marvellous lovingkindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust *in thee* from those that rise up *against them*.** [**8**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Psalms-17-8/)**Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings,**

**INTRO:**

**1. Our Character Must Be Right**

**Psalms 17:1-2** [**1**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Psalms-17-1/)**(A Prayer of David.) Hear the right, O LORD, attend unto my cry, give ear unto my prayer, *that goeth* not out of feigned lips.** [**2**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Psalms-17-2/)**Let my sentence come forth from thy presence; let thine eyes behold the things that are equal.**

**\*\*David ask God to hear his cry and to hear what he was telling to be right. David said listen to this prayer that does not come from feigned (deceitful) lips!**

**\*\*David said let judgment (my sentence) come from your presence – because God is just in his answers!**

**\*\*David said look at what is equal (right and just and upright in his life).**

 **A. Godly Characters get their Prayers Answered**

 **B. Goodly Characters get their Prayers Answered**

 **C. Genuine Characters get their Prayers Answered**

**\*\*In order to get our prayers answered we must make sure our Character is right before God!**

**2. Our Commitment Must Be Right**

**Psalms 17:3-5** [**3**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Psalms-17-3/)**Thou hast proved mine heart; thou hast visited *me* in the night; thou hast tried me, *and* shalt find nothing; I am purposed *that* my mouth shall not transgress.** [**4**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Psalms-17-4/)**Concerning the works of men, by the word of thy lips I have kept *me from* the paths of the destroyer.** [**5**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Psalms-17-5/)**Hold up my goings in thy paths, *that* my footsteps slip not.**

**\*\*Prayers don’t get answered if we do not have . . .**

 **A. A Commitment to Submit**

 **B. A Commitment to Serve**

 **C. A Commitment to Stick**

 **1. Stick and Have Faith**

 **2. Stick and Have Faithfulness**

**\*\*Get committed to God, and He will answer your prayers!**

**3. Our Consistency Must Be Right**

**I Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.**

 **A. Be Consistent in your Purity**

**\*\*Keep your Soul, your Speech, your Steps Pure!**

 **B. Be Consistent in your Presence**

**\*\*Approach Christ Daily, and Attend Church Deliberately**

 **C. Be Consistent in your Praise**

**I. WE MUST AVOID FORSAKEN PRAYER**

**James 4:2 says** [**ye have not, because ye ask not.**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/James-4-2/)

 **A. Prayer Makes You Strong**

 **1. We Can Be Strong In The Circumstances**

 **a. Strong to Win Over Sickness**

 **b. Strong to Win Over Sinners**

 **c. Strong to Win Over Satan**

 **2. We Can Be Strong In The Church**

 **a. Prayer Makes The Service Strong**

 **b. Prayer Makes The Spirit Strong**

 **c. Prayer Makes The Singing Strong**

 **d. Prayer Makes The Sermon Strong**

 **e. Prayer Makes The Shout Strong**

 **f. Prayer Makes The Submission Strong**

 **B. Prayerlessness Makes You Sinful**

**I Thessalonians 5: 17 17**[**Pray without ceasing.**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Thessalonians-5-17/)

**\*\*If you do not have a prayer life in a prayer closet, then you are not doing what the Word of God says to do!**

**\*\*When we cease to pray . . .**

 **1. We Fail Our Christ**

 **2. We Fail Our Church**

 **3. We Fail Our Companions**

 **4. We Fail Our Children**

 **5. We Fail Our Comrades**

**\*\* Wouldn’t it be a shame to get to heaven and have the Lord show us all we could have been, all we could have had and all we could have seen if we had only asked Him for it?  We must not neglect prayer!**

**II. WE MUST AVOID FOOLISH PRAYING**

 **A. Wrong Motives Results In Foolish Prayers**

**James 4:3 3**[**Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts.**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/James-4-3/)

