

ALL IT TAKES IS TO BELIEVE

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
for he has appointed me to preach Good News to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim
that captives will be released,
that the blind will see,
that the downtrodden will be freed from their oppressors,
and that the time of the Lord's favor has come."
Luke 4:18-19 (NLT)

Jesus upon hearing of Lazarus' death.

"Lazarus's sickness will not end in death. No, it is for the
glory of God. I, the Son of God, will receive glory from this."
John 11:4 (NLT)

"Roll the stone aside', Jesus told them.
But Martha, the dead man's sister, said,
'Lord, by now the smell will be terrible because he has been
dead for four days.'
Jesus responded, 'Didn't I tell you that you will see God's glory
if you believe?'"
John 11:39-40 (NLT)

The secret to prayer is to **believe** that God will answer your prayer!
Where did we get the idea that God would answer our prayers?
The **Bible** says so!—Matthew 7:9-11 (NLT)

Jesus gave us some great instructions for our prayers.

Pray **privately**.

"When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the
synagogues where everyone can see them. I assure you, that is all the reward they will ever get.
But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father privately.
Then your Father, who knows all secrets, will reward you."—Matt. 6:5-6

WHY?

Prayer is not a **spectator** sport.
Create a minimum of distractions.
Greater ability to **consecrate**.

Pray *sincerely*

Jesus says—Don't keep on babbling.

Be afraid of *cliches*

Don't get into the habit of using meaningless repetition.

Psalm 62:8 says,

"O my people, trust in him at all times.

Pour out your heart to him,

For God is our refuge." (NLT)

Pray like "Lord, this is how I feel today.

I've been thing about this recently.

I'm worried about this.

Lord, what shall I do?

Lord, what would you do in my situation?

Pray *specifically*

God-honoring prayers are not simply *shopping* lists.

They are more than cries for help, for strength, for mercy or miracles.

➤ Authentic prayers should include *worship*.

"Our Father"—never forget that if you are God's child through Jesus Christ, you are praying to a Father who couldn't love you more than he already does.

"In Heaven"—is a reminder that God is sovereign, majestic and omnipotent.

Nothing is too difficult for Him. Fix your eyes on his ability, not your worth.

"May your name be honored"—don't let prayers turn into wish lists **Worship Him**

"May your kingdom come soon. May your Will be done here on earth, as it is in heaven"—Submit your will to God's. Put Him first in all aspects of you life.

"Give us our food for today"—Lay out your concerns, big or small.

"Forgive us our sins, just as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us."

Be sure you are not the obstacle—live with a forgiving spirit toward others.

"Don't let us yield to temptation; deliver us from the evil one."

Pray for protection from evil and victory over temptation.

"Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory—forever!"

End your prayer with more *worship*. Acknowledge that everything in heaven and earth is God's. Thank the Lord for your many blessings, that He cares for you and that He makes it possible for you to talk to Him through prayer.

The Lord's prayer is an excellent model of the prayer that God answers. It provides Him all the room he needs to accomplish what He desires in and through our lives AND it gives to us the incredible opportunity, day after day, to experience the answers to prayers God gives to us every day! Blessings on you as together we all pray with the absolute assurance that God answers prayer.