

Presented by
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Secrets to Getting the Ear of God

Strategies@Work

Call Protocol

The call will last ~1 hour – 45 minutes of presentation and 15 minutes of Q&A.

If you would like to ask a question, please send me an email: gerald@strategieswork.com

Please mute your microphone until you are recognized to ask your question.

If I don't recognize you to ask your question, please email your question.

The call will be recorded. If you would like a copy, please let me know.

If you would like a 'pdf' copy of the presentation, please let me know.

If you get disconnected, please call back.

If I get disconnected, please stay on the call. I will attempt to reconnect.

If there are technical issues that cannot be resolved, I will reschedule the call.



Introduction



For most of us, prayer is option of last resort.

Since inaugurated, President Obama has shunned Christianity and said little about prayer.

However, the President gave the following statement on January 12, 2010:

"My thoughts and prayers go out to those who have been affected by this earthquake. We are closely monitoring the situation and we stand ready to assist the people of Haiti."

Source: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/01/12/thoughts-and-prayers-haiti>

Like President Obama, most of us treat prayer as a fall back position. This means that we are effectively Christian naturalists who don't pray, unless we need help that requires divine intervention.

Jesus was not a Christian naturalist. He was a person who lived in a state of continuous communication with the Father.

Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. John 5:19 [NIV]

For I (Jesus) did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. John 12:49 [NIV]



How do we live in a state of continuous communication with the Father like Jesus did?

Consider the following seven (7) secrets of prayer and getting the ear of God.

Secret #1



Prayer is not a religious activity, prayer is communication with your Creator.

"Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. Matthew 6:1-6 [NIV]

Secret #2



Prayer is not for God, it is for us.
John Calvin

Prayer is not about giving the omniscient God of the universe information.

And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Matthew 6:7-8 [NIV]



Secret #3



Prayer is not about persuading God to grant our wishes.

For most of us, we view God like a genie in the lamp. Rub the lamp by doing some religious activity and out pops God to grant us our three wishes.



Jesus did not use prayer to try to get God to do his will.

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

Matthew 26:39 [NIV]



Secret #4

Prayer is about the alignment of our will with the will of God.

"This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'

Matthew 6:9-13 [NIV]

To pray in alignment with God means to pray according to the will of God.

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us -- whatever we ask -- we know that we have what we asked of him. 1 John 5:14-15 [NIV]



Illustrations

How do we pray according to the will of God?

Pray for assignments not jobs

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10 [NIV]

Pray for alignment with our assignments not money

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33 [NIV]

Pray for growth through circumstances not relief from circumstances

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28 [NIV] (see also, Paul's prayer in Colossians 1:9-14 esp. vs. 11)

Pray for sanctification

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ -- to the glory and praise of God. Philippians 1:9-11 [NIV]



How do we pray according to the will of God?

Pray for your disciples to mature

Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. Colossians 4:12 [NIV]

Pray with the right motive

You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. James 4:2-3 [NIV]

Secret #5



Prayer is both an individual and a community experience.

"This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." Matthew 6:9-13 [NIV]

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42 [NIV]

When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them." Acts 4:24 [NIV]

When this had dawned on him (Peter), he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. Acts 12:12 [NIV]

When he had said this, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. Acts 20:36 [NIV]

Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. James 5:14 [NIV]

Secret #6



Prayer is hindered by our disobedience (missing the mark).

Examples

Unrighteous living

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." 1 Peter 3:12 [NIV]

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16 [NIV]

Rejection of revelation

If anyone turns a deaf ear to the law, even his prayers are detestable. Proverbs 28:9 [NIV]

Marriage issues

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. 1 Peter 3:7 [NIV]

Secret #7



Prayer is a lifestyle of communion with God.

Prayer is more about sanctification (maturing in Christ and fulfilling our destiny) than our perceived personal needs.

... we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, Colossians 1:9-10 [NIV]

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Colossians 4:2-4 [NIV]

pray continually; 1 Thessalonians 5:17 [NIV]

He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God." John 8:47 [NIV]



Take Away

Secret #1: Prayer is not a religious activity, prayer is communication with your Creator.

Secret #2: Prayer is not about giving the omniscient God of the universe information.

Secret #3: Prayer is not about persuading God to grant our wishes.

Secret #4: Prayer is about the alignment of our will with the will of God.

Secret #5: Prayer is an individual and community experience.

Secret #6: Prayer is hindered by our disobedience.

Secret #7: Prayer is a lifestyle of communion with God.



Coming Events

Special presentation of the **Strategic Life Alignment Seminar!**

Need Direction in Life?

- Parents:** Want to know God's way of parenting?
- Workers:** Want to know how to find your dream job?
- Employers:** Want to know how to find the right people?
- Church leaders:** Want to know how to ignite revival?
- Everyone:** Want to know the will of God for your life?

Special price: \$75 (\$50 before February 1st) (does not include workbook, audio, **Beyond Babel**, DISC profile, follow-up)

Dates and times: February 18: 7-9PM

February 19: 7-9PM

February 20: 9AM to 1PM

Location: Sojourn Church (<http://SojournChurch.org>)

Information and registration: Strategies@Work, LLC web site (<http://StrategiesWork.com/events/sla.html>)