 **1. Foolish Prayers Are Self-Centered**

**\*\*Self-Centered Prayers are prayers that do not consider . . . a. God’s Goals in Your Life**

 **b. God’s Glory in Your Life**

 **2. Foolish Prayers Are Selfish**

**\*\*Selfish prayers are . . .**

 **a. Ungrateful b. Unrecognized c. Unprofitable d. Unrewarded**

 **3. Foolish Prayers Are Sinful**

**\*\*Foolish and Frivolous Prayers are sinful because they waste Christ’s Time, the Church’s Time, and the Christians’ Time!**

**Illustration: What if God gave you everything you ever asked for?  Would you be in a mess today?**

 **B. Wrong Moves Results In Foolish Prayers**

**James 4:4 4**[**Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/James-4-4/)

**\*\*It is foolish to ask God to answer our prayers when our hearts have committed adultery against Him!**

 **1. It’s foolish to live Worldly and then ask for God’s Blessings**

 **2. It’s foolish to live Wicked and then ask for God’s Blessings**

**\*\*Upright and living right Christians can pray through, and we better get back to praying!**

**III. WE MUST ADOPT FAITHFUL PRAYING**

**James 4:10 10**[**Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/James-4-10/)

 **A. Be Sensitive To Faithful Praying**

**\*\*When you pray and before you pray . . .**

 **1. Listen for the Voice of the Spirit**

 **2. Listen for the Voice of the Savior**

**\*\*The Savior and the Spirit will teach you how to pray and what to pray about!**

 **B. Be Submissive To Faithful Praying**

**James 4:6-7 6**[**But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/James-4-6/) **7**[**Submit yourselves therefore to God.**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/James-4-7/)

 **1. Submit Your Wants To Praying For His Way**

 **2. Submit Your Wishes To Praying For His Will**

**\*\*It’s troubling when Christians seem to think they can storm the throne room of heaven and demand their wants and wishes to be granted without ever considering the Lord’s will or the Lord’s ways.**

 **C. Be Steadfast To Faithful Praying**

 **1. Be Steadfast and Bow in Prayer**

 **2. Be Steadfast and Battle in Prayer**

**\*\*Ephesians 6:11 says, 11**[**Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Ephesians-6-11/)

**\*\*Then V-12 through V-17 tells us about the armour.**

**\*\*Ephesians 6:18 then says, 18**[**Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Ephesians-6-18/)

**\*\*We are to put on the armor of God and then go into battle and the warfare by praying! Prayer is made to combat wars not to compel wishes!**

 **D. Be Separated To Faithful Praying**

**James 4:8 8**[**Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded.**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/James-4-8/)

**\*\*V-8a says to separate yourself from everything else and draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you!**

**\*\*Then it says to get rid of some things . . .**

 **1. Notice the Dirty Hands**

**Cleanse your hands, ye sinners**

 **2. Notice the Divided Heart**

**purify your hearts**

 **3. Notice the Double Head**

**ye double minded**

 **E. Be Sincere Toward Faithful Praying**

**James 4:9-10 9**[**Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and *your* joy to heaviness.**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/James-4-9/)

**10**[**Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/James-4-10/)

**When was the last time you prayed with sincere brokenness concerning . . .**

 **1. God’s Power**

 **2. God’s Presence**

 **a. Seeking the Move of God**

 **b. Seeking the Mind of God**

 **c. Seeking the Marvels of God**

 **d. Seeking the Message of God**

 **e. Seeking the Miracles of God**

**\*\*It’s time to get sincere and grab a hold of the horns of the altar and pray like we’ve never prayed before!**

**CLOSE**

**1. Everyone of us should be in this altar tonight!**

**2. Let’s get on this altar tonight and seek God for a renewed burden to pray like we’ve never prayed before!**

**3. Let’s bring our lost loved ones and families and lay them on the altar before God!**

**4. Let’s bring our friends and their struggles to the altar and petition heaven on their behalf!**

**5. Let’s lift our church up to God and ask Him to move in it and to protect it and to bless it in a mighty way!**

**6. Maybe you are lost tonight and feel a powerful conviction and a nudge from God that says to pray for salvation!**

**7. Let’s go back to praying on and around the altar and weeping and wailing for the move of God and the mind of God!**